

Contestants scramble for 'Homecoming Person'

The presidential election is over, leaving one question foremost in the hearts and minds of University students — who will be Oregon's 1976 Homecoming Person?

A gala "Presentation pageant" featuring the individual talents of the 15 Homecoming Person contestants may determine the answer. It will be held today from 11:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. in 167 EMU. Local professional folk-rock musicians will also entertain the expected crowd.

The winner will be picked Friday by a blue-ribbon panel of judges and announced during a half-time extravaganza at the Stanford football game Saturday. ASUO programs vice-president Tamanika Ivie refuses to reveal any details but promises the ceremony will be in "good taste."

Contestants are Larry King, Ruby Granderson, Joan Aschim, Gary Feldman, Dave Knoepfel, Joscelyn Polk, Jacqui Green, G. Scott Browning, Rick Ohlson, Lisa Bonifant, Andrea Gellatly, Dean McGree, Scott Conway, A.W. Nebergall and Alex Bobo. Bobo is a professor, and Knoepfel, an athletic trainer. The remaining candidates are students. Judges include Bob Schutz, EMU business manager; Jamie Burns, ASUO administration and finance vice-president; Mary Larsen, ASUO secretary; Greg Wasson, Emerald editor; Jane Harris, student, and Don Steele, EMU Board member.

Wednesday judges determine candidates to assess their wit and "Duck spirit," characteristics which Burns terms "just as valid as physical beauty like in the old days."

The Homecoming Person will become the ASUO "humor representative," says Ivie. She says the whole concept of fun and enjoyment has become obsolete. The Homecoming project is part of ASUO Pres. Jan Oliver's campaign promise to "inject a sense of humor into ASUO life," Ivie adds.

The idea began with Oliver yelling across a bar to Burns, "Hey, let's have a Homecoming Person!" Now it has blossomed into what ASUO administrative assistant Michael Connelly predicts will be "one of the biggest events of the year."

CCPA seeks support

The Community Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA), alias WOW Hall located at Eighth Avenue and Lincoln Street, is desperately in need of more community involvement and financial support.

At a special meeting held Tuesday night at the center, manager Amanda Wilcox said the burden of day-to-day work and financial obligations have held the center back from reaching a broader spectrum of the community.

Former CCPA board member Jim Williams explained that many performers who work at the center are unable to contribute their time and energy to the work involved in keeping the center functioning.

Five active board members and about a dozen people work on a regular basis at the center, Wilcox said, but more participation is necessary if the center is to survive.

According to Wilcox, a large amount of time and energy must be at the center's disposal if it is to remain open. A minimum of \$1,500 a month is needed to keep the center operating. At this time, Wilcox said, "We're just treading water."

Last year at this time, a massive fundraising effort, "the WOW-a-thon" was held at the center. The success of the WOW-a-thon insured the center's existence for the time being.

Wilcox said energy and enthusiasm bubbled at the center just prior to the WOW-a-thon. Much of that energy was worn down in the birth throes of a new organization, Wilcox explained. She added that at present there is a core group of people with good direction at the center, but just not enough people.

Williams pointed out the most important feature of the center is its community base.

"As a non-profit center dedicated to the development of the performing arts in Eugene it serves an important function," he said.

Wilcox and Williams said the big acts the center scheduled are necessary to provide income. However, according to Wilcox, big-name acts in October did not draw and the center used up most of its reserve fund paying for them.

Another WOW-a-thon planned for Dec. 14 through 18 and a \$3,000 grant from the Eugene City Council will give the center a much-needed impetus, Williams said.

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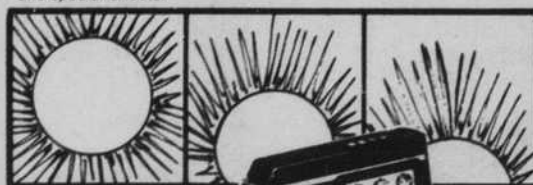
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