

ASUO election brews a teapot tempest

There was trouble already in the ASUO presidential election — and, as tradition dictates, both sides were guilty of over-acting. But, an 11th hour action seems to have sorted the debacle out.

At center of the election maelstrom were the Interfraternity Council (designated in your program as *IFC*), and ASUO presidential candidate Jeffrey Houston (hereafter referred to as Houston). The matter in contention was a scheduled *IFC* sponsored debate between the candidates. Each year the *IFC* allows the ASUO presidential candidates a forum in which to express their views and then chooses one among them to offer their support. The support of the Greek organizations is usually a boon for a presidential candidate. Only this year, for candidate Houston, it almost proved to be a bust.

The *IFC* debate this year was originally scheduled for tonight which, inadvertently, corresponds to the first night of the Jewish holiday Passover. It happens that Houston has long-standing plans to celebrate Passover dinner tonight with Hillel (the campus Jewish organization).

Realizing the conflict, Houston requested Doug Bauer, president of the *IFC*, to reschedule the event.

Bauer previously said he tried to effect the

change but found all the rooms booked.

This is where the two factions — *IFC* and Houston — became the immovable object and irresistible force.

Bauer did not change the day of the debate — which was still set for the first day of Passover. Houston claimed he was being discriminated against because of his religion. And Bauer, believing Houston was restricted from debating because of the religious holiday, said an orthodox Jew he knows said Houston could participate if he wished.

Houston came out with some strong statements, claiming *IFC* was forcing him into a "WASP-greek mold" — and that the scheduling difficulty amounted to a "smokescreen," an attempt to deny him access.

Bauer countered with the charge that Houston was really out to cripple the Greek participation in the ASUO presidential election. By rescheduling the debate to next week, as Houston requested, it would effectively cut down the time Greek organizations would have — a day and a half — to actively campaign for the *IFC*-endorsed candidate.

Both sides were acting in a manner that left no room for compromise. That it really was a crippling

action for the debate to be held next week is a debatable prospect itself? It seems rescheduling the debate to next week simply out of respect for the Jewish holiday was in order. It was not so much anti-semitism as it was the *IFC*'s initial stubbornness toward Houston's request.

At the height of this tempest, three other ASUO presidential candidates: Kevin Kouns, Tom Brannon, and Ed Colligan, opted to support Houston and boycott the debate. That left two of the six candidates, Debbie Mellow and C.J. Balfe, still willing to debate. An *IFC* endorsement for either of the two would have rankled the voters, as both Mellow and Balfe are members of a sorority and fraternity respectively.

But, all is apparently made well again by the *IFC*'s last minute decision to reschedule the debate for 4 p.m. today. Houston appears assuaged by the rescheduling as it will not interfere with his observation of Passover — and the other candidates will be debating. There is peace once again in the Emerald Valley as the *IFC* and Houston have reached a concord. The difficulty factor was obviously surmountable, so let the elections commence and may the best... um... politician win.

letters

Skulldugery

Jack Sanders wrote a thoughtful response (30 March) to your short-sighted and irresponsible editorial (5 March). In your reply, you (1) did not deal with issue of substance that he raised, and (2) resorted to a bit of semantic skullduggery.

The substantial issue — clearly stated by Sanders — is that faculty salaries have fallen some 16-17 percent behind those of other state employees during the past decade, and that, adjusting for inflation, the average faculty salary has fallen some 33 percent since 1973-74. In contrast, tuition increases have about kept pace with inflation. These increases have not been popular with the faculty, many of whom pay tuition for dependents; they come from the same source as declining faculty salaries.

The semantic trick is your distinction between "taking a pay cut" and "postponing a scheduled salary increase." Given inflation, no raise is in fact a cut; come to that, even the scheduled raise is a cut, but not quite so bad a cut as no raise, or a delayed raise. But the really misleading thing is the word "postpone," which means to put off to a later time. The income lost in the months during which the increase is denied will never be regained; the proper word is "forgo," meaning to do without or give up. It is time to speak honestly: the faculty will be forced (not asked) to forgo (not postpone) an "increase" that itself amounts to a moderate cut in real salary.

If you still don't understand this, you might consider how much money could be saved by "postponing" publishing the Emerald for several months next year.

Stephen Reynolds
Religious studies

Danzig show

The University Museum of Art is to be congratulated on the recently presented Danzig Exhibit. An exhibit of such high quality and significance can be a magnetizing and cohesive

Oregon Daily Emerald

force in our community and state. Numerous school classes used the exhibit to develop sensitivity to culture, art, and history. Groups from Portland and Corvallis came especially to Eugene to view the exhibit. Quality events based on the Danzig exhibition attracted diverse dimensions of the Eugene community. There was a special feeling about it all. My personal thanks to the organizers of the Eugene exhibit and to the patient and helpful museum staff.

Alice Lachman
Psychology

Registration

After unsuccessfully registering for the umpteenth time I've come to believe that our registration process is for the birds. For one thing, why should non-majors be allowed to take classes that are needed by majors in order to meet graduation requirements on time, when our departments are being diminished due to budget cuts. Specifically, if a telecommunication major needs to take a Radio Workshop class and can't do so because of a poor registration time, he or she is left out in the cold, while some people who are actually enrolled in the class are just taking it because it happens to fit into their schedule. A possible solution could be to temporarily restrict certain classes to majors only, and if there are still some open spots after registration is over, they may then be opened up to the public.

Richard Barde
Junior, telecommunication

Public opinion

It seems that Pres. Ronald Reagan and Alexander Haig Jr. have found a new game to play. The pieces are two impoverished, struggling Central American nations. The strategy is fabrication and distortion of fact. The objective is the manipulation of U.S. public opinion.

At a recent news conference, Haig presented a photograph

depicting burned, mutilated bodies as proof of the "atrocities" committed by the new, popular Nicaraguan government against the Miskito Indians. The bodies in this photo were later discovered to be those of peasants killed under the U.S. supported Samosa regime.

On Thursday of last week, while speaking before a House subcommittee, Haig said that a Nicaraguan director of guerilla operations in El Salvador had been captured. This man, who was evidence of the massive Nicaraguan military presence among Salvadorean guerillas, miraculously escaped to the sanctuary of a Mexican Embassy.

A steady stream of unsubstantiated, twisted information, which the U.S. government prefers to label "classified," has been issued from the White House. The ultimate goal of this misinforming of the American public is to precipitate a swing in American anti-intervention sentiment.

The production and consumption of such propaganda

speaks poorly for our high government officials, our compliant news media, and the many Americans who blindly accept such fabrications as fact.

Lora Dierker
Sophomore, psychology

Mack incident

The reporters from the Emerald (as well as the Register-Guard), caught more than I did at the Washington State-Oregon track meet in Eugene, Saturday, but they missed an important part of what culminated in David Mack's shoving of Sotirios Moutsanas. I cannot address the elbowing of David by Moutsanas (I did not see it), nor can I address the alleged taunting of Moutsanas by David (I did not hear it). I think it is important to note that David said he was calling to teammate Chris Hudson (see Register-Guard; Sunday, April 4, p.5c). I can, though, address what happened on the south end of the track approximately twenty five feet away from me.

After the finish of the 800 meters, David was walking toward the field-house; he had one arm in the shirt he was putting on. Moutsanas came up behind David, grabbed him by his shoulder and turned him around. David was pulled to within four inches of Moutsanas' face. Moutsanas was talking the entire time, and gesturing vehemently with one and two fingers under David's chin. David listened for a moment, then shoved Moutsanas saying, "Get away from me!" David then walked quickly away. Moutsanas followed for a moment, gesturing, then turned to talk to his teammates.

I thought, as did the person I was with, that David was going to get hit when Moutsanas came up behind him. I think it unfortunate that David has been portrayed in a negative light when he showed the restraint he did in this situation. The shove was the secondary, not the primary, action which took place.

Kathryn Young
Creative writing

