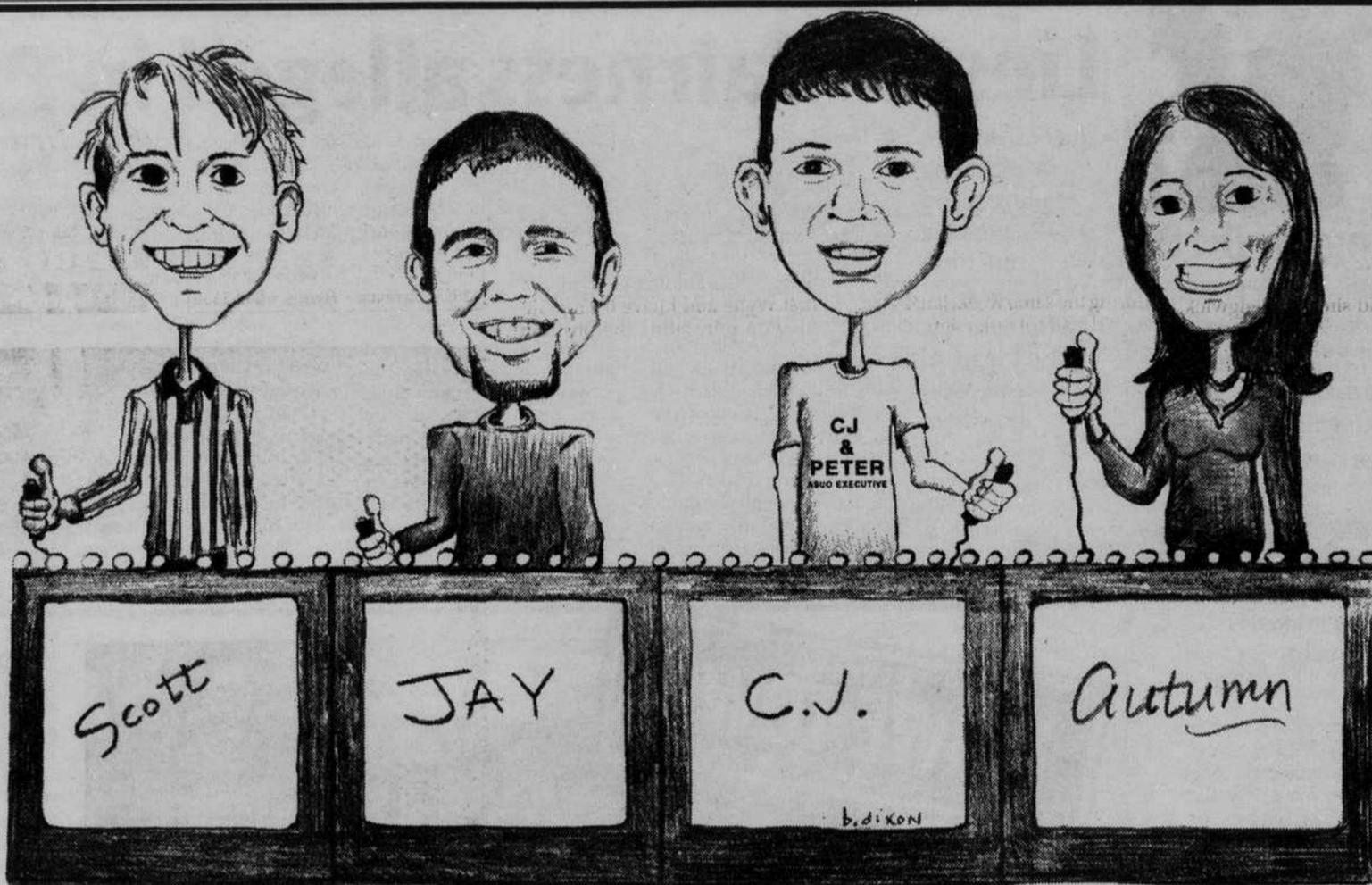


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Perspectives

Oregon Daily
Emerald



Bryan Dixon Emerald

With the ASUO elections primaries upon us, students must be familiar with the candidates and their issues to make the most educated vote. And while general profiles have been done to present those running for the president and vice president positions, some more personal information would help students make the most knowledgeable decision.

