

New student party announces IFC endorsements

By Alicia Gano
Of the Emerald

Concerned Students for Responsive Leadership, a new student political party, endorsed five candidates for the Incidental Fee Committee and four candidates for the EMU board of directors at a press conference Tuesday afternoon.

CSRL endorsed Ron Munion, Sandra Thompson, Collin Farrell, J.B. Leahy and Wayne Skill for the IFC because of their common desire to equally represent all students on campus and not just strong political factions, said CSRL vice presidential candidate Karen Gaffney.

Munion, a current IFC member and political science major, said he favors better accounting of funds and committee members who don't view the budget process politically.

Thompson, an MBA student, agreed. "Politics have nothing to do with the IFC." Wondering why so many budgets are creeping up in small increments, Thompson said he would like a detailed look at every budget to ensure funds are applied fairly and equitably.

Farrell, a finance and marketing major, said he wants

IFC funds "used widely and for the most people." Ferrell said the Athletic Department and the Oregon Marching Band, which serve a majority of students, don't receive the funding they deserve. At the same time, he said, the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group has a smaller base of support but maintains a large budget.

Leahy, a marketing and management major, wants to see IFC funds reduced and directed toward student groups with a broader-based community appeal. Leahy cited KWAX as a group with widespread community use that could be funded.

Skill, an architecture major and University wrestler, said too many Athletic Department dollars are directed to revenue-generating sports.

All five candidates want to see more financial independence from funded student groups and greater financial control on the part of the IFC.

CSRL endorsed Matt Smith, Lisa Nichols, Tamie Kaufman and Kevin Taylor for EMU Board positions. All emphasized their desire for the fairest use

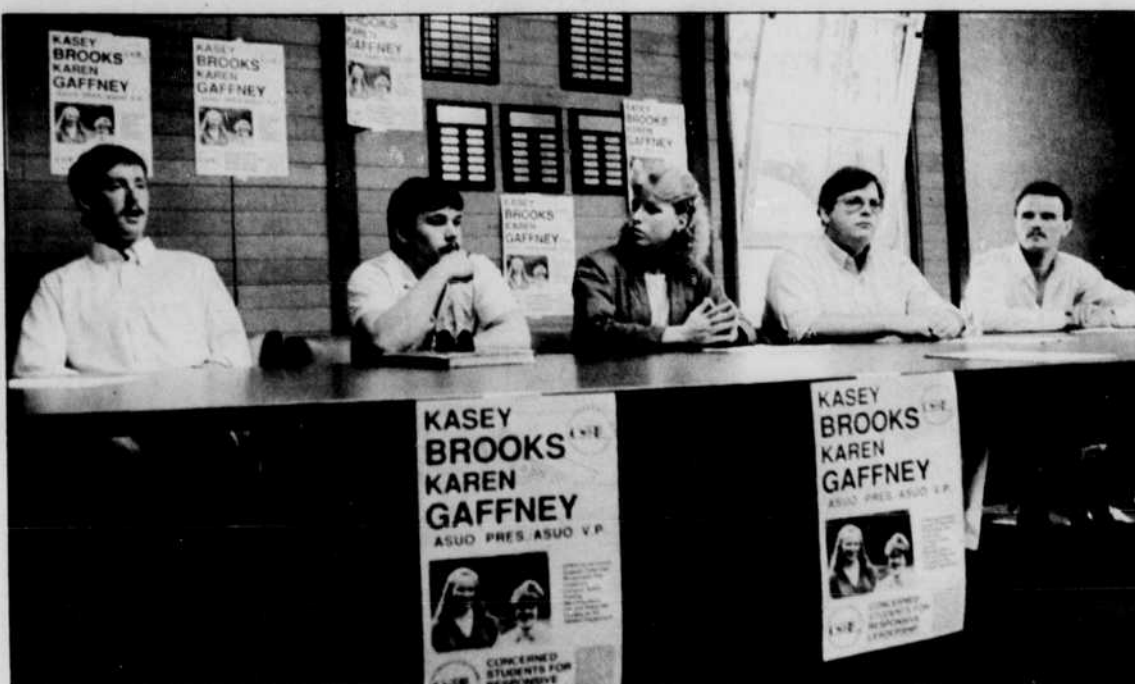


Photo by Maria Corvallis

Concerned Students for Responsive Leadership endorsed (from left to right) Collin Farrell, Wayne Skill, Sandra Thompson, Ron Munion and J.B. Leahy for the Incidental Fee Committee.

of board funds to benefit the most students.

Kaufman, a journalism major, said the EMU is the center of campus activities and should be the focus of spending. "We don't need a foreign policy or a

national policy," she said.

Smith, a journalism major, wants to see the board develop a more realistic perspective of the University. He wants it to see students "as individuals, not groups."

Nichols, a pre-law student, is particularly concerned with marching band funding, citing the group's three-fold membership increase in the last four years without a funding increase.

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Williams said he personally conducts internal evaluations for every case - which total about 2,500 in his 14 years of directing security.

"Only one case out of that entire time has anyone come back to try to sue the bookstore for false arrest. We won that case," he said.

About 30 of the 2,500 shoplifting suspects apprehended at the bookstore have been found not guilty in court.

"We are proud of the fact that with prosecuting attorneys, police officers, with the defense attorneys even, the bookstore program is held in high esteem because of the thoroughness of our program. If you saw the training our people go through, you would be impressed with the quality of our program," Williams said.

"My understanding is that defense attorneys don't like to go up against the University Bookstore security folks because they do such a good job. They are not sitting ducks. They are tough to beat once they make an arrest because they do everything so well," McCarthy said.

Even the shoplifters can't complain, Williams said.

"I'm sure there are some of them who have animosity toward the bookstore, but none of them can ever say they were treated inconsistently or even unfairly if they step back and look at it," Williams said.

Busting shoplifters is advantageous to the shoplifter as well as the store and other customers, said one of the bookstore's security personnel.

"Statistically, shoplifting and shoplifters will continue until stopped with an arrest. By halting it now, you may save them from a worse fate because for some, shoplifting is only the beginning - a prelude to other, more serious crimes," Harry said.

"We would much rather deter people from stealing rather than prosecute," Williams added, saying there likely are fewer

thefts during rush periods, such as this week's text purchases, because the bookstore tries to eliminate the methods for people to steal at these times. Deterrents include requiring backpacks and book bags to be stored at a counter before entering the book department, increased security guard patrol and a floor layout that minimizes blind spots.

Other methods of discouraging shoplifting year-round include keeping shelves below eye level, maintaining good lighting and placing items that typically tempt shoplifters in open areas.

Of equal importance is good customer service, Williams said. Checkers and other employees are encouraged to greet the customer, acknowledging them with eye

contact or a verbal greeting.

"We try to create a relationship, try to personalize what can be a de-personalized situation," Williams said.

In recent years, Williams said he has noticed a growing problem with people stealing textbooks from either a bookstore or from students and reselling them to either the University Bookstore or Smith Family Bookstore.

A number of people have been caught doing this, according to Williams. "Many times it can be just one or two people who get into the cycle of doing it. One of our highest priorities is catching these people, and we have some pretty good systems to catch them. When someone sells us back a book, we're very suspicious about that, and so is Smith."

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