

Ticket targets drug education, independent status

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

Although he believes he will have to beat two powerful political machines, Steve Frichette thinks he is the best qualified candidate for ASUO president.



A junior rhetoric major and sociology minor, Frichette has served as the ASUO University Affairs coordinator for the past year. He also has been involved in the Interfraternity Council, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and numerous student-faculty committees and believes this experience would help him run the ASUO effectively, he said.

When he and his running mate Donna Cooper announced plans to run for office, it was in the capacity of co-presidential candidates. Frichette and Cooper have since decided to run as president and vice president because they could not run as co-candidates within the boundaries of the ASUO Constitution.

This does not mean he and Cooper will not work closely as a team, he said.

He said he has established a balance between working hard and playing hard, which is an important quality for an ASUO president.

"I can be very task oriented when I have to be, but I can socialize with the best of them," he said. "But this does

not mean I want to party all the time. I can be a very driven person at times."

He also credits himself with the ability to talk to people, but more importantly, to listen. These skills have developed over the span of his involvement in leadership positions, he said.

If elected, one of his objectives will be to change how the students view the office of the president and student government in general.

"The existing perception is of the president as dogmatic and a dictator. That is not my type of personality," he said, adding later that he didn't think the office would cause him to change.

"I am not going to change. I am Steve Frichette. I'll just be a little more driven," he said.

He views the job of president as not only being a learning experience, adding to the academic aspect of college life, but as a position that needs to be de-politicized.

"ASUO is much too political. And we feel if any other party wins, it will remain political," he said, stressing the ASUO's role as an administrative branch of government.

He also wants to see the incidental fee funding process and the ASUO Executive recommendation process become less political.

Frichette said he would support the use of incidental fees for substance abuse awareness as well as maintained student control of the health insurance program. He also would lobby for a revision of the independent student status laws

regulating financial aid, he said.

Donna Cooper also has definite ideas about the role of the vice president and student government.

As Frichette's running mate, Cooper hopes to see the ASUO open to more students and would encourage students who are traditionally under-represented to apply for ASUO positions, she said.

"ASUO has traditionally been a bastion of Greeks and left-wing political activists," she said.

Cooper also wants to increase the accountability of the government to students, she said. She proposed having weekly meetings with an Oregon Daily Emerald reporter and focusing on broader issues than those that fall under the categories of minorities and women.

While these are important, they are not the only groups on campus that need representation, she said.

"I don't like feeling that a student group got its funding shafted for purely political reasons," she said.

Efficiency in the ASUO office is something else Cooper pro-



Steve Frichette and Donna Cooper

poses to work on.

"There is a lot of time wasted in the ASUO office. It's not as effective as it could be," she said, adding that new people tend to have a hard time adjusting. That would not occur if she and Frichette were elected, she said.

Cooper does not see the need for any new ASUO programs, but wants to expand some of those that already exist. The Mediation Program, Project Saferide and the United States Students Association are pro-

grams Cooper said need another year to get on their feet, but other expansion should be curtailed for a year.

This election is shaping up to be different than those in the past, she said.

"SPA (Students for a Progressive Agenda) is weaker than it has ever been," she said. And with the emergence of Concerned Students for Responsive Leadership there is a real choice in candidates and ideologies that hasn't existed in past years, she said.

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