

UNIVERSITY

ASUO candidates debate beliefs

By Mandy Baucum
Emerald Reporter

During Wednesday night's debate between the ASUO's presidential candidates, Bobby Lee/Karmen Fore and Don King/Holly Ferguson, each ticket emphasized what it believes is most important to the respective platforms.

Chris Pharis/Donald Morgan and Dan Pulju, also candidates for this year's executive office, did not attend.

The debate, sponsored by the Greek Endorsement Committee, clearly outlined the similarities and differences between the tickets. When asked what their three main goals were for next year, King/Ferguson responded that they want to combat Measure 5 by promoting fiscal responsibility in the ASUO and putting an end to deficit spending by student groups.

Secondly, they wanted students to be more informed about ASUO government activities and suggested a weekly column in the *Emerald*. Finally, King said he would like to "put the dead back in Dead Week," suggesting there be no school for students on the Thursday and Friday before Dead Week.

Lee/Fore said they wanted to emphasize funding for education by lobbying on the federal level. Another priority of the Lee/Fore campaign was decreasing incidental fees by prioritizing budget spending.

"We need to prioritize what we cut and what we support," Lee said.

Some definite differences between the two campaigns were evident in greek issues and IFC structure and control.

Lee/Fore believe that Measure 5 is affecting

greek enrollment, whereas King/Ferguson believe that greek enrollment is declining because of the ASUO's lack of support for the greek system.

On the issue of IFC structure, King/Ferguson believe that IFC position holders are forgetting their campaign promises and are fulfilling their own personal agendas. King/Ferguson say the ballot measure they initiated to cut fees by 10 percent will allow students more control in the budgeting process.

Lee/Fore said they feel past administration making current budgets and deficit spending are the two main problems in the IFC structure. Allocating money twice, once for general program needs and twice for special events, would give the IFC a better chance to examine what funding is being used for and eliminate the mass budgeting being used now.

On the issue of safety, King/Ferguson said they wanted to implement a plan that would centralize the location of night classes in an effort to discourage night crimes on campus.

Lee/Fore agreed that safety was important and want to propose dorm reconstruction that would discourage crime and also educate students, especially foreign and transfer students on how they can protect themselves.

Both parties supported the idea of computerizing the budget spending records. The computers would hopefully keep better records of past program spending and therefore prevent deficit spending in the future.

"How are we going to fund things like computers and reconstruction in the dorms?" one student asked.

"Money is already being set aside" for those plans, Lee said.

TRIP

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livestock.

"This is not civil disobedience," said Patrick Ring, the organizer of the trip. "This is their land."

Ring and other Western Shoshone supporters point to Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution, which states that all treaties made by the United States become the supreme law of the land.

Ring said some of the students will go to the Dann Ranch, while others will protest at the test site. Some will participate at both locations, which are approximately 300 miles apart. A handful of participants left Eugene Wednesday; the rest will leave today and Friday.

"We don't see a difference between what's happening at the Dann Ranch and what's happening at the test site," Ring said.

Andrea Abrell, a sophomore in biology, is one of the students who will be going to the test site.

"We're trying to make people aware of how pointless nuclear testing is," Abrell said.

Abrell said she is also concerned about what is happening to the Western Shoshone. "The BLM is there, right now, trying to take away their life,"

'One professor told me to get my priorities straight. I think it is a priority to go with my beliefs.'

— Laura Ammer,
freshman protester

she said.

The students going to Nevada have no qualms about missing classes while they're gone. In general, they said their professors have been supportive. However, there have been a few exceptions.

"One professor told me to get my priorities straight," freshman Laura Ammer said. "All my other professors were really nice. I think it is a priority to go with my beliefs."

Another complication for trip organizers was the mysterious cancellation of state van reservations, which forced them to drive to Nevada in rental cars and private vehicles.

Some students will receive credit through the sociology department for the week-long Nevada trip. Those who participate for credit will be required to keep a journal, among other projects, Ring said.

VAN

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at test site.

Aside from that tragic incident, Birnie said the state has had a history of state vehicle use by student drivers that has not been positive.

"Politically, we would hope that there were safer sort of trips made in state vehicles," he said.

Birnie said proposed Oregon Administrative Rules that would require an hour-long training session for potential state-vehicle drivers and approved alternate drivers on trips longer than 200 miles are steps in the right direction.

"That goes an awful long way toward making us feel better and making the legislature feel better," he said.

Ring said SCD members are upset they were cut out of the decision process. In fact, it appears they weren't even informed when they should have been, he said.

Birnie said the decision was made one-and-a-half weeks ago, and the local motor pool director said the EMU employee who made the reservations for SCD was informed on April 7. Ring found out on April 10, and only because he called.

PARK

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the research park at a the Riverfront Research Park Commission meeting.

Hedberg said U.S. Bank executives evaluated the concept, players and financial package of the research park and believed all three elements added up to a good investment.

"It's important that we do invest in the community and that we do so in a responsible way," Hedberg said. "We believe both elements are present."

"We're pleased to be involved in such an important economic development project in Eugene," he said. "We appreciate the opportunity to reinvest in our city and in our state in this way."

We stepped up when others didn't, and we're proud of that."

Last week, the Riverfront Research Park Commission awarded Lee Construction Co. of Eugene the bid to construct the project's first building. Lee Construction Co. will begin construction of the three-story, 60,000-square-foot building in mid-May.

Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller commended U.S. Bank for its support of the research park.

"Your commitment to this community is profound," Miller said. "Not only are you into banking, but you're into supporting your community. You're a model for financial institutions. You're willing to take a risk."

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By GARY LARSON



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