

Forty-four hats are in the ring

Here are the Primary Candidates for ASUO seats for the upcoming 1997-98 school year. Primary and general elections will be next quarter.

| Position | Seat | Candidates |
|-------------------|------|---|
| President/VP | | Ryan Ositis/ Dayna Terry Brandon Smith/ Asha Mary John Bill Miner/ Ben Unger Brad Smith/ Karl Shelton James Boyd/ Andrew Oberriter Ed Madrid/ Alayne Mundt |
| EMUB At-Large | 1 | Emily Robertson |
| | 2 | Sam Bessey |
| PFC At-Large | 1 | [OPEN] |
| PFC Senator | 1 | Michelle Johnston |
| | 3 | Daniel Reid Joshua Dobson Greg Labavitch Stacey Wolfe |
| EMUB Finance Sen. | 4 | Jenna Wasson Shane Peterson Geneva Wortman |
| | 6 | Michael Price |
| AD Finance Sen. | 7 | Christopher Jaeger Kerri Lookabaugh Travis Layton |
| | 8 | Kent Black |
| | 9 | Nick Bonnichsen Taryn Tarver |
| Senate Undeclared | 10 | Rheanna Cash |
| | 11 | Elliott Dale |
| AAA/Inter | 12 | Laura Kane Tarn Allen |
| A & L Journalism | 13 | C.C. McCarthy Tamyri Kriegel Benjamin Kuhlman Mark Hemingway Gillian Brinegar |
| Social Science | 14 | Michael Olson |
| | 15 | Jennifer Luck Jonathan Collegio |
| Business | 17 | Jeff Kershner |
| Grad. Law | 18 | Lisa Greif Marshall Wilde |
| ASPAC | 1 | [OPEN] |
| | 2 | [OPEN] |

Panelists debate campaign reform

ELECTIONS: Participants in an OSPIRG forum argued over whether the system is capable of reforming itself

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

Although they couldn't all agree on the same way to get there, four panelists brought together during a Saturday afternoon OSPIRG forum agreed that campaign finance reform is necessary at all levels of government.

Harry Lonsdale, a three-time U.S. Senate candidate, was joined by Lane County Commissioner Peter Sorenson, and Oregon Common Cause executive director David Buchanan in his belief that reforming the current political system could only come from within the existing initiative and court systems. However, recent U.S. Socialist Party candidate Christopher Phelps disagreed, arguing that only a mass grassroots protest would bring about the proper change.

The forum, sponsored by the Win Back Democracy project group, one of seven umbrella organizations affiliated with OSPIRG, was designed to increase public awareness of the power of lobbyist money in government and to involve citizens in the reforming process at the local, state and federal levels.

Lonsdale used the session to recruit volunteers for his Campaign for Democracy, a national coalition working toward the idea of publicly funding elections.

"Public money in, private money out," the theme of the organization, was repeatedly hammered

upon by Lonsdale as he described a system in which candidates would be given equal amounts of state funds and media access to insure the viability of all party candidates. By using this strategy, Lonsdale said, candidates would not have to rely on corporate or private interest donations to win their elections.

Lonsdale said media access, such as television time, was one of the heaviest draws of campaign funds.

"Elections are won and lost on television, and television isn't cheap," Lonsdale said.

By putting less of an emphasis on gaining corporate donations for use on television, Lonsdale said he believed newly elected officials would no longer be forced to fulfill the needs of such donors.

"[The people] have no voice, the voice and money are on the other side," Lonsdale said. "If there's money on the other side, you'll lose — you'll always lose."

In addition, Lonsdale said a large part of the movement involved convincing legislators to make campaign finance reform their main concern. He said if legislators didn't follow this concern, the people should get them out of office.

"We need to say, hey, baby, you don't like campaign finance reform, we'll replace you with someone who does," Lonsdale said.

In Oregon, campaign finance reform experienced a recent setback as the Oregon Supreme Court overturned a 1994 state initiative, Measure 9, limiting campaign spending and contributions. The Court found that

limiting the amount of contributions a candidate can receive is unconstitutional because it limits the free speech rights of donors.

However, David Buchanan, executive director of Oregon Common Cause, one of the founders of Measure 9, said the initiative had been effective in 1996 elections.

"[Measure 9] did produce a change in the electoral process," Buchanan said. "Spending was much lower than in previous elections."

Buchanan's organization is working on developing a different, constitutional reform initiative to be introduced in the state legislature.

However, reform on the federal level has been and will be a much harder struggle, Buchanan said. The national Common Cause association is also searching for a campaign finance formula that would bring limits on a federal level, be constitutional and get support from federal legislators, a formula Buchanan said won't be immediately found.

While Lonsdale, Sorenson and Buchanan focused their efforts on changing the current election system through the ballot box and the courts, Phelps, a visiting assistant professor of history at the University of Oregon, said history showed through the collective bargaining agreements of the 1930s, civil rights struggles of the 1960s, and abortion rights battles of the 1970s, that change would only come through a mass movement of the people.

"[Change] comes from below, from movements of ordinary people taking power for themselves," Phelps said.

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PHONE: (541) 346-5511

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: (541) 346-4343

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