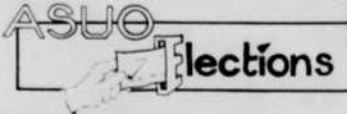


# Independent champions non-voters, and calls lack of experience asset

By Carolyn Lamberson  
Of the Emerald

While in the U.S. Air Force Thomas Stansfield learned leadership skills he believes will help him if elected ASUO president.



Stansfield, a junior political science major minoring in history and philosophy, spent three years in the military in the field of law enforcement. He was a student leader and the liaison between 50 airmen, 20 marines and their supervisor, he said, adding part of his job was to be yelled at by the superiors and then to yell at the men.

He was released from service a year early to return to school, and is currently serving in the Air National Guard.

Stansfield runs independent of any organized political party or coalition and does not have a running mate simply because he didn't have the time or desire to just ask a friend to run, he said.

Stansfield said he doesn't like campaigns, because he sees the actual campaign as a short period of office. He lacks familiarity with the ASUO office, so it is hard for him to make specific statements about the job, he said.

But Stansfield sees this as an asset, and said he will bring a fresh face to the ASUO.

*'I've always been a champion of the underdog.'*  
— Thomas Stansfield

"I am familiar with the people who don't vote," he said. "And I am more representative of the people who haven't been voting."

Stansfield said he's running for the president's office in part because he likes decision making, and believes he is very good at thinking on his feet.



Thomas Stansfield

"I see his (the president's) job as a manager, a decision maker," he said. "It is mostly his job to manage 70-odd programs. He also has to represent students to Oregon Hall and the (University) administration."

"And that's not just represent Greeks, the athletic department and the dorms." He said he would represent students living off campus, too.

Stansfield would also stress representing students as students, not as special interest groups, and being more open to student ideas and input.

When it comes to issues, Stansfield has some specific ideas he would like to carry out if elected, including the expansion of child care and the re-evaluation of Project Saferide.

"We should either boost its use or cut down at least on the van that's going off campus," he said.

He also would like to see The Record removed from the ASUO office.

"I don't relish the thought of being a source of press and having my own news magazine," he said.

On a more general scale, he would like to broaden the issues beyond small interest groups and would like to see a smaller government, he said.

Stansfield admits he is the underdog in the presidential race, but that doesn't bother him. He sees himself as a balance between the two main parties, Concerned Students for Responsive Leadership and Students for a Progressive Agenda. He considers himself to be a little more conservative than the other candidates running, placing himself a little right of moderate on the political spectrum.

"I've always been a champion of the underdog," Stansfield said, and adds if he was on top of the race, he would feel uncomfortable.

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