

None of the above for ASUO Executive

Voters, grown apathetic to a process they feel is corrupt and inadequate, are streaming away from the polls in droves. The trend is at every political level — municipal, county, state and federal, and yes, even here at the University.

ASUO elections have traditionally poor turnouts. Part of the reason is demographics. The 18-25 age group (encompassing most University students) is notorious for not voting. But also, there is a growing sense among students that the ASUO doesn't do anything, and moreover, doesn't care.

Is that completely fair? No, but there is some truth to it. The *Emerald* endorsement board was looking for an ASUO Executive that could clearly state goals and come up with concrete ways to fight student apathy.

The Don King/Holly Ferguson ticket didn't. Neither did Bobby Lee/Karmen Fore. Chris Pharis and Donald Morgan are just too weird. A fourth candidate, Dan Pulju, did not attend the *Emerald's* endorsement hearing. So for the 1992-93 ASUO Executive race, the *Emerald* endorses ... none of the above.

It wasn't that the three tickets were completely without merit. Quite the contrary, the endorsement panel was impressed with aspects of all the platforms, but when the final tally was called, it wasn't enough.

Starting with King/Ferguson, the *Emerald* was encouraged by the ticket's experience and past dedication to University programs, but it was felt that King is just too confrontational for the job. The general tone of their platform was sound, but few worthy specifics were offered. The two prided themselves on being "outside" the ASUO, but didn't adequately show a knowledge for what the job entailed.

As for Lee/Fore, the opposite was the case. Both have longtime student government experience, but the *Emerald* was unimpressed with their ideas on how to generate enthusiasm. To be blunt, the Lee/Fore ticket is an old gift wrapped in different packaging. Much was said about "building bridges" between various groups, the University administration and the ASUO Executive, but again, there were few concrete ideas.

Pharis/Morgan showed up to their endorsement hearing with a slightly neurotic security agent, complete with a cheap off-the-rack suit and a Walkman headphone stuck in one ear. While humorous, Pharis/Morgan don't seem to have the commitment and background to do the ASUO Executive justice. However, the ticket did have an interesting idea for bringing student politics back down to a "human level," and gave an accurate appraisal of student voting patterns.

All of the tickets had good points, and any of the three would probably do an adequate job in Suite 1. But the *Emerald* saw little to get excited about, and so, there is no endorsement.



LETTERS

Cheers

Hooray for Don King and Holly Ferguson! Finally a political candidacy has done something about skyrocketing student fees instead of just serving up political lip service.

To the people who have written into the *ODE*, apparently without researching the issue, the initiative will not devastate Saferide or child care.

The initiative is aimed at wasteful spending by fee-supported organizations such as the athletic department and the EMU. Other wasteful spending will also be sought out and addressed.

Student organizations cannot expect to live entirely off of student fees. It's about time they began to raise some of their own funds. King and Ferguson plan to assist groups in every way possible to find alternative funding.

The bottom line is that students are tired, just as taxpayers are tired, of carrying the system on their backs.

The \$30 per student saved by the cuts may not sound like a whole lot to Bobby Lee and his followers, but I could sure use it. It might just mean one textbook or one trip to the grocery store. It's hard enough to make ends meet as it is. Every little bit helps.

Student politicians have been promising to lower fees since I first came to this campus, but King and Ferguson have finally taken action. That's exactly what we need in student government: less talk, more action.

Chris Ribeiro
Journalism

Not a cut

I recently had the opportunity to review the IFC's distribution of funds to the "student" groups here on campus. As I looked over the list of student groups, I realized that reducing student fees can hurt some very useful and important groups and organizations. Looking further I found that there are, in fact, some questionable uses of our money by other not-so-important groups.

Do you know who these groups are and what they do with your money? I suggest to all students that they locate and review the IFC Budget Book to

see who does get your money and what they do with it.

You would be very surprised, even shocked. I even had a hard time figuring out just what some of the groups actually do.

Supporting King and Ferguson's proposal to lower incidental fees does not have to be considered a cut in the funding to the groups that are important. A reduction in fees, along with a reasonable re-allocation of IFC funds, would benefit both students and student groups.

It only takes a few minutes to review the information at the ASUO and the IFC offices needed to base your voting decisions. Let's not be hasty in making such important choices without the necessary information. Don't vote blindly.

Vote with facts and information. I'm sure the IFC will be happy to answer any questions you have. I know King and Ferguson are willing and able to do so as well. Just ask.

David Vanderlip
Student

Everyone

William Peabody (*ODE*, April 14) gives us a perfect example of the tactics that we wish to rid student government of. His claim that I said I will staff the ASUO Executive entirely with greeks is not true.

I have never spoken to Peabody, nor have I ever told anyone that being a greek would be a pre-requisite to being a member of my administration. What I have done is simply encourage the greeks to actively pursue involvement in their government, whether that involvement be through elected, volunteer or appointed positions.

We did this in the hopes of convincing not only the greeks, but all students, that honest student government comes only from active student involvement.

I must admit that the flyer has had the desired effect. Whether greek members of the ASUO, or greek members who are fed up with the ASUO, the flyer has stirred emotion and interest in what was becoming just another political election.

It has caused the greeks to stand up and ask questions both about the way they have been treated by the current

ASUO as well as how a future ASUO promises to treat them.

It has given them reason to get involved and realize that as students, the power to bring better government to the ASUO is only their vote away.

Quite simply, it has given them reason to vote, and we don't apologize for this. As a matter of fact, we only wish we could be so lucky with every student on this campus.

Don King
ASUO Executive candidate

Focus

The incidental fee was created by students to fund programs deemed beneficial to the campus community. This ensured a student voice in the enhancement of academic life.

This year, there are two ballot measures aimed to silence that voice. One is Don King's mandatory 10 percent decrease in the incidental fee, and the other would eliminate the fee altogether.

These ballot measures inherently infringe on the rights of students. The incidental fee is the only means of students controlling the variety and diversity of the educational experience.

By limiting that right, we are only limiting ourselves. I wholeheartedly support a reduction, or at least a stabilization, of student costs. Inflated student costs are not found in the incidental fee, but rather rest in the surcharges increasing tuition due to Measure 5. That's where we, as students, should be focusing our attention. The effort to control student costs is admirable, but the overt restriction of student groups and student services is ridiculous.

Derek Top
OSPIRG state board chairman

CORRECTION

The story about the Knight Library expansion on page one of Monday's *Emerald*, should have stated that the EdNet Distance Learning studio will be about 1,300 square feet when completed. The *Emerald* regrets this error.

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