

LeDoux campaigns for student involvement

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Staff Writer

David LeDoux (pronounced Lah-due) is a man on a mission. He has been attending in what happens at school while they are attending, and he wants them involved right now.

To accomplish this end, he wants to be the Associated Student Government's next president, an office currently held by Jake Boenisch. Unfortunately he is running for an office that requires a student vote, and he is running unopposed.

This does not sit well with LeDoux's competitive personality. He has played organized soccer since the age of nine, he has been a team captain and he has played on the varsity squad at Hillsboro High School where his parents moved after living in Portland and Alaska.

He wants the competition of an election, not to thoroughly trounce the opposition, but because an election usually promotes student involvement, because students will get excited about the issues, and because an election focuses students on their school.

"I don't like it," he said. "It shows me that students are less active about knowing what is going on in this college. And that seems to me to be wrong."

LeDoux cares about being active. He is Campus Issues Officer and regional chair to the American Student Association of Community Colleges. On Monday he returned from a weekend trip to San Diego where he met with other students active in government and he often found that even they are not as active as he likes.

"There are colleges out there that think it is a waste of time to lobby for funds," LeDoux said. "If we want the funding, this ASG, which has proven itself in the past, is going to have to hold true to that effort and be an effective lobbying group."

LeDoux is looking forward to being president next fall, if elected, because this fall state elections are going to get underway. This represents an opportunity to lobby for education.

"Next year is a legislative year. I think student legislation is a huge key to our funding. If we're not out there with a voice, we can't be effective. I fully intend to do just that," he said.

At issue is the money needed to fund student programs. Current and past administrations have worked to lobby local, state and national legislators to fund programs that allow students to attend college when they cannot afford to, utilizing Pell Grants and Need Grants. Legislators also have worked to fund some of

the peripheral costs of attending school such as child care costs and the price of texts required in the classroom. These issues need attention and the students need a leader to pursue these goals. LeDoux intends to be that leader. One of his holds, he says, is to fill the position he presently holds.

"What I am going to do is, I want to empower the legislator officer as much as I can. So that they will understand how important the job is. I want someone with high energy, who has got some experience and is dedicated to students. I want someone who is pumped about students," said LeDoux. "I want the ASG team to be dedicated. I plan to do that by showing them my dedication." LeDoux, despite the fact that his schedule involves school work along with traveling commitments on behalf of student government, has missed only one ASG meeting.

Another part of his goal is to improve communication between the students and the school they attend. The student activity board he had installed outside the community center this year is his move in that direction.

"That is specifically what it is for, to get some communication going between the administration and the students,"

he said.

Another direction he is enthusiastic about is sports. He believes it builds teamwork and leadership abilities and points to himself as an example of sports working for that end.

He said, "What I would like to see is the intramural program become involved with the athletic clubs, like the racquetball club and the ski club, and work with them. It is another link for students to get involved. Its a way that if you're not involved directly in the club, a student can take advantage in the club activities. And the ASG can offer that link through intramural sports."

LeDoux always comes back to student involvement.

"You should care about the institution that your getting an education from, how do you know your getting a good education?" he said. "It starts with me as I work with these people and develop good-standing relationships."

"I am not saying ASG is better than you, but so that ASG can help you, ASG needs your help. I'm not here to say that ASG is some untouchable organization or that the college is an untouchable resource that they are some enemy that we have to fight against. I think we are here and the re-

sources are here, to work together as a team. I've always been a team player, its just the way I think."

LeDoux's future plans are to finish his education and possibly become a lawyer specializing in law concerning technology, and he has been accepted at George Fox University where he is planning to study computer science.

LeDoux utilizes every aspect of his life so that it in some way illustrates his ability to serve. When not at school, he works in food service.

"The philosophy behind student government is to be there for the students," LeDoux said. "That is the idea, the connection between the students and the facility. I want to make sure the college has a student focus. I want to uphold that philosophy."

"The college provides a service for a customer and the student is that customer. I want them to have the best customer service possible."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

David LeDoux may not be thrilled to run unopposed, but the ASG Presidential candidate is confident he can achieve much for students at this college.

Spring is alive in Pauling's Native Garden

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Looking around the Native Garden you will see quite a few plants coming into bloom this week, but there are a couple that deserve some special attention.

One in particular is the Indian Rhubarb, *Peltiphyllum peltatum*. This plant has large clusters of small pink

and white flowers that sit atop a slender green stalk a foot off of the ground. To locate it, just stand on the metal grate near the pond and face north; it will be in the bed on your left, about 12 feet in front of you.

Indian Rhubarb is uncommon and grows naturally in only a small portion of Southwest Oregon and Northwest California. There it forms dense stands along the rocky banks of the coastal

rivers, covering the rocks with its large umbrella shaped leaves. Each leaf has its own separate stalk that arises from a rather massive above ground root system (bend over and take a closer look). By summer these leaves can grow to as large as two feet across, while only being a foot or two off of the ground! This is how it derived its second name: Umbrella Plant. As of now, the leaves are still young and not quite as dramatic, but keep an eye on them.

In the winter when the rivers swell with rain these plants become fully submerged, and are subject to massive pressure and force from the swiftly moving waters. Now look at the thick and clinging roots and think "hang on!" Native Americans would peel the plant's stalks and eat the tender green insides raw. One author suggests placing the peeled stalks in salad, but since this plant is limited to such a small area on the planet, it's best we leave it alone.

If you don't know what Penstemons are, then now is the perfect time to learn. We have several different species of Penstemons in the Native Garden, and you can find them located in the rocky plant bed just below the win-

dows of the Chemistry Lab. They are a low-growing creeper plant, with small thick green leaves and gently rising clusters of dark purple tubular flowers.

The flowers on Penstemons often last well into the summer, and serve as a great source of nectar for bees and other nectar loving critters. Penstemons work well as a skin oil for us humans too. Gather the flowers and stalks, grind them up, place them in a jar of oil (olive or almond) and let that sit for three to four weeks. When the oil looks good and dark, strain out the leafy gunk and save the leftover oil. This is used for everything from minor cuts, scrapes, burns, bruises, chapped lips, rashes and insect bites, just rub it on.

Penstemons are also widely used in landscaping, and are a favorite of Northwest native gardeners. Combine this with their medicinal qualities, and you have the potential to grow your own medicine, giving the wild Penstemons a break from the impacts of picking and harvesting. Find yourself a favorite plant, or plant bed, and watch it grow and unfold; the Native Garden provides us with a great chance to see nature in action. Enjoy.



TIMOTHY BELL / Clackamas Print

Penstemon flowers combine simple beauty with medicinal value.

