

## Running in the 'Pear'

When I struggled out of bed and saw the rain drizzling from the hunkering gray clouds I thought I was still in Eugene. No, this was Southern Oregon — but it was familiar running weather. It was six-thirty in the morning and I squinted to the west — in hopes the sky would break by eight-forty-five — race time.

cort fernald

### sidelong glances

This was the sixth running of the Pear Blossom mini-marathon. They call it a mini-marathon even though it measures only 20 kilometers. It starts in downtown Medford, then almost at once, heads out of town.

A steady rain fell on the runners gathering at the start. I debated back and forth whether to leave my "sweats" on — just wear my pants — or to strip down to shorts and singlet and brave the wet and cold. In the end I decided "Ah, screw it," and took off my "sweats."

My preparation for this race had been disappointing. I wasn't at all sure I could go beyond 10 miles. While I jogged waiting for the start, trying to loosen-up, my knee was aching and my legs were plagued by little aches and pains. I was worried.

The drum-roll grew louder. The runners greeting friends became quiet. I scanned the spectators but didn't see her. Then the cannon went off and everyone jammed up.

Once things were sorted out I found a comfortable pace and stuck to it.

Despite the rain — which was letting up — the atmosphere was congenial. Runners were talking, joking, snorting, spitting and waving to friends lining the race course. I held my pace, weaving through the tangle of runners.

It's probably weird, though most times when I run I mentally play music. At last year's Pear Blossom I listened to "Black Market Clash" throughout the race. It annoyed me when I reached the top of Henley Hill and some Bozo had the theme from *Rocky* blasting from a cassette-player. This year it was the theme from *Chariots of Fire* at the top of Henley Hill — but I was hearing "Police on My Back" and "Spanish Bombs." I put my hands over my ears as I reached the top.

I thought I saw her behind a camera. I was about to call out when I realized no... it wasn't her.

I noticed another runner dodging through the slower runners. He had all the sophisticated electronic devices and the latest in runner's wear. I drew even with him. We didn't say a word to each other, exchanging instead a competitive glance. I would pass him and he'd stay on my shoulder. Then he'd pass me and I'd lock onto his shoulder.

We fought each other for four miles — until he got three strides on me and I knew he had me that day.

Miles 9 through 12 went by so swiftly they were almost surreal. To my surprise I noticed my knee wasn't — and hadn't been — hurting. It was probably the new Sauconys, though I was glad for them 'ol endorphins. "Endorphins... don't fail me now," I muttered.

I was nearing the final two blocks. The crowd on either side of the chute were cheering each incoming runner. My legs were throbbing. My lungs were burning. I hoped she was somewhere in the crowd. The time-clock read 1:23:50 — and counting. I fought the impulse to calculate and pushed even though it hurt. I remembered last year when I was so happy to have even finished I didn't think to look at my time. The seconds were fleeting. I clenched my teeth and charged, watching the clock all the way in.

"Hey, there's Cort," someone shouted.

Sunday, my legs felt like wood. It still hurts going down stairs. But, I'm damned satisfied with my showing in the Pear Blossom, even though I was about twenty minutes behind the winner, Ashland's Ric Sayre. I'll be there next year.



## Emerald endorses 7 for IFC

There's a veritable mob of 35 aspirants scrambling for the seven spots on the Incidental Fee Committee. In an effort to save voters the time-consuming task of picking and choosing among the 35 names on the ballot during the elections Wednesday and Thursday, the Emerald is recommending seven candidates who we believe will serve the students' best interests on the IFC.

- Jeff Nudelman, a supporter of SPA (Students for a Progressive Agenda), has a responsible outlook on the programs IFC funds. He encourages the growth of vital organizations.

- Barton Hill, a biology sophomore, wants to work with IFC funded programs to decide with the programs on their budgets. Hill appears to be very organized.

- David Lesser, a political science junior running on the SPA platform, has been actively involved in many campus organizations. He is presently director of Off-campus Housing.

- Devin Wate has a background in

business which will aid in his participation on the IFC. His stance is that of a fiscal moderate, which will promote a balance inside the IFC.

- Doug Rappaport, a sophomore English major, brings a degree of experience to the IFC. He was recently elected chair of the Residence Hall Governance Committee, an important non-student-government position.

- Mary Shrauger is new to student government, but brings a keen enthusiasm for the job. She is concerned with equalizing IFC funds among the various programs.

- Betzy Fry has the most IFC experience of all the candidates. She worked with Alan Contreras, ASUO vice-president of program administration. Fry wants to reevaluate current IFC expenditures.

What is noteworthy about these seven candidates is their realistic approach to the IFC. The Emerald urges the University voters to cast their ballots for these seven candidates.

## letters

### Very concerned

As a student at the University for four years I have been very concerned about how my extra fees have been spent. I have watched in amazement as the IFC has used my money to fund nonacademic, special interest groups. I feel it is high time to elect IFC members who favor funding school related groups, not fringe organizations. Mike Cross is just such a candidate. Mike is experienced in student government. For two years he served in student government at LCC. In my association with him I have found him to be very articulate, well versed in issues facing the University, and able

to make tough decisions.

Mike Cross wants to change the direction of the IFC. Dave Ridenour, Doug Green, and Eric Stillwell share these same values. Together they can and will make a difference in how our hard earned money is spent.

**John Wesley  
Master Urban &  
Regional Planning**

### Above all

Color, style, depth, if possible, but, above all, accuracy is the primary goal of the responsible journalists.

The Oregon Daily Emerald?

**Charles O. Porter  
Baker Blvd.**

### Vote White

We have known Randy White since our tenure began at the University and have found him to be most appealing as a candidate for a position on the Erb Memorial Board.

We need someone who will work within the framework of student government and have a receptive ear to the needs of all students in this upcoming year.

Next school year doesn't have to be the year that we all go without. Your vote does make a difference. We urge your vote for Randy White for Erb Memorial Union Board.

**Derek Covey,  
Kelko Hayashi**

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