

emerald

Candidates rebuke ASUO leadership

By Dane Claussen
Of the Emerald

ASUO presidential candidates at a Monday forum outlined programs and philosophies they feel are necessary for student government.

Only the candidates and a handful of spectators attended the ASUO-sponsored event.

"The students are going to be presented with a real clear choice" between the status quo — embodied in fellow candidate C.J. Balfe — and real change through the Students for a Progressive Agenda platform, said presidential candidate Kevin Kouns.

Kouns, a junior in sociology and women's studies, says the current ASUO administration has a "parochial attitude" and accused ASUO staff members of not being able to look beyond the ends of their noses.

Kouns said he would work to help faltering student programs, rather than saying "we're going to trash you."

The ASUO has been oriented towards remaining in an administrative role the last few years, he said, adding that the SPA would initiate "aggressive leadership."

"The ASUO should be the focal point of issues on campus," Kouns said. "Until student government starts addressing student concerns, we're going to have low participation," he added.

The ASUO also exists for lobbying, he said, adding that "slick" presentations must be replaced by "grassroots strength."

Student government should make the legal challenges to obtain student control of incidental fees, Kouns said, adding that all avenues should be investigated before incidental fees are increased.

Kouns did not limit his remarks to campus issues. Vietnam cost the United States 50,000 casualties, and "35,000 people have died in El Salvador as a result of the genocide of the U.S. government. . . Students can, should, and must take stands on the issues," he said.

"It's not the ASUO's job to be taking a stand on El Salvador," replied C.J. Balfe, a psychology junior.

Balfe said he would improve the crisis management system employed by this current ASUO President Rich Wilkins, a system that left the Executive "always behind."

Student government should fight for the idea that "every student who wants to go to school should be able to," he said, adding that this philosophy is the key to a legislative effort.

Balfe proposed sending small numbers of student lobbyists trained by the ASUO's professional staff to the Legislature instead of shipping buses of students to Salem. Mobs of untrained students give legislators a "rash on the backs of their necks," he said.

Balfe said he supports current efforts to eliminate incidental fee funding for the athletic department.

"Experience in running the ASUO should not be the crux of the issue," said Ed Colligan, a business junior, referring to the *Emerald* endorsement of Balfe citing his ASUO administrative experience.

The ASUO should initiate educational fundraising activities, Colligan said.

Colligan said incidental fee funding for the athletic department should be eliminated. "The athletic department should be self-sufficient and shouldn't be funded by the ASUO at all."

Tom Brannon, a political science senior, said the main objectives of the ASUO should be to raise money and educate students.

"I think the ASUO should be involved in academic issues," he said, adding that the ASUO should sponsor more forums and encourage programs to do the same.

"I don't feel academics have been stressed enough," Brannon said, adding that the ASUO Executive can work with the Student University Affairs Board on academic issues.

He also said the ASUO Executive can tell students what is happening on campus, work for "more student input in selecting professors," and arrange academic credit for students lobbying in Salem.

The ASUO Executive office does not have to be reorganized, Brannon said. This year's ASUO Executive staff displayed a "lack of discipline" exemplified by staff members not attending meetings or keeping office hours, he said.

Debbie Mellow, a senior in management and telecommunications, advocated the use of a "newsletter" advertisement in the *Emerald* to tell students what student government and programs are doing and help involve students. This would prove to be a "checks and balances" on the student government, she said.

Mellow said she would begin regular ASUO staff meetings and meetings between program directors, heads of living organizations, and student government personnel to facilitate communications.

She also suggested more speakers' programs and organized lobbying efforts, bringing state-level candidates to the University and increasing fundraising efforts.

Jeffrey Houston, a senior in Russian, announced his withdrawal from the ASUO presidential race Monday night at a forum sponsored by the Residence Hall Governance Committee.



Photo by Bob Baker

April showers . . .

If you can believe the old adage, May should bring a bumper crop of blossoms like these. The weather forecast calls for continued showers today, adding to the 3.71 inches of rain already fallen this month. The average April rainfall is 2.31 inches.

Less computing time possible

Discussion of closing the University Computing Center four hours a day has surfaced during the last week, but Gordon Ashby, associate director of University computing, said he will neither confirm nor deny reports that say the University Computing Center is facing a reduction of service hours.

Budget difficulties were cited as the reason for considering the reduction, which would reduce the center's hours from 20 to 16 hours per day.

"I wouldn't even confirm that," Ashby said. "But there's some possibility it will happen."

At a recent University planning committee meeting, the reduction of Computing Center hours was brought up during a discussion of the need for coordination of the purchases of micro- and mini-computers.

Ashby said the hours discussed for possible elimination — 12 a.m. to 4 a.m. — are typically "low

utilization" hours.

"Historically we have operated our computers from 8 a.m. to 4 a.m.," he said, adding that the 12 a.m. to 4 a.m. period is a "marginal shift."

At the end of winter term, students faced a two-and-one-half to four-hour wait just to sit in front of a terminal and the Computer and Information Science department has added several sections of lower division CIS classes to accommodate the increasing demand from students.

But Ashby says that if and when the reduction in hours happens, the center will do as much as it can to alleviate overcrowding.

"We are going to do the maximum we can do not to disrupt service — at this point I'm not sure what that will be," he said.

According to Ashby, definite plans either way have not been set but a decision should be made soon, hopefully within two weeks.