

# No experience, no promises, no kidding

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John Baechler and Mike Johnson, candidates for ASWSU executive positions, don't boast of numerous residence hall or Greek activities, or offices held, and say their lack of experience won't be detrimental to their campaign.

"Too often, students are represented by overachievers, people who can't sympathize with the average student," said John Baechler, a junior from Tonasket majoring in communications, the team's candidate for the presidency.

"We are average students, and we want to represent the average student. We'll learn on the job," Baechler said.

Mike Johnson, a sophomore from Tonasket also majoring in communications, is the candidate for the vice-presidency. Johnson said some students running for the positions have motives other than serving the student body.

"They're trying to get ahead; it's something to put on their resume. But I think it's important to get someone who can empathize with the average student (and) react to problems as the average student would," Johnson said.

"We're running on no experience, no promises. We think it's a good thing. We'll do our damndest to do a good job. We don't know all the issues, but we can certainly learn," Baechler said.

Experiences the two have had just by attending this university allow them to relate to issues the way the general student population would react to them, Baechler said.

"I know how people feel about tuition. I'm a 21-year-old sophomore because I had to drop out because I couldn't come up with tuition, so I understand."

Increased student participation and communication are necessary for the ASWSU to be effective, Johnson said.

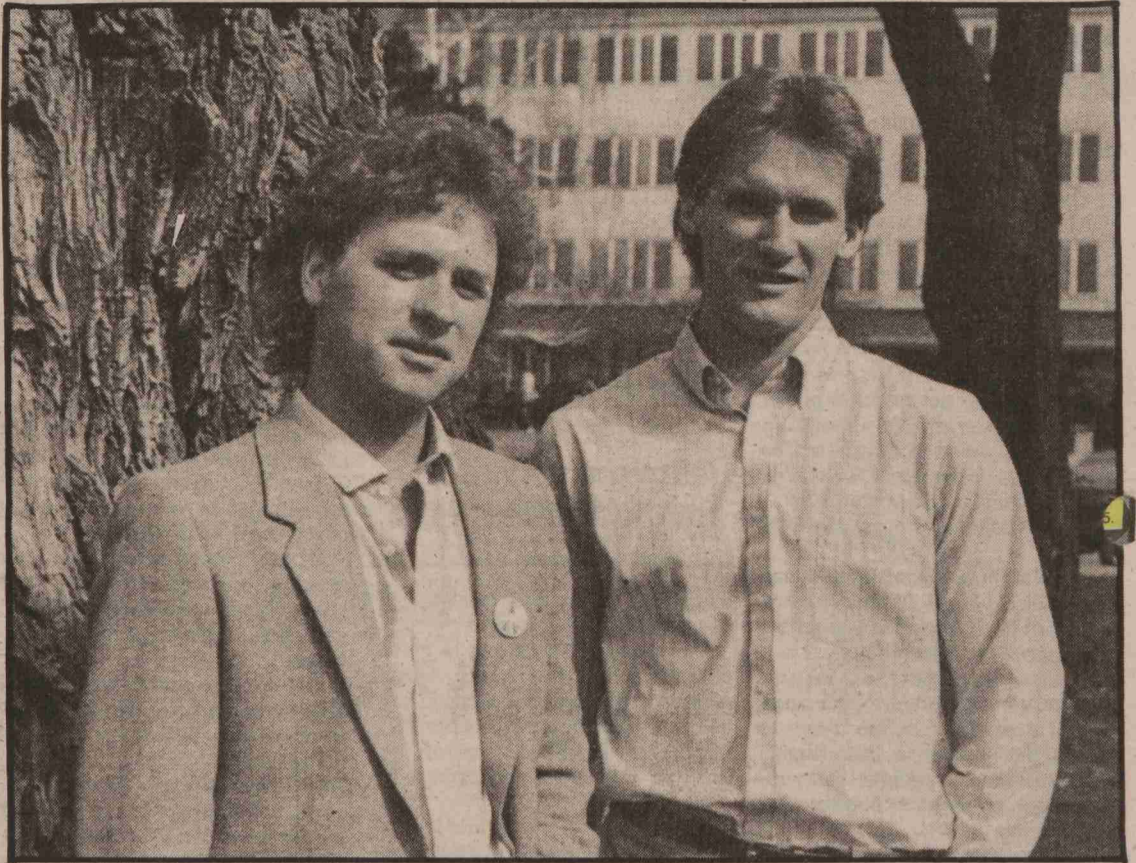
"It's a joint effort. We need to get the office hours (of the senators) publicized and encourage students to talk to senators. If two or three people come up with the same problem, it's time to check it out."

