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Candidates express views at ASUO's political faire

By Richard Burr
Of the Emerald

The largest ASUO forum, which will give students a chance to familiarize themselves with political candidates, is set for Thursday.

The ASUO Political Faire will host 16 candidates from nine area congressional races and opponents and proponents of the property tax limitation ballot measure. The faire begins at 10 a.m. and runs until 8:15 p.m.

The faire, to be held in the EMU Ballroom, is also sponsored by the Student University Affairs Board, which organized the event, and the Student University Relations Council.

The ASUO traditionally has held some sort of political fair during election years, says Mark Cleveland, ASUO director of University and academic affairs.

Past fairs have never reached their potential, Cleveland says. The fairs have been smaller, spread across two days, and had long breaks between debates, he says.

The result was poor attendance, Cleveland says.

By scheduling continuous debates on one day, the ASUO hopes to improve the faire's success, says Debi Lance, ASUO vice

president of state and University affairs.

The faire is another step in the ASUO's attempt to get more students involved in the political process, Lance says. The event also has helped unify the ASUO, SUAB and SURC in their efforts to promote higher education, she says.

The event is open to the general public, adds SUAB member Mike Prothe, a faire coordinator. The ASUO wanted to make sure Springfield was represented by scheduling Springfield area candidates, Cleveland says.

Although the gubernatorial candidates will be unable to attend, representatives will staff tables near the ballroom, Prothe says. Tables for the sponsoring organizations and the Political Science Student Union, voter registration and political literature will be placed around the ballroom perimeter.

Candidates will be asked six questions by panelists from ASUO, SUAB, SURC, and the *Emerald*. The questions will be split among the candidates with each unquestioned candidate receiving time for rebuttal.

After the questioning is concluded, the debate will be opened to audience questions. Each debate will last 45 minutes with 15-minute breaks between each session.

The schedule:

10:30 Rep. Dist 39 Grattan Kerans (D) — Jerry Riley (R)
11:30 Rep. Dist 42 Larry Hill (D)
12:30 Rep. Dist 40 Carl Hosticka (D) — Robert O'Reilly (R) — Laurel Paulson (CP)
1:30 Sen. Dist 22 William Frye (D) — Jonathan Bates (R)
2:30 Sen. Dist 20 Margie Hendriksen (D) — George Wingard (R)
3:30 Rep. Dist 41 Mike Grove (D) — Mary McCauley-Burrows (R)
4:30 Rep. Dist 43 Sharon Murphy (D)
5:30 Ballot Measure 3 debate
6:30 Sen. Dist 21 Ed Fadeley (D) — Mike Cross (R)
7:30 Fourth Congressional Dist — Ross Anthony (R)

High fees discourage rushees

Higher rush fees and a sluggish economy may be responsible for a decrease in rush participants, fraternity and sorority officials say.

"We don't have an exact figure," says Steve Schrader, Interfraternity Council publications director, "but about 240 men rushed (visited the houses) and 150 pledged." Panhellenic Council Pres. Jana McLellan says 354 women rushed and between 75 percent and 85 percent pledged.

Both Greek councils say there were fewer rushees than last year. According to McLellan, the state of the economy is the major factor why 45 fewer

women rushed this fall.

"It costs more to live in a sorority house than in a dorm. That fact may have discouraged some women," she says.

Schrader says the registration fee charged for fraternity rush may have discouraged some men. "But as a result," he says, "the men that do rush are more likely to pledge a house."

University fraternities and sororities attract between 2,600 and 2,800 students as active members, both residing in and out of houses. Alpha Tau Omega and Pi Kappa Phi have no house; Pi Kappa Phi also did not seek new pledges in fall rush.

Although the pledge decides which house to join, the house decides which pledges to accept. Houses generally require a pledge to maintain a 2.5 grade point average through the first term, pass initiation and pay the initiation fee, McLellan and Schrader say.

This is the second year of dry rush, which prohibits alcohol during rush activities. Both McLellan and Schrader say dry rush is a national trend allowing rushees to base their decision on true interest in the house.

"We don't want rushees choosing on the basis of which house parties the most," Schrader says.

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