

Fraternities didn't take role seriously

Last year, a stamp of approval from the University's fraternity and sorority system during ASUO elections was the strongest political nod on campus. But through sloppy organization and short-sighted selfishness, a few members of the committee that oversees the process appear to be working toward making the greek endorsement negligible.

Representatives of Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group and some candidates for ASUO and Incidental Fee Committee are saying they were asked inappropriate and irrelevant questions during the Greek Endorsement Committee's final hearings at Valley River Inn April 12.

One shouldn't dismiss the complaints of these candidates as necessarily stemming from bitterness or sour grapes. Their stories are too similar and the admissions of GEC members themselves too telling not to assume that the committee acted boorishly.

GEC members we've talked to have admitted the process was not as well organized as it should have been, that questions did stray afield somewhat, and that the questioning was dominated by three to five men who may have let their opinions show a little.

So what of it? Certainly, like any campus group, the fraternity system has the right to pick and promote candidates it believes will best represent its interests. But it should carefully consider both its interests and the candidates. Pre-conceived notions and mean-spirited questions have no place in an endorsement hearing. The process shouldn't be a mere rubber-stamping of favorite sons. It certainly strikes us as no accident that just about all those endorsed by GEC are greeks, and that means GEC didn't take its role seriously.

This is especially true at a time when GEC's favorite interests seem to be limited and selfish. OSPIRG's valuable work on toy safety may not mean much to greeks now, but it certainly will when they have children themselves. That work does mean something to the growing number of non-traditional student parents, and the GEC could have considered that. If GEC wants to be selfish, it should at least be consistent. The committee's approval of child care funding now smacks of an insincere concession to the year's "hot issue."

GEC's myopic interests simply haven't extended beyond the sphere of greek life this campaign. We believe they've approved candidates we consider totally unqualified for the job simply because they're "brothers." GEC seems to be behind fellow greeks Steve Maples and Diane Cushman, for example, only because they've promised to hang out at popular eateries and bars in the 13th Avenue neighborhood.

All this is sad, because greeks will tell you they are feeling threatened. Their members feel they are stereotyped as rich, uncaring party snobs and that the good work they do in promoting brotherhood and philanthropy is ignored by the community and by the media. Because only about 20 percent of the campus belongs to a house, greeks are a "minority" on this campus. But at a time when the greek system is defending itself from charges of racism, GEC totally overlooks the more-than-valid candidacy of Black Student Union president Ernie Brown. At a time when the greek system is trying to curb its alcoholic tendencies, GEC opens an unlimited bar tab at Valley River Inn for the candidates to cool their heels while waiting for hearings. At a time when the greek system says it wants to be inclusive, it asks candidates "what have you done for me lately?" and rewards only its own.

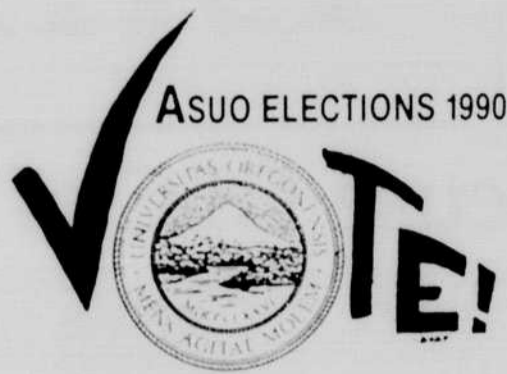
Whether it was intended or not, the arrogance that came across in GEC's endorsement process only promoted stereotypes. If the fraternity system is indeed somehow a threatened "minority," it could learn a lot about coalition-building and consideration of others. Certainly, membership in a fraternity does not make a person less of a human being; greeks unhappy with how GEC has represented them and furthered negative perceptions should let their feelings be known.

There was a time when some thought went into the greek endorsement, or at least the process was not totally self-serving and automatic. Just two years ago, GEC surprisingly approved Tim Hughes' campaign for an IFC seat. Of course, the next year the greeks poured out to bury Hughes' bid for ASUO president. It appears that new-found power has gone to GEC's head and that some humility is in order.

ODE endorsements for ASUO elections

Today is the last day of the ASUO primary elections: be sure and vote! Just as a reminder, here's the list of people the *Oregon Daily Emerald* has endorsed for Incidental Fee Committee Seats and the ASUO Executive. Take this with you to the polls.

