

Off and running

ASUO incumbent Wilkins picked by Greeks

By PAUL TELLES
Of the Emerald

The University's fraternities and sororities have endorsed Rich Wilkins for ASUO president.

The decision came Sunday night after an hour-long debate between the four candidates running for the office. About 20 house representatives decided the endorsement in a closed caucus after the debate.

Most of the debate concentrated on the University's current difficulties in the Legislature. However, the legislative session is expected to end early next fall and the next ASUO president, who will be inaugurated in late May, will not have to deal with legislative issues for most of his term.

"The only way we combat this (the proposed cuts in higher education funding) is through a lobby at the Legislature," said candidate Thomas Brannon, an undeclared junior.

All of the candidates agreed with Brannon, but two of them — Bruce Mills, and Donovan Guy — used the debate as an opportunity to attack the current ASUO lobbying effort, which was organized by Wilkins, for including too few students to be effective.

Mills, a senior majoring in rhetoric communication, said this year's ASUO administration had blamed its problems with student involvement in the lobbying effort on student apathy. He said the ASUO had not tried aggressively enough to involve students in lobbying.

Mills said this is typical of the current

ASUO administration, which he claimed made no effort to involve students in ASUO programs and had "insulated" itself from the student body.

"The ASUO is failing to interest students in its programs."

Guy, however, said the problem with the ASUO's lobbying effort is the lack of professional lobbyists. Guy said as ASUO president he would use incidental fees to fund a professional lobbying effort.

Wilkins, a political science major, said students should elect him to the office because it would provide continuity in the ASUO executive branch.

"With your support, I can continue the efforts of this year."

For Incidental Fee Committee, the Greeks picked law student Steve Baldwin, law student Cathi Bulone, David Gibson, a sophomore majoring in political science, Kathleen Phinney, a sophomore majoring in fine arts, law student Karsten Rasmussen, Pamela Jordan, a junior majoring in music, and Xavier Romano, a sophomore majoring in education.

For EMU Board, the Greeks picked Chris Little, a sophomore majoring in political science, George Glass, a junior majoring in general science, law student Bob Needham and Mike Lehman, a senior majoring in marketing and psychology.

The primary elections that will decide the EMU Board and IFC races will be held Wednesday and Thursday. The general election will be a week later.

Neophytes seek EMU Board posts, views differ

By ANN PORTAL
Of the Emerald

The five candidates for the EMU Board have good reason to be optimistic about the upcoming election — four of them will be elected.

None of the five have held an elected position at the University before, but most say they consider the EMU Board a good

"stepping stone" to other ASUO positions.

Tom Pankey, a political science sophomore who has run twice for the board, is currently serving as an appointed replacement on the board. A former student body president in high school, Pankey says he has "learned a lot" during his four months on the board.

"Lately, there've been some

really good changes (made by the board). They're getting back to basics more," he says.

Pankey says he is unsure how much power the board has, but he says the board should "let things run themselves."

Pankey says he isn't concerned with any specific areas supervised by the board, and that the budget will probably be the board's only "bad problem"

next year.

Michael Lehman also was appointed to the board after the last election. A marketing and psychology senior, Lehman says he considers the board "good experience in making decisions and learning policy forming."

Since his appointment, Lehman has attended EMU budget hearings, house committee

meetings and board meetings. Lehman says he would like to make the board more responsive to a wider range of students, and says he is considering soliciting suggestions from students, as the University bookstore does.

Chris Little, a political science sophomore, and law student Bob Needham are running together for the board.

Little says there is "a lot of waste" in the EMU that needs to be re-evaluated. Citing deficits in the operation of the main desk and the bowling alley as examples of poor management, he says the EMU "can't keep losing money when going through such hard times."

The EMU Board shows a lack of direction, says Needham, who disagrees with the manner in which the board has dealt with the budgeting process. Many EMU programs have not shown their worth, he says.

He said the board "needs someone willing to stick their neck out on issues."

Needham says the board positions have been "put aside as not very important," but that he is willing to give a lot of his time to the job.

George Glass, a general science junior, says he is running because he "likes getting involved." Glass says he likes the way the EMU is being run, and he would like to see the quality upheld.

Glass served this year on the financial aid advisory board and the student conduct board. Originally from Eugene, he is a member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

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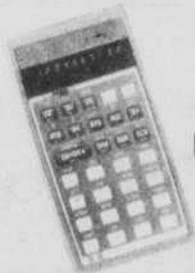
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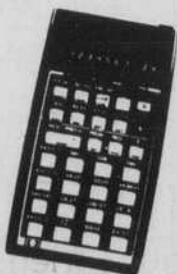
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