



**Remember: Today is  
the last day to cast  
a ballot in the ASUO  
primary election**

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## Candidates accuse GEC of unfair questioning

### Say committee strayed into 'unrelated' topics

By Catherine Hawley  
Emerald Associate Editor

Several student body candidates and representatives of OSPIRG said Thursday they were treated unfairly at greek endorsement hearings April 12.

Four candidates said the proceedings were dominated by three or four men who asked questions unrelated to their qualifications for office.

Representatives from the greek system said although questioning at times may have strayed from important issues, the hearings process was predominantly fair to everyone.

"The greek endorsement hearings were fair and impar-

tial," said Tim Ross, co-chair of Greek Endorsement Committee. "Our endorsements this year were the best qualified ever."

Incidental Fee Committee candidate Jennifer Bills said most of the questions put to her at the hearing focused on her work with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

"I was asked nothing about my budgeting experience," she said. "They asked me how many people GALA serves and about GALA funding — why it gets so much money. There were very few IFC-oriented questions."

Bills said six or eight differ-



Jennifer Bills

three main people did most of the talking. "No women asked questions," she said.

IFC candidate Tim Hughes said he also was asked questions unrelated to his qualifications for the seat he was seek-

ing. "I feel like the questions they were asking were irrelevant to finding out what kind of IFC member I would be," he said.

GEC members and house representatives agreed in a meeting after the hearing that questioning had strayed from important issues, but it was not biased, said Jenny Langdon, a house representative for Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at the hearing.

"I honestly thought people thought about the candidates and decided fairly," she said.

Representatives from OSPIRG said they were disappointed the GEC did not endorse their ballot measure asking for continued student support for the organization and an 11 percent increase in funding.

"It seemed like they had a platform that focused on keeping incidental fees at the same

level without really considering what the group does," said Tracy Grose, one of two OSPIRG members who appeared at the hearing.

Candidates also felt as if they did not get to fully explain their positions on issues at the GEC hearings.

Presidential candidate Kirk Bailey said he and running mate Sheila Stickel were also frustrated that only three or four people asked most of the questions.

"There were obviously a few individuals with clear ideas about what they wanted," Bailey said.

Panhellenic President Deanna Jurgens said she had heard from other members that two or three men asked most of the questions at the hearings.

"It wasn't that women weren't asking questions," she

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## Holiday for MLK birthday approved

By Chris Bounett  
Emerald Associate Editor

The University will officially observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day beginning in 1991 by shutting its doors and sponsoring activities promoting diversity, President Myles Brand announced Wednesday.

"It is entirely appropriate for this university to observe Martin Luther King Day," Brand said in a news release. "Martin Luther King provided the leadership for civil rights at a crucial time in this country's history."

The 1991 holiday will be observed Monday, Jan. 21, and every third Monday in January thereafter.

"Classes will be dismissed, and we will have planned academic and cultural activities to celebrate the importance and value of diversity," Brand said in his statement.

James O'Fallon, Faculty Advisory Council chairman, said Brand asked his committee to make a recommendation on setting King Day aside.

Recognition of the holiday sends a positive message about diversity, he said.

"We felt that he was an appropriate person to commemorate," O'Fallon added.

Brand said he will form a committee charged with the duty to plan and implement events for faculty, students and staff that focus on the importance and value of diversity.

"The University of Oregon is committed to equal and just treatment of all persons," Brand said in his statement. "Campus-wide observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day would reinforce this commitment."

ASUO President Andy Clark said it was about time the University set aside a day to honor King, but he said the struggle for diversity and civil rights must be a year-round effort.

"That there will be a day of observance ... is an indication of Eugene's progressive nature," he said. "The other point is for student groups. (The day off) may give them a chance to participate in what (Lane Community College) sponsors."

The holiday can be used to mark and reaffirm the struggle for civil rights, Clark said.

In a presentation to the University Senate last week, Brand said he was dismayed when he first came to campus that there was no observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Although Brand could have declared King Day a holiday by decree, he chose instead to consult an array of campus groups and committees.

## Blacks ushered in era of feminism

### Turn-of-century club contributed to cause

By Stephanie Holland  
Emerald Reporter

Black women at the turn of the century adopted a feminism unheard-of for its time, Dr. Deborah Gray White said Thursday in a speech on the complexity of black women's lives.

Black women exercised their feminism through the National Association of Colored Women, which was a federation of clubs that promoted women in race leadership roles.

Many of these clubs performed social welfare work, such as finding jobs for black women, while others encouraged appreciation of music, art and literature.

White, an associate professor of history at Rutgers University, spoke as part of "A University For Everyone" project.

"The purpose of the project is to make sure that race and gender is part of everybody's learning and teaching at this university," said Barbara Corrado Pope, project director.

Black women's clubs at the turn of the century endorsed the popular belief that women were better-suited than men for social work and leadership, White said.

Men competed with women for leadership positions in the black community because black men weren't able to compete with white men in the world.

Black men considered themselves in charge of race leadership, and the women involved in the clubs publicly challenged this traditional male belief, White said.

Women's confidence in their ability to take charge of race leadership was fostered by their sense of equality with black men.

Black women believed they were on an equal level with black men because they had suffered the same misfortunes as men. Both genders had been subjected to slavery and both were not able to vote, for example.

For club women, part of the female leadership issue depended on whether black men would defend black women from verbal and sexual abuse, she said.

When women assumed the protector role for other women to prevent this abuse, this further insulted black men and created tension between men and women.



Photo by Martin Thiel

Dr. Deborah Gray White of Rutgers University said Thursday that century-old gender tension hinders the black feminist movement.

"Gender tension was the price black women paid for their feminism," White said. "Racism, not feminism, was what set black men and women at each other."

Tension still exists between black men and women, White said. It is very difficult for a black woman to be a feminist without people thinking she is working against her race.

This forces women to choose between working for feminism or race because society will not let them do feminist race work, White said.

White wrote a book, *Ar'n't I a Woman*, in 1985, which was the first scholarly work to deal exclusively with the female slave experience in the American South, Pope said in a news release.

A drop-in reception to meet White is scheduled today from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Room 605 of PLC.

White will be in Eugene until Sunday speaking to history classes and conducting workshops.