

emerald

About a month ago, C. J. Balfe won a close election for the ASUO presidency. Today, Balfe takes over University student government. His professional interest in communication will shape his

C.J. Balfe

With only first impressions and campaign rhetoric to go on, Balfe's supporters label him "one of us," while his critics might consider him "one of them."

But on closer examination, Balfe is not so easily labeled.

Evidently, Balfe is successful as a politician. But behind this image, Balfe has ideas that seem both harmonious and contradictory with his role as ASUO president.

Balfe says he first realized that he wanted to be ASUO president during his freshman year, when he worked as campaign manager for then-ASUO Pres. Dave Eaton.

"During my freshmen year I decided to give it a shot, and I made it my long-term goal," he says.

In high school, Balfe worked in student government, and that sparked his interest in politics. But Balfe says his mother convinced him of the importance of extracurricular involvement.

"My mother has always had a tremendous influence on me. I have masses of respect for her," Balfe says.

When Balfe realized he wanted to be ASUO president, he developed a careful strategy.

"I wanted to find out how the job worked first, to see if I really wanted it. Then I decided to dig in, and go for the top one."

Working with both Dave Eaton and Rich Wilkins, this year's ASUO president, Balfe says he examined the strengths and weakness of the two and developed his own philosophy.

"Dave was much more of an administrator and manager. That's my home base too."

A psychology major, he calls himself a "social" person and prides himself on his "open ear."

"I like to deal with people and to enhance on their ideas instead of going on just my own."

After working in the personnel field for a few years, Balfe eventually wants to be a psychologist. His interest in communication will influence the

way he operates as ASUO president next year, he says.

Discussion and communication will be vital to his administration, Balfe says.

"My vice presidents will know a lot more in many areas than I do," he says. "I would be a fool not to listen to them and make the decisions on my own. But it's my knowledge of the system as a whole that will come through for us."

While most of Balfe's decisions apparently will be made with the help of his staff, he says all suggestions from students will be valuable. Balfe says his mind is easily changed by convincing arguments.

"I'm so wishy-washy. Personally, I like to listen to what everybody has to say. This office next year will be an advocate of all students and all students' causes."

Balfe says he believes it is not his job to tell people what to think. His job is to inform people on the issues of higher education, and people can decide for themselves, he says.

Living in a fraternity has also helped him develop his attitudes toward administration and leadership, Balfe says.

"The Greeks consolidate their efforts and they work together," he says. "By doing this, they benefit themselves and the University as a whole, and this can be seen by their contributions to the campus."

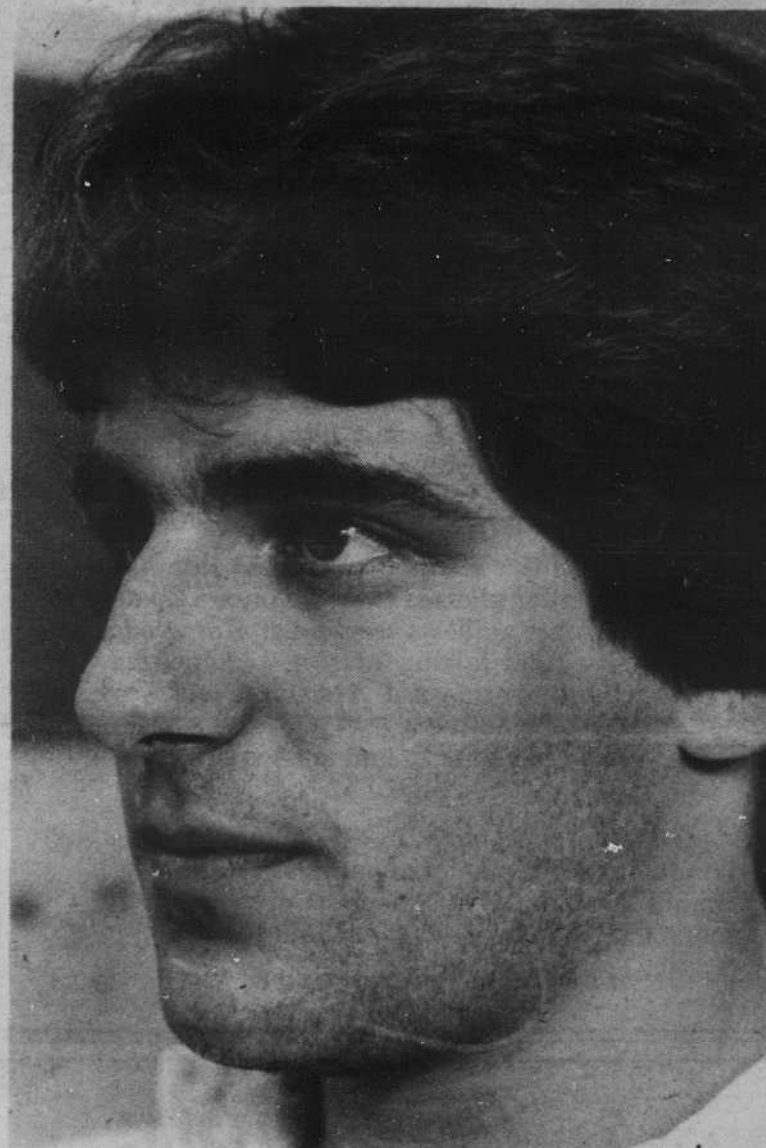
A desire to change things has also encouraged his political drive, he says.

