

Republican chairman defends anti-gay stance

By Scott Maben
Of the Emerald

Lane County Republican Central Committee Chairman Floyd Beam, who anonymously distributed anti-homosexual pamphlets at the University earlier this month, announced he opposes homosexuality as an official party member at a committee meeting Tuesday night.

People attending the meeting both praised and criticized Beam for handing out pamphlets to passersby in the EMU courtyard. Supporters defended his rights to free speech as a private citizen, while those opposed said it is unethical and contrary to party bylaws for Beam to publicly voice a stand on the issue.

"Everything you do in the public reflects on the party," University College Republicans Chairman Tim Cushing told Beam.

Cushing said Beam, as committee chair, is forbidden by Oregon Republican Party bylaws to oppose the rights of homosexuals unless two-thirds of those present and voting at a committee meeting endorse defeat of House Bill 2325, also known as the gay rights bill.

"Those bylaws were created specifically to prevent something happening such as what happened on the University of Oregon, where the press just slammed into the Republican Party afterward," Cushing said.

Beam replied he did not distribute the literature as a speaker for the Republican Party and thus did not

violate a bylaw.

"The law was only broken if I presented myself as the chairman or member of the Republican Party, which I did not do. If anybody here has any information to the contrary, bring it forth. But from now on that is a lie. And if you don't have the facts, keep your mouth shut," Beam told the audience.

Beam said he agreed with the letter of the bylaw. "I don't think we should go around as members of the Republican Party, in the name of the party, doing things of that nature. I agree with that bylaw."

However, in a statement on behalf of his actions, Beam later told the audience, "I would like to go on record as an official of this party saying I'm against homosexuality, at this point."

Beam, accompanied by two other men, refused to identify themselves while distributing the pamphlets April 8. An Oregon Daily Emerald reporter on the scene obtained Beam's identity from the Department of Motor Vehicles by tracing the license plate number on the vehicle in which he departed.

"I think you made a terrible mistake," precinct member Gene Arvidson told Beam. "I don't think you should be going around talking and doing these things without giving your name. I saw you at the campus, and I know you, and I'm sure other people did. I think you did a big disservice to the Republican Party."

Another precinct member said if she can't yield her

right to speak as an individual while maintaining the role of a party worker, she won't work at all.

The pamphlets, titled "The Gay Plague: Homosexuality and Disease," containing statistics on "the truth about homosexuality and public health," purportedly documented the sex habits of homosexuals and referred to correlations between homosexuals and AIDS.

Beam distributed the material with Republican precinct member John English, who said he was acting on behalf of Oregonians for the Rectitude of Life, a pro-moral integrity organization. The other man who handed out pamphlets remains unidentified.

Mike Cross, a member of the committee's publicity staff, defended Beam's actions.

"I think the reason that Floyd ran for the Republican Party leadership post in the first place was because he cared about his community. He cared about the future. He cared about his children, eventual grandchildren, and so forth, and the world that they were going to grow up in," he said.

After his campus appearance, Beam and Cross researched the validity of the information presented in the pamphlets at the University science library. "We documented every single thing that is in this," Cross said. "If you can find one thing in this pamphlet that was a lie, then point it out."

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impact on the student community.

"I would like to cover national issues with a local edge and consult with the experts at the University about the issues," Nelson said.

Next year, Nelson plans to place more emphasis on student organizations and entertainment.

"This year, entertainment is lacking. Movie reviews are only one form of entertainment. Next year I hope to see more diverse coverage of all types of entertainment and go beyond plays and movie reviews," he said.

Nelson also hopes he can create a more amiable relationship between the Emerald and the ASUO.

"I will seek to end the strained relationship between the Emerald and student government," he said.

Many of the conflicts that have come about in the past are



Stanley Nelson

a result of a lack of communication between the two, Nelson explained. This is partly due to the Emerald not fully

understanding how the ASUO operates and partly due to the ASUO not understanding the structure of the Emerald, he said.

In the area of sports coverage, Nelson said more features on sports personalities at the University are needed.

"I would like to see fewer previews and more features on some of the more outstanding athletes at the University," he said. "There is more to sports than the results of the events and previews."

As far as Spectrum magazine is concerned, Nelson hopes for a "less rigid" structure. Spectrum could focus more on entertainment, including stories on local music groups as well as an increase in coverage of "night-time entertainment," he suggested.

Nelson was one of two candidates who applied for the position.

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"It seems natural for them (the athletes) to vote for the football coach's daughter," she added. "I don't mean that critically, because I can respect her (Brooks') intelligence, but I can't respect the intelligence of the voters who voted for her."

Sauerwein has a different theory why CSRL was victorious over SPA in the Executive race.

"The group was not as organized as in the past," he said, citing small things like the quality and style of posters that were not up to past SPA standards.

Next year will prove an interesting time for both SPA and CSRL. SPA will be keeping active, holding weekly meetings and providing support for the IFC members, Liebowitz said.

CSRL will be running the Executive office and trying to establish a solid record while in office, Sauerwein said.

An outsider might see the relations next year between the Executive and the IFC as a battle zone much like the one that exists on the national level between a Republican president and a Democratic Congress.

Liebowitz hopes there will not be a lot of conflict between the two branches of government and said an adversarial atmosphere between the two defeats everyone's purposes, which is to fund student groups equitably.

Sauerwein agreed. "I don't see where there's going to be that much conflict," he said. "I don't see that many people (in the IFC) who are going to be 'let's screw up the Executive' at the expense of pro-

grams." He added he didn't think SPA's ideas on funding differed all that much from CSRL's anyway.

Wettern suggested relations next year would be dependent on the Executive's actions rather than the IFC's.

The Executive can be really powerful when the same party has a majority in the IFC, Liebowitz admitted. "An administration can be great with ideas, but if you don't get the money, you don't get it."

Both sides also are already looking ahead to the next election.

"I think we'll be meeting on a regular basis," Mooney said. "We need to look for people who are prospective candidates and work with them. It's intense to run for the Executive," she said, adding there needs to be a smoother way to jump into the process.

Liebowitz believes students will be ready for SPA again next year.

"Students will see the difference between activist and non-activist student government," she said, much as they did after the Julie Davis administration during 1984-85. Davis was not a strong activist president, and in the two elections since the Davis administration, SPA has won, Liebowitz said. SPA won in 1985 with Lynn Pickney and in 1986 with Steve Nelson.

But Sauerwein and CSRL do not intend to make SPA's comeback that easy.

"If we have a non-activist year, we should be voted out of office," he said. "We won't have a non-activist year."

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