

Students form new campus political party

Members feel current student party fails to understand needs of the average student

By Roland Giller
Emerald Contributor

The apathy most University students show toward campus elections may change this spring with the formation of a two-party political system.

Students for a New Agenda Party (SNAP), a new campus political party formed last fall, will present a platform its members say will differ from Students for a Progressive Agenda (SPA), an organization that endorses candidates who demonstrate a commitment to preserving ASUO programs.

SPA was the only student government party that participated in last spring's election.

SNAP was formed because its members felt that "the present student government has no real understanding of what the average student wants or needs," said SNAP Chairman Kevin Allen.

The group will present a platform that reflects "the moderate views of mainstream students," Allen said.

The group will represent "the average, quiet student, not

the loudest," Allen said. One way of accomplishing this goal is to emphasize a "more responsible use of student funds" by the Incidental Fee Committee, he said.

"A lot of groups receive \$1,000 in IFC funding and students never learn about their activities," Allen said. As a result, the group wants to endorse candidates who are not only interested in promoting the concerns of "special interest groups," he said.

This seems to be the primary difference between SNAP and SPA.

"The University has an obligation to all students, not just special interest groups," Allen said.

In addition, members of SNAP would like to see IFC funds distributed differently. The group believes that more student funding should be allocated to intercollegiate athletics instead of ASUO programs because more students attend athletic events than participating in ASUO programs, Allen said.

Group members also would like to address the problem of "non-tolerance" demonstrated

by several IFC members, he said.

Allen cited an IFC incident that took place during a Jan. 11 special request hearing by the Oregon Voice Magazine, a proposed general interest publication.

Funding for the publication had been denied. But in the middle of a discussion regarding the group's ability to address the concerns of minority groups on campus, IFC members Tim Hughes and Scott Shoup stormed out of the room, protesting the use of the term "subcultures" by a member of the Oregon Voice Magazine when referring to these groups.

SNAP would like to set new practices governing the selection of ASUO and IFC members. It would like to endorse candidates who will reward ASUO groups that manage to operate within their yearly budget and are active in fund-raising efforts.

SPA member J. Lauren Norris said her group traditionally has worked to recognize the interests of all students and has "cast out a net as wide as possible to include the views of non-traditional and minority students."

According to Norris, who also is IFC chairwoman, 27 is

the average age of a University student. She noted that the average age of dorm residents is 18, and that is not "the typical



Lauren Norris

student."

As a result, SPA has always endorsed candidates who demonstrate "aggressive student action" in preserving diverse ASUO programs, Norris said.

She gave examples of the aggressive student action shown by the present ASUO president and vice president, both of whom were endorsed by SPA last year.

ASUO President Karen Gaffney helped to bring attention to the need for increased lighting by coordinating a night tour of the campus on Jan. 10 to point out the potential safety problems faced by students walking alone. University administrators as well as students took part in the campus night tour.

In addition, as last year's ASUO vice president, Gaffney was instrumental in combining the resources of the Women's Referral and Resource Center, Women in Transition, and Project Saferide under the Women's Center so that student government can better meet the needs of University women, Norris said. ASUO Vice President Steve Hoyt organized the formation of Students Against Apartheid, she said.

She said that six of seven IFC members were endorsed by SPA and thus far the Committee has worked well in keeping student incidental fees low while "maintaining progressive ASUO programs."

The SPA endorsement committee now is working with ASUO groups to find out what its members would like to see in student government.

SPA will announce a platform and begin to endorse candidates for the spring election after the group's endorsement committee completes its work.

This year SPA will concentrate much of its efforts in attracting more minority and non-traditional student participation in SPA and in student government in general, Norris said.

UO-Bookstore

AMERICA IN THE KING YEARS 1954-1963

Parting the Waters

by TAYLOR BRANCH

Parting The Waters is a detailed account of the turbulent years between 1954-63 in American race relations. It is also a chronicle of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Because it is a detailed analysis this work may never reach a mass reading audience. However it is a valuable source for those who want to be informed about a volatile period of our history. Students of American history, particularly the period from 1865 to 1965, will find this a major resource for research since there are numerous footnotes which document each of the twenty three chapters.

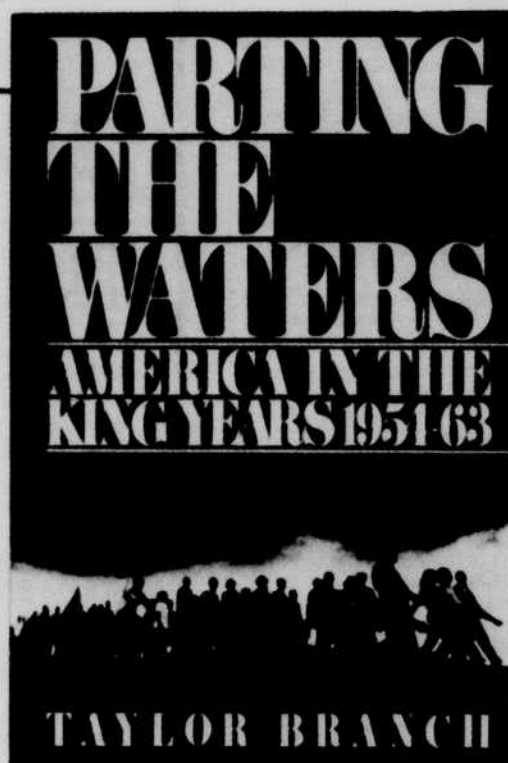
Branch sets the focus of this work in the preface when he says:

Almost as color defines vision itself, race shapes the cultural eye—what we do and do not notice, the reach of empathy and the alignment of response. This subliminal force recommends care in choosing a point of view for a history grounded in race. Strictly speaking, this book is not a biography of Martin Luther King Jr., though he is at the heart.

Thus, the chronicle of King is placed within the context of a social movement with a broad agenda. In this reviewer's opinion Black history is one vital part of American history as is the history of all of the ethnic groups that make up this culturally diverse nation. One cannot talk about American history in any meaningful sense without acknowledging the multi-ethnic background of our country. Branch presents one part of our country's heritage with its noble and not so noble side held up to view.

Reviewed by Calvin E. Harris, Asst. Prof., Folklore-Ethnic Studies

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