Balfe does not like to label himself strictly liberal or conservative, but he says "most of the people running this world are conservative."

"We're students, and students have a liberal tendency and a drive to change the system," he says.

For this reason, Balfe says he wants to be a representative of students' sentiment.

"I want to help influence that change."



Story by Mike Anderson, Photo by Bob Baker

ASUO changes officers, posts still vacant

By Dane Claussen
Of the Emerald

Although only three vice presidents have been hired, leaving many positions unfilled, and the Elections Court wasn't held until Monday night, new ASUO officers led by ASUO Pres. C.J. Balfe took office today.

The changeover took place with little pomp and circumstance, and former ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins and John Stewart, former vice president for state and public affairs, began moving out several days ago.

The only noticeable events signaling the change, save the new faces, is the rearrangement of offices within Suite Four, which Balfe and helpers did Monday night. The new arrangement, apparently viewed as more workable for Balfe's staff, includes moving the president's office from the south corner to the more visible west corner of Suite Four.

Alan Contreras, former ASUO vice president of program administration, will stay on this summer as both a temporary ASUO executive vice president and substitute ASUO vice president for administration and finance.

David Gibson, the new vice president for administration and finance, will be

working in Alaska.

Gibson says there are three items already on his agenda for his first week in office however and that he is "looking forward to it (his new post)."

Of the Incidental Fee Committee, of which Gibson was a member until Monday, he says, "It's been a long process. I'm looking forward to sitting at the other end of the table."

Ann Portal, the new vice president for state and public affairs, will be working as an intern at the Salem Statesman-Journal this summer but plans to put in two days a week at the ASUO office.

"I think C.J.'s committed to getting something done before the year's over," she says. "Right now, we're just feeling our way, trying to learn the job and get to know people."

The 1981-82 ASUO officers have mixed reactions about leaving office.

"There's things about the job I'll miss. There's things I won't miss," Wilkins says.

The year has been a difficult one for Wilkins and staff, and for the University, and next year will be similar, Wilkins says. But Balfe's appointees "look like an excellent staff," he adds.

"I feel like I've done my time," Contreras says about his three-year in-

volvement in various areas of student government.

"I've enjoyed it. But there's other things to do," he adds, citing the fact that as a first-year law student this fall, he will be concentrating more on studies.

Stewart, Wilkins' vice president for state and public affairs, says "I had a really good year. I feel really good about the new government coming in."

Balfe has appointed some "good people," Stewart says, adding that "I hope that the ASUO will continue to draw more

students in from all areas of campus."

Such conferences have a "positive effect on our public relations" and cause the University to be respected at colleges on the West Coast.

Gus Palmitessa, former ASUO executive vice president, will stay on this summer as a "student defender" for the Office of Student Advocacy.

Kathy Stebner, Wilkins' vice president for University and academic affairs, graduated at the end of winter term and was not replaced.

Gray to address grads

Hanna Holborn Gray, the first woman to serve as chief executive officer of a major American coeducational institution of higher learning, will speak at the University's spring commencement June 13.

Gray became president of the University of Chicago in July 1978 after serving as provost and then acting president of Yale University. Prior to that, she was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University.

Gray will speak on "The Real World and Other Academic Problems" at the commencement exercises, which begin at 2:30 p.m. at Hayward Field and are open to the public. If it rains, ceremonies will be held at McArthur Court.

A historian with special interests in the history of humanism, political and historical thought, Gray taught history at the University of Chicago from 1961 to 1977 and is again a professor in the university's history department.