

Election puzzles solved right here

Campus hangouts have been abuzz lately with talk of the ASUO Executive candidates, including in-depth analyses of the campaign issues. Or how about, hangouts *should* be abuzz with talk about the platforms of the candidates, or maybe at least cognizant that such talk is going on somewhere. OK, how about students should have a clue that it's election time again, and should go out and vote ... for anyone.

The dueling tickets for ASUO president and vice president are Leslie Warren and Mark Johnson against Eric Bowen and Diana Collins Puente. The two platforms are closely matched in terms of general themes: diversity, safety, money management and increased access to administrators. All four candidates have been involved in worthy causes over the past few years, including multicultural committees, various ASUO programs, and even an Africa assistance project designed to help Ugandan children.

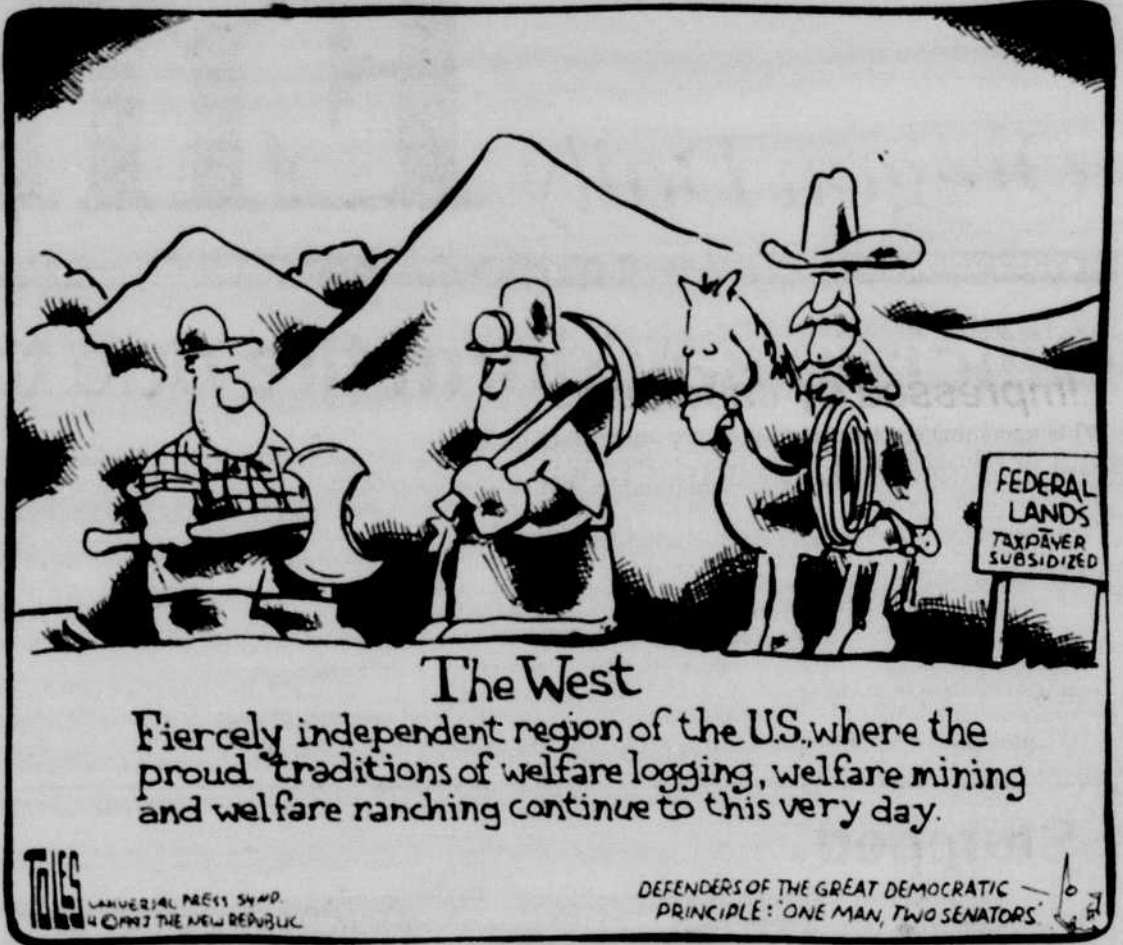
The question then becomes, do the candidates have specific proposals to back up their plans, and do they have the experience to pull them off?

Bowen and Collins Puente have detailed a number of specific goals for their term in office. Among the more admirable are the creation of a Sexual Assault Fund, external audits of ASUO programs to promote wise management of student fees, and, of course, solutions for tax reform. This last point may be the greatest strength of the ticket, as Bowen has a detailed knowledge of the state government (he interns at the state capital), and knows which of the legislators he can count on as allies. The budget crisis is still the biggest issue this University faces, and Bowen appears qualified to find a solution.