Non-specific stands are not side-stepping the issues, the two stressed.

"Our opinions, our platform, aren't as important as the desires, needs, and wants of the students," Johnson said. "The only way we can pick up on what those are is with open communication. It's not that we don't have opinions; we do."

"We'll have to reflect what the whole wants," Baechler said.

No promises is an honest way to run the campaign, and promises are usually forgotten anyway, Johnson said.



Student Publications/Rusty Coe

## John Baechler and Mike Johnson

"Three quarters of them are pushed to the wayside. We can't make promises because we don't know what the students want. We can't say until we get there."

Candidates who list their varied experiences as proof of their competence may be limiting themselves, Johnson said.

"They say, 'I've done this, so I can do this.' We're saying we haven't done anything, so we can do anything. We have an unlimited scope of vision. It hasn't been clouded by experience."

"We're starting from zero and looking up, and we have no limit, as far as we can see."

Lack of experience may make them uniquely qualified, they said.

"As average students who have felt the same problems, we're the one and only candidates who can empathize," Johnson said.

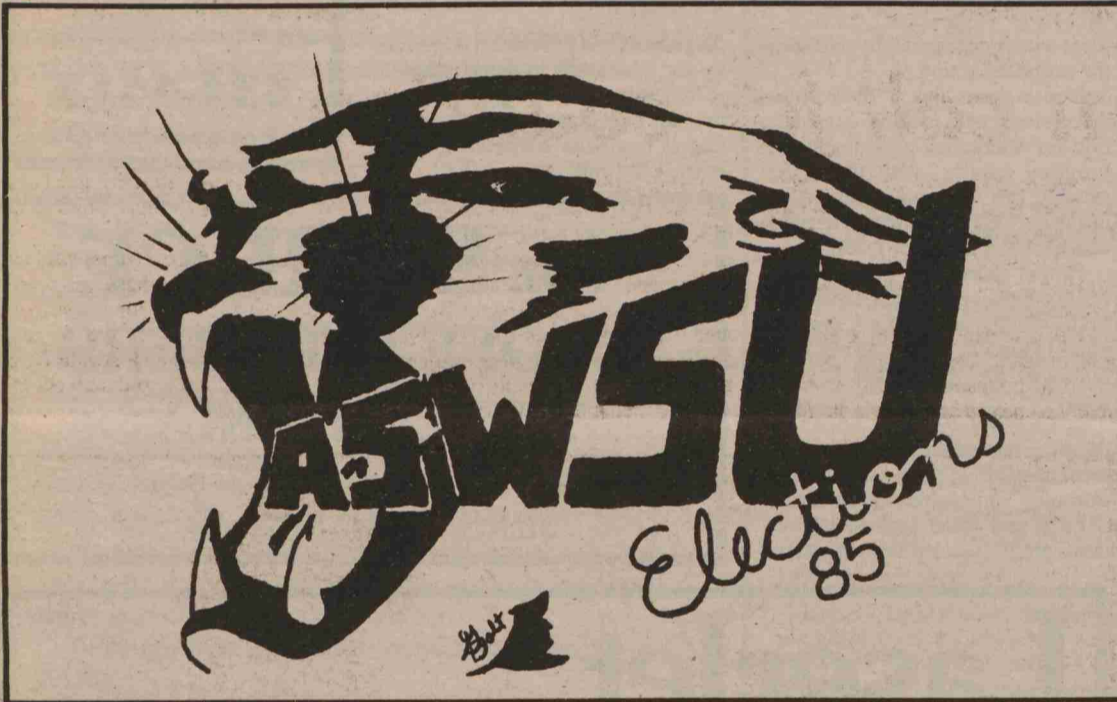
Although reluctant to make any promises to students, Johnson and Baechler gave their response to various issues in a *Daily Evergreen* questionnaire, including the controversies surrounding the Washington Student Lobby and the Gay People Alliance (GPA).

