

## Candidate forums need more latitude

Although Tuesday's presidential forum benefited the candidates and the student audience, there were some procedural problems that future organizers should consider before holding the next one.

Moderator Neal Dorow had his hands full attempting to coordinate questions from the audience to the candidates. Members of the audience supposedly were required to direct their questions at Dorow, who then would pass the questions on to the candidates. This worked for the first three questions or so, but soon questions were being directed directly to the candidates — as they should have been.

Dorow cannot be faulted for wanting the questions directed at him rather than the candidates. He simply wanted the forum to run smoothly and didn't want any low-blow attacks aimed at the candidates. His benevolence is admirable, but this is politics, and the candidates should be able to handle tough, if cheap, questions.

Moreover, Carlton Clark, who assisted Dorow, was out of line when he attempted to quell a question regarding the candidates' campaign spending. Claiming the question was "not pertinent to the campaign" should not have been his decision; it should have been up to the candidates. Fortunately, candidates were permitted to answer the question after protest from a vocal audience.

For future consideration, we recommend presidential forums be split; one for presidential candidates and one for vice-presidential candidates. Furthermore, if moderators wish to control the proceedings, we also recommend having the audience submit written questions.

## Floyd Beam easy choice for 'Pinhead of the Month'

Our "Pinhead of the Month" award goes to none other than the chairman of the Lane County Republican Central Committee, Floyd Beam. He was one of the three gentlemen who made headlines last week by distributing inflammatory "Gay Plague" pamphlets on campus.

While we wholeheartedly support the right to free speech — even for Beam — we protest the gross inaccuracies in his pamphlets, his promotion of bigotry and stereotypes, his initial refusal to identify himself and the threat he leveled at one of our reporters.

Few will believe the "facts" about gays listed in his pamphlet; some even may find them humorous. But there is nothing humorous about Beam's rabid hostility against homosexuals, especially considering he is the Republican top banana for Lane County.

His prophecy that homosexuals will continue to die, and this is "exactly what should happen," is a scary statement coming from someone with political power. Beam's remarks last week concerning gays were irresponsible and reflect poorly on Lane County Republicans.

So, Beam is not only a mindless gay basher, he is also a serious liability for the Republican party. Not only does he take anti-homosexual stances using outdated, false information based on archaic stereotypes, he attempts to hide his identity, making him look that much more pathetic. Beam said he might continue passing out his pamphlets. If he does, we should have no problem naming the next "Pinhead of the Month" award winner.



## Letters

### Sincerity

I feel that I am the qualified and motivated candidate in the race for Student Senate Seat 7.

The path I have decided to take to student government at the University is one of sincerity, honesty, fair representation and a definite hardworking approach. It is easy for candidates to talk a lot before elections, but sincerity on issues and qualifications must be considered.

Along with previous involvement such as coaching and fund raising, I am carrying the Greek and SPA endorsements with me into this election. I think it is imperative for students in my field to know that they can get powerful, helpful and sincere representation from me if elected.

Central areas of concern on campus to me are child care, campus safety and parking. I also feel for any international issues that may be affecting us students here at the University.

More specifically, the rhetoric, theatre, TCF and music departments need a strong pre-registration program

such as that of the business department.

I will provide the leadership and strength in the senate as well as fair representation and a sincere voice to connect the students and faculty of the University. Thank you and please VOTE MICHAEL FAHERTY FOR SEAT 7.

Michael Faherty  
Student

### Political myopia

After reading the article in the April 9 Emerald about IFC candidate J.B. Leahy, I get the impression that students are not supposed to be political, as if we are a separate entity from the community.

We are only supposed to be concerned about student issues. Never mind that many of us pay utilities, live near toxic dumpsites and are clearly affected by international affairs just as "real" citizens are.

Radio stations and marching bands are great, but they don't have the same impact on a student's lives as do other groups. Students should be able to affect their environment on and off campus.

Non-partisan programs like OSPIRG, Oregon Student Lobby, the Commentator, and Sister University Project help students realize that they have power. The IFC is built so that students have such a broad range of groups to choose from.

Who is J.B. Leahy to say that students do not want non-partisan, political groups if we voted for OSPIRG?

J. Lauren Norris  
Sociology

### Issues up front

With the elections nearly upon us, students need to know what the candidates stand for and their experience. I believe the best representatives are activists, not bureaucrats.

That is why SPA candidates, like myself, have extensive experience in campus and community organizations — working for worthwhile causes. With our experiences in organizing, Students for a Progressive Agenda candidates can help student activities succeed, rather than creating bureaucratic obstacles.

Given the new, radical right-wing CSRL candidates this year, it is more important than ever to vote SPA — to protect the rights of all groups, regardless of ideology, to exist equally without discrimination.

I'm up front on the issues:  
— I will fight to prevent any increase in the "incidental" activity fee.

— I'll lobby for better University funding from the state. Instead of pitting student activities against academics, and academics against athletics, education in general should be better supported by the public.

— Activity fees are paid by students, for students, and should remain in student control.

— I support free speech, non-partisan political/social activism, and the right of students to form organizations based on common interests.

— Affirmative action and non-discrimination must be more than a promise.

I also have wide organizing experience:

— Current Director: War Resistance Center.

— Former Director: Arts Union (Portland State).

— Former Editor: Mid-Valley Link newspaper.

— Former Media Coordinator: Eugene Free South Africa.

— Former Coordinator: Students for Lesbian and Gay Rights (PSU).

— Volunteer: CALS, CISCAP, Citizens for Nuclear Free Oregon.

— Former fund-raiser: Democratic party of Oregon.

Vote SPA April 15!

Douglas Pyle  
IFC candidate

## Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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