- **IFC one-year seats**
 - Jennifer Bills
 - Ernie Brown
 - Barclay Lloyd Grayson
 - JoSonja Watson
- **IFC two-year seats**
 - Tim Hughes
 - Don Stull
- **ASUO president and vice president**
 - Kirk Bailey/Sheila Stickel



Letters

Leadership

As a member of the greek system, I am concerned about the support the Greek Endorsement Committee has given to Steve Maples and Diane Cushman.

I attended the debate April 11. After listening to the questions asked by the members of the panel and listening to the responses given by the candidates, I feel the team of Kirk Bailey and Sheila Stickel will be the best for the job. Their experience and background in the ASUO are important aspects of the office of president and vice president.

During the debate, both Bailey and Stickel were sincere and informative. They took a stand on issues and answered questions directly. This is more than I can say for Maples and Cushman, who had trouble getting past their opening statements. They were repetitive and avoided direct answers to questions.

Everytime Maples was asked a question, his reply was to take it to a student vote. This tells me he possesses no leadership qualities and can not be trusted to make important decisions. When an issue came up, Maples could not run out and take a vote of student opinion.

I believe people in the greek system need to take responsibility for their own vote and not blindly follow the GEC, because the best ticket is Bailey/Stickel. They will provide us with outstanding leadership for the University, so they have my support.

Kristin Staver
Marketing

Split

I am confused by the student health insurance choices on the ballot. There is a notice outside the SHIC office in the EMU that says there will not be mandatory insurance next year. The notice is unsigned, but it does make me wonder why the issue is even on the ballot. Perhaps you could assign your investigative reporter to find out exactly what is going on.

While you are at it, how about an explanation of what

happens if the mandatory option gets 27 percent of the vote? I think the ASUO has engaged in the dishonest practice of providing several options simply to split the votes of those who oppose mandatory health insurance. I strongly urge all students who oppose mandatory health insurance to vote for the voluntary option.

Michael Hoyt
Student

Measures

I was very disappointed with the quality of reporting in the Monday-in-Depth (ODE, April 16) regarding the ballot measures for the 1990 elections. In the article, the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group ballot measure was greatly misrepresented.

This article stated that OSPIRG has "pushed for student awareness of environmental issues by circulating leaflets, hosting speakers and structuring recycling programs at Eugene-area apartment complexes." This statement only scratches the surface of the number of services OSPIRG provides this campus.

OSPIRG runs the only Consumer Hotline in the state which can answer landlord/tenant questions over the phone. OSPIRG also publishes the Renter's Handbook which outlines those rights.

OSPIRG also organizes the annual Hunger Cleanup, which gets students working at local shelters in order to raise money for Food For Lane County and the National Hunger Campaign.

As a statewide organization with member chapters at the University and other campuses, OSPIRG is able to effectively lobby in the student and public interest.

It is true that OSPIRG's student outreach work includes leafletting and hosting speakers, etc., but these activities are only a fraction of the services and resources that OSPIRG offers the University campus.

Elizabeth Matsch
Anthropology

Thank you

Thank you Stephen Chenworth for your critical

comments regarding the anorexic and bulimic women on campus (ODE, April 16). I want to let him and the student body know how many men support his observations of the malaise affecting women.

I agree chasing the ideal thinness for acceptance is universal in scope and emotionally harmful, yet I would offer that anorexia and bulimia are also manifested symptoms of problems caused by dysfunctional behaviors during childhood in the family.

As far as the pursuit of thinness goes, we men who realize what some women are doing to themselves must reject Madison Avenue's advertising the ideal body and support women overcoming the illnesses through counseling and persuade other men to believe and say "I love you for who you are" and not "... what I want you to be."

Jonathon Shilk
Landscape architecture

Causes

This is directed to those people on this campus who find it necessary to have one or more "causes-o-the-week." This week they appear to be waste, George Bush and the flag-burning law; but who can keep up with them?

If you people were truly committed to your "cause" you would try to create a positive awareness. Take Earth Week for example; you could set up recycling centers, plant trees, or take any other positive action. But conversely, if you add even more garbage to this planet, and worse make the rest of the University community look at your mess for the remainder of the term, you've dug a huge hole for your cause.

That is unfair both to the rest of us and to those people who have worked hard in a positive direction for the same cause. I protest you and your cheap sensationalism. By pulling a tacky stunt like that, you have alienated many people who might have previously joined forces with you. Clean up your own act folks.

Deborah Wyss
Journalism