Warren and Johnson may be well qualified as well. However, their background suggests that their strength is not in legislative lobbying, but in multicultural issues. Among their better ideas are finding alternative funding for the multicultural center and Sexual Assault Fund, as well as creating an "Adopt-A-Lightpost" program, which would solicit money from area businesses for more campus lighting. They understand that students are tired of being taxed and will appreciate creative money thinkers.

That, however, appears to be their only major strength. Unlike Bowen and Collins Puente, they lack experience on ASUO issues and have few specific proposals to back their platform. Johnson appears to have come out of nowhere. He worked on several African projects, but has no substantive student government experience. Leslie Warren's experience is certainly worthwhile, but is somewhat limited, as she has devoted most of her time to multicultural committees. There is little evidence that Warren and Johnson could truly represent everyone's agenda while not understanding the workings of the ASUO government.

Bowen and Collins Puente are a balanced ticket. He has legislative and leadership experience; she has been immersed in diversity training. They would make a solid choice.



LETTERS

She's bad

If someone were to ask me about an individual on this campus whose actions speak louder than words, who is honestly striving to make a positive difference on this campus, whose effectiveness outweighs that of many, and who takes out the time to listen to different opinions and concerns, I would not have great difficulty in giving a specific name.

At the University, and in society as a whole, we have those who say a lot of good things but can't truly back up their words, as well as those who leave the job for someone else to do so their hands won't get dirty. But at the same time, we have individuals who, when faced with opposition, press on through difficulty effectively and sufficiently.

If someone were to ask me about an individual who doesn't mind getting her hands dirty and will do her best to get the job done, I have to hand it to Leslie Warren. She works hard and is most definitely a go-getter. She's bad.

**Jennifer Broadous
Business**

lead the University toward a bright future. To those who care, vote.

**Stuart Platt
Samir Kumar
Undeclared**

No dirt

I am writing this letter as a response to the editorial I read Wednesday (*ODE*, April 14) regarding a dirty side of Leslie Warren and Mark Johnson's campaign. First and foremost, there is no dirty side to the campaign. The truth was told, and we — the student body — had a right to know. Warren and Johnson's names were not signed at the bottom of that letter. Matt Gougler wanted students to know, so he wrote the letter.

Both Warren and Diana Collins Puente have served on the same committees in the past, and this editorial only serves to pit the two against each other. In the final paragraph, it stated that the editorial was not intended to endorse any candidate. That is a bunch of bull. It is pretty obvious who was endorsed. But I suppose this type of thing is exactly the style of the *Emerald*.

To choose the best student for the job, we must look at all of the issues. And her status as a student is the issue. So does Collins Puente intend to serve only as a figurehead? Is the Puente in her name going to be her final contribution to ethnicity before she completely sells out, or has it already been done?

**Nichole Muhammad
PPPM**

Committed

Over the past two years as an EMU board member, I have seen the components of our student government become increasingly separated. We, as students, have an opportunity to elect an ASUO president and vice president that have the ability to bring cohesiveness to the University.

Eric Bowen and Diana Collins Puente have the experience and character to lead an effective student government. I have known both of these individuals for

many years and trust them to work for the students. They have experience lobbying in Salem and Washington, D.C., voicing our concerns for lower tuition, increased funding for education and diversity. Electing Bowen and Collins Puente secures involvement and input in policies decided outside of this University.

Both tickets have good intentions, but Bowen and Collins Puente already have a strong foundation of ASUO experience that will enable them to implement their platform of community, equity and unity quickly and effectively. From reorganizing the ASUO to affirming diversity through supporting a revised multicultural curriculum, they have the knowledge and dedication to work with and for the students.

Bowen and Collins Puente have already illustrated their commitment to students by organizing two ballots: one establishing a Sexual Assault Exam Fund and the creation of a multicultural center. These are examples of the progressive ideology that both of the candidates value. We need leaders that have experience, foresight and dedication to the students they represent. We need Eric Bowen and Diana Collins Puente.

**Travis Green
EMU Board**

Earth Week.

I would like to invite all the campus community to the Campus Environmental Issues Symposium Today. The symposium is sponsored by the campus Environmental Issues Committee in conjunction with Earth Week.

The topics include: Toxics Use Reduction on Campus, Recycling, Communications; Paper, Telephone, Electronic, and Green Purchasing at the University. It will be in the EMU Fir Room from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take an interest in the environmental issues that affect you daily.

**Karyn Kaplan
Chairwoman
Environmental Issues
Committee**

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