The ticket said a decision regarding support of WSL is not for the ASWSU executives to decide.

"This is for each student to decide. Individual contributions of \$1 are given voluntarily (along with tuition payments) by those who feel inclined," they wrote.

They wrote that they are not totally satisfied with the decision reached by ASWSU regarding the GPA.

"The only complaint we have with the GPA decision is that we feel that many of the people who voted on the issue had a conflict of interest, a prejudice either strongly for or against homosexuality. In the constitution, it states that senators with a conflict of interest should not vote."



# Ticket wants change in 'dead end' status

Students consider ASWSU a dead end or they don't consider it at all, Derek Mitchell and Richard Dunton say, and this ASWSU presidential ticket would make changing that one of their main goals in office.

Derek Mitchell, a senior from Pullman majoring in mechanical engineering and communications, and Richard Dunton, a senior from Pullman majoring in economics and

anthropology, said they want to include more students in ASWSU.

"We want to represent more of the off-campus and special interest groups," Mitchell said. "Students see ASWSU as a brick wall and it shouldn't be that way. There are 150 groups and no reason why people can't get involved."

Students can be more active without ASWSU backing, Dunton said.

"You shouldn't see ASWSU as a final answer. There are other alternatives that can be tapped. Get an idea and run with it."

The denial of committee status for African students was one example the two cited.

"They could stage an African Awareness Day, get together with African students from other schools," Dunton said.

A certain amount of initiative with

little money can yield big results, on the part of ASWSU or the students, Dunton said.

Discussions the two had with Greyhound Bus Lines and Cascade Airlines revealed both would consider supporting a student discount. A grade point average over 3.00 would earn a flat 25 percent discount.

"Something like that just took a little organization and a few phone calls. Think of the benefits to students, and it would cost the ASWSU almost nothing."

They also contacted downtown businesses about student discounts.

"They said to wait until we were elected until they would say anything, but they definitely had an open ear," Mitchell said.

The ASWSU should act as a clearing house for student ideas, Mitchell explained.

"If you have an idea, get on the phone. Run with it. Then get ASWSU behind you. We'll have an open ear, we'll listen. It's all creativity and innovation."

Students need more information about what the ASWSU is doing for them, since it is their money that is used, Mitchell said.

"Half of them don't know where it goes. It's their \$75 in S and A fees, and they should be worried about that."

They also feel other groups need to be held responsible for the money they receive, Dunton said.

"The WSL (Washington Student Lobby) can't be run without the student's support. The WSL has to make sure they know what's going

on. We give them \$25,000 a year, and they need to be held more accountable for that money."

The ticket supports keeping the CUB open until midnight.

"The CUB should be the hub of campus activity," Dunton said. "Clubs should be able reserve space at night to meet, maybe section off a table and have a sign. It would do the club good, and provide information. Students may walk by and decide to sit in."

Two projects the ticket would support are guides to classes and campus housing.

"We could print an off-campus housing guide, that lists the average rent, heating bill, what the landlord is like, things like that. Most students do end up in off-campus housing. To offset the costs of printing, we could ask the different places to take out ads. Students could pick it up as they register," Dunton said.

Students could also benefit from descriptions of courses and professors, they said.

"Students in frats or sororities have it made, with test files. Everyone else should have that information, too," Mitchell said.

Mitchell and Dunton say they do not feel their lack of ASWSU experience will hamper them, and shouldn't be the only gauge of competence.

"We both have experience in other fields," Dunton said. "We've got ability and we're willing to work with people. You could be on the senate, and sit there for two years and not do anything."



Daily Evergreen Mike Anderson

## Richard Dunton and Derek Mitchell