Of course it's important to question their platforms, qualifications and perceptions on the school and administration, but what about the candidates' characters and personalities? Shouldn't we



Beata Mostafavi

find a way to see past the image and learn who these people really are? They are, after all, going to represent us, so we get the full grasp on what kind of people we're voting for. There's a lot of validity in the notion that emotional quotient is just as important as intellectual quotient. We need to not only know what issues they stand for, but how their personalities will enable them to accomplish these tasks once they're elected.

To further this knowledge, I have a few challenging questions of my own.

If you had the choice, would you take one million dollars or have your own per-

Let the true colors SHINE through

sonal "Mini-Me" and why?

Although it may not appear so, this is quite a deep question that requires much thought. The answer to this would reveal many qualities about the person within by showing what the person most values in life. How the candidate answers this question also gives us some insight as to what kind of creativity he or she will apply in the future when he or she is racking their brains for ideas on how to accomplish all these goals the candidate keep telling us about. It also shows us what the candidate would find most joy in: Getting the taste of the easy life or simply being able to stare at a little replica of him or herself? It's a tough one.

Bob Marley or Elvis?

Can't really go wrong with either, but this would open the door to the passions of the candidates and show us what style they groove to when no one is watching. Are they the mellow type who rely on "No Woman No Cry" to keep them relaxed and unstressed after a long, hard day of dealing with ASUO office chaos, or do they need to let loose and rock out to the King's tunes?

What is your remedy for a hangover?

We've got to be sure that these students understand where we're coming from. We need to feel that they can relate to us and our environment, and this kind of question could determine how they could solve real world problems. Plus, if we can see them at this level, we will be more

comfortable to approach them in the future and know we can count on their assistance if necessary. So if they're stumped on this one, you'll know who not to vote for.

And the following would all be equally important questions: To rate their practicality and give them a chance to show some more of their creative skills: If you were a frozen treat what would you be? To show what kinds of issues they take more seriously than others: What would you find funnier — Martha Stuart choking on her own dessert or Clinton attempting to inhale? To show how they perceive others and what qualities they prefer: Which Madonna — "Like a Virgin" or post baby? To show us what kind of people can they least tolerate: What is the worst punishment — being trapped on an island with the Brady Bunch family or being forced to watch Carrot Top? Whose job would be most amusing — the film developer for the University bookstore or a Designated Driver Shuttle driver?

These are the important questions. It's easy for candidates to create an appealing image and to tell voters what they want to hear. But you just can't hide your true identity under this kind of interrogation.

And this is the only way for students to truly know who they are voting for.

Beata Mostafavi is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. He can be reached via e-mail at bmstafa@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

Letters to the editor

Atkinson angered by editorial

I find it truly sad that even on a campus with no active political parties, Eric Pfeiffer felt it was necessary to marginalize me and other ASUO Executive candidates in favor of the same bland two-ticket toss-up that prevails at the national level (ODE, Feb. 17). He himself demonstrates the blandness of this anti-democratic act in comparing the two "major" candidates to Coke and Pepsi. Blech.

Further, I'm curious to know

just how Pfeiffer decided what constitutes a "full-scale campaign." Whereas posters comprise the extent of Jay Breslow and Holly Magner's campaign, and Autumn DePoe and Caitlin Upshaw seem to have no campaign at all, my own campaign is the only one besides C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson's to boast its own Web site (lefty.web.com).

I have made every conceivable effort to let my sinistralateral brothers and sisters know of my presence and my stance on the issues. It should be clear to anyone that, due to my commitment to

EVERY marginalized minority, I am the only candidate who stands for true diversity. Yet my struggle has, unsurprisingly, been ghettoized by the dexterocentric media. Shame on you, Mr. Pfeiffer.

Daniel Atkinson
ASUO Executive candidate

Gabbe and Larson deserving of position

We are writing this letter on behalf of C.J. Gabbe and Peter Larson in their effort to become president and vice-president at your school. Gabbe and Larson are very quali-

fied candidates in this election and are fully worthy of the position. We have worked with Gabbe for years at a local, state and national level. He has been a leader at every level on issues pertaining to access to education, such as child care and financial aid. Larson is recognized and respected for his work on diversity issues. He has been at the forefront of the diversity movement on your campus.

We enjoy working with both Gabbe and Larson because we can always count on their experience and their knowledge of stu-

dent issues. They have been promoting student issues for years, and this experience gives them the ability to run effective campaigns and really make a difference on your campus and around the state. A vote for Gabbe and Larson is a vote for students rights and power.

Elizabeth Fox
President of Associated Students,
Southern Oregon University

Scott Young
Vice-President of
Associated Students,
Southern Oregon University