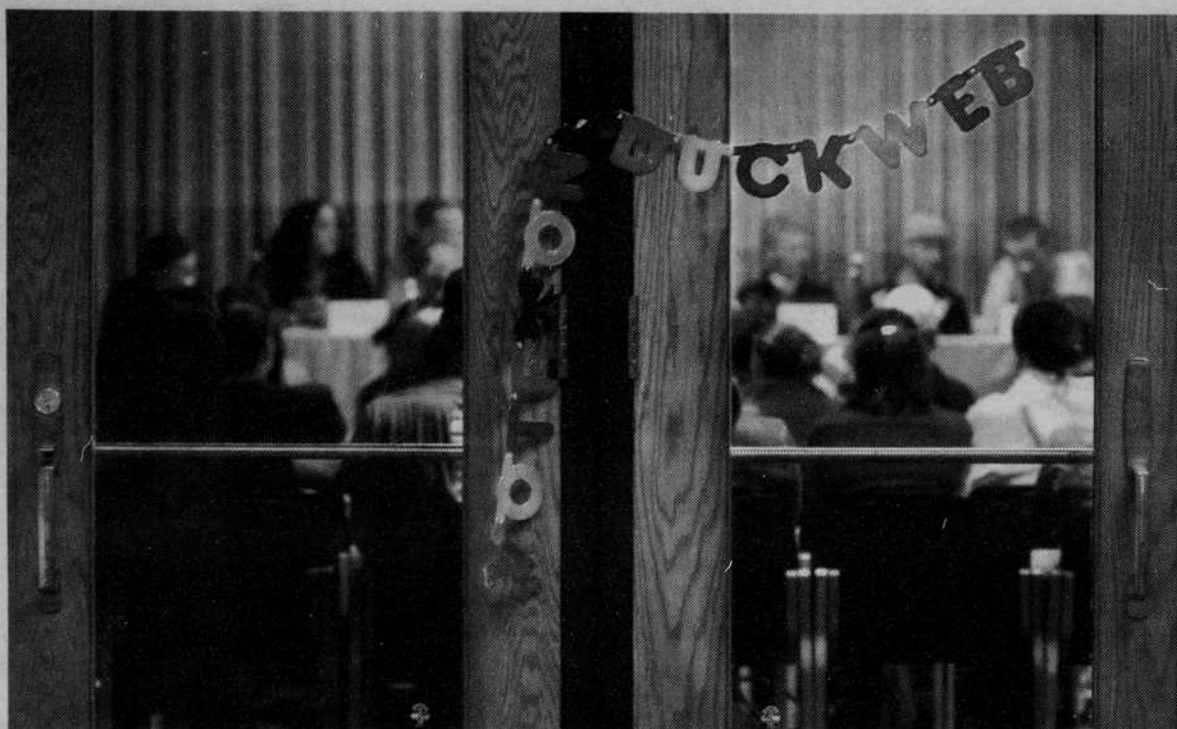




Adam Amato Senior Photographer

ASUO Executive candidates debate campus-related, community and political issues Tuesday evening in the EMU Fir Room. Only two candidates did not participate. Voter turnout was very low last year at 15.22 percent.

DEBATE

continued from page 1

groups are familiar with ASUO rules.

Ben Strawn said it's the ASUO Executive's responsibility to keep groups informed of the rules.

Adrian Gilmore said that as a lawyer in training, his job is to break down complex rules for people. He said the ASUO Executive should make the rules clear to groups, perhaps by giving them printed material explaining the rules.

Nick Popenuk said the ASUO president has the responsibility of understanding the rules and stressed the importance of having an open dialogue with groups.

Ben Brown, who is a running on a shirts-optional platform, showed up at the debate shirtless and said student groups have the responsibility to educate themselves on the rules.

Adam Petkun said his service on the ASUO Constitution Court has helped him understand the rules and he takes pride in explaining the rules to others.

Candidates were also asked whether they would keep tuition low if that meant hurting the quality of education by cutting classes and cutting budgets.

Strawn, Gilmore and Popenuk all said they would prefer to raise tuition

rather than let the quality of education suffer.

Brown said shirtless students could afford an increase in tuition by using the money they saved not buying shirts.

Petkun said he would like to see the quality of education stay high, but doesn't want to see a student forced out of school after three years because of high costs.

Candidates were asked how they would help repair trust between University students and the Eugene Police Department and Department of Public Safety.

Gilmore said the ASUO Executive should inform students of their legal rights and make them aware of ASUO Legal Services if they need legal counsel.

Popenuk said the Executive should have a close relationship with EPD and DPS and to educate students about their rights.

Brown said there is nothing more "cuddly" than a "shirtless man," and said police won't be able to cite students if they have their "big flabby man-tits" hanging out.

Petkun stressed the importance of informing students of their rights and raising the University's standing in the community by pushing for housing standards.

Strawn's running mate, Diana Aguilar, said police should concentrate

on more frequent crimes on campus, such as bike and other property thefts, because they tend to occur most often.

Candidates were asked how they would deal with campus gadfly Bruce Miller, who was present at the debate.

Gilmore said he respects Miller and would remain available to him, but stressed Miller cannot harass students.

Popenuk explained that he just met Miller on Monday and didn't have any problems with him.

Brown said that given his no-shirts platform, he couldn't listen to any man wearing four shirts.

Mena Ravassipour, who is running with Petkun, said she has a lot of experience communicating with Miller and she thinks it's important to listen to everybody because that's how new ideas are shared.

Strawn also said he has extensive experience communicating with Miller at ASUO Senate meetings and he tries to be fair. However, Strawn said Miller called his mother Monday and told her Strawn was "mean and immature." Strawn added he will never tolerate badgering.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at jaredpaben@dailyemerald.com.

CCRTP

continued from page 1

The task force is a campus-community coalition that includes University, law enforcement, city government and community representatives who address issues such as off-campus safety, party control and housing issues.

Lehner underscored the challenges of finding one definition for community policing.

"We have to make that definition and we haven't done that work yet," Lehner said.

Since he took office earlier this year, Lehner has met with representatives from campus, including ASUO President Maddy Melton, to discuss the department's relationship with the University.

"I hope the relationship between

the students and EPD can hopefully be better than it has been," Melton said. She added the new chief had made it clear students' rights would not be trampled on, and students also had a responsibility to address the part they play in problems EPD might have concerns with.

Lehner added it was key to have the right players at the table to have successful dialogue.

Assistant Dean and Associate Director for Student Life Sheryl Eyster said one of these steps is the creation of a packet to be given to students who are making the transition from on-campus to off-campus living. She said the packet, which is still being put together, will include various brochures on students' rights and responsibilities as well as useful community resources.

"We hope to have that ready for students this spring," Eyster said.

The University is also already helping to co-fund a bicycle patrol police officer in the West University Neighborhood. While the officer deals with concerns related to parties, some of the most common concerns in the area include dark streets and unsafe alleys where criminal activity has been reported, said Associate Vice President for Institutional Affairs Jan Oliver.

EPD also has a new sergeant assigned to work on campus in collaboration with DPS. Sgt. Mark Montes, who started work on campus at the beginning of spring term, