

Balfe best for job

Only one of the six candidates vying for the position of ASUO president in Wednesday and Thursday's election will emerge victorious. That's unfortunate, as each, Jeffrey Houston, Ed Colligan, Tom Brannon, Debbie Mellow, C.J. Balfe, and Kevin Kouns possess the ideas and abilities that would genuinely enhance the office of ASUO president.

The Emerald had a difficult time deciding which candidate is clearly the most qualified. An interviewing panel made up of Sally Hodgkinson, editor — Dane Claussen, ASUO editor — and Cort Fernald, editorial page editor, narrowed the group to three. Those three are Debbie Mellow, C.J. Balfe, and Kevin Kouns. But, in the final evaluation the Emerald endorses the candidacy of C.J. Balfe for ASUO president.

The other candidates have made many valid points in their campaigns. They show a common concern for the needs of the University's students.

Jeffrey Houston's strongest point is his determination to make the ASUO executive more representative of the students. He calls himself "everybody's candidate." Houston, a veteran in his late twenties, vows to fight against what he calls the "secretive" aspects of the ASUO executive.

The drawback to Houston is his lack of experience in the ASUO executive. He is also unrealistic in his aims. He wants to "unlock suite four" and "press the flesh" (meaning to be an accessible ASUO president) more than he wants to concentrate on the more mundane managerial tasks of the ASUO president.

Ed Colligan's business background and affable nature are definite pluses. However, Colligan's ideas on raising revenues for the University are less than practical. He proposes some sort of a "monthly lottery", the proceeds going to the University. Colligan echoes other candidates rhetoric that student government needs to reach-out to apathetic students. He fails to elaborate.

Tom Brannon, many will recall, was a candidate for president last year. This year Brannon, a political science major, rates the present ASUO executive "about a C" — saying they didn't do any damage, but didn't improve either. Brannon won't raise the ASUO executive's GPA. Brannon's knowledge of ASUO problems is the "some people have told me" type — a phrase often used during his Emerald interview.

Debbie Mellow is definitely a strong candidate — rating her third is unfortunate. She's had a year of ASUO experience and knows the workings of student government. Mellow's highly organized approach to ASUO programs and projects are pluses. Although, Mellow's past participation in ASUO projects hasn't provided her with an extensive understanding of the ASUO administration.

Kevin Kouns and C.J. Balfe are nearly equal in strengths and weaknesses according to the Emerald's evaluation. Kouns, backed by Students for a Progressive Agenda (SPA) is an alliance of various IFC-funded programs and groups, is the director of SEARCH. Kouns has done a commendable job with SEARCH, turning a program that in November had only 10 classes and 89 students enrolled — into a program with 41 classes and over 1,000 students enrolled. That is a testament to Kouns' ability as an administrator — and the ASUO president is oftentimes merely an administrator. Kouns is also well-versed in lobbying — having experience in Salem.

But Kouns, and SPA, appear to be too concerned with the larger political issues (i.e., El Salvador, Reagan's military budget, et al). Realistically, the ASUO emphasis should be on the concerns of the University and its students.

Balfe is the most qualified of the candidates. Balfe has nearly a year of ASUO experience working with current president Rich Wilkins. It can be said that he learned from Wilkins' mistakes. Next year is a legislative year and Balfe has experience with the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) knowing some of the pitfalls to avoid when students lobby in Salem. Balfe brings a consistency to student government. He can step into the job and begin work right away.

The Emerald perceives that Balfe is the best of the candidates and urges students to vote for him Wednesday and Thursday.



letters

Everyone sing

Tis the season to go through rush,
Fah lah lah lah lah lah lah lah lah,
Roam the streets with adolescent fervor,
Rah rah rah rah rah rah rah rah rah,
Keep the old myth alive and well,
Fah lah lah lah lah lah lah lah lah,
Hide inside aristocratic castles,
Rah rah rah rah rah rah rah rah rah,
Please keep up the bawling humor,
Fah lah lah lah lah lah lah lah lah.

Marty Weinstein
senior, finance

IFC campaigner

In writing this letter I hope to express to the students of the University why I am running for a position on the IFC. Last Friday evening this newspaper ran an "All Candidates Meeting" where they were given an opportunity to present their views on some of the major issues of the campaign. I was not able to attend this meeting as I have a part-time job. I am disappointed that the Emerald did not try to arrange a meeting where more of the candidates could have attended. (The attendance to my knowledge was below 50 percent).

Next year will be a critical year in the history of the University. Enrollments will most likely continue to decline and support for higher education (SHE) will continue to erode. As a member of the student government's

financial committee, I intend to carry out the following program:

I will vote against any hike in the incidental fee you pay as part of your tuition. Student government should serve students, not work against them. A raise in the fee would put a totally unfair burden on poor, working and/or already hard-pressed minority students — remember that any tuition increase works as a regressive burden.

As an executive member of the Jewish Student Union I know that the ASUO has made it difficult for organizations on campus to raise their own funds. I will work towards the elimination of all such barriers and will try to make ASUO facilities more accessible.

The IFC must take a direct money saving action to lessen the budget cutting of cultural, ethnic, and minority groups. I will fight for a 5-10 percent across the board wage cut for all ASUO paid positions (including the IFC). I am completely opposed, however, to any staff reductions or layoffs. Such actions are both unfair to those who lose their jobs and are wrong for these tough economic times.

As a member of the IFC, and as a paid employee of your student government, I intend to work an average of 16-20 hours a week on IFC. This is the size of the commitment I feel the students of the University should expect from their paid representatives.

The student government should continue to fight for higher education on all fronts. Blind criticism and empty rhetoric are not enough in our fight to preserve and improve our

school. As a community of knowledge and research we must present to our government in Salem and Washington creative and resourceful solutions.

We must keep in mind that we are only one of the hundreds of interest groups which vie for attention and government dollars.

Douglas Green
Economics

Douglas Green is in error regarding the "All Candidates Meeting" held Friday. The Emerald did not sponsor the meeting. The meeting was in fact sponsored by the ASUO.

Grammatical

While I applaud the substance of your April 8 editorial regarding the nuclear freeze movement, the editorial's impact was dampened by persistent grammatical errors. The call in Europe is not for unilateral disarmament by the U.S. and the Soviet Union; it is for bilateral disarmament. The U.S. plans to deploy Pershing missiles, not Pershing missiles. A nation squanders money for its citizens; nations squander money for their citizens. Farming the contaminated land would be impossible, not impossible to farm.

In the questionnaire located next to the nuclear freeze editorial, you omitted the most important qualifications for joining the Emerald staff: an inability to use proper grammar or spelling, along with consistent failure to proofread one's writing.

William Irvin
Law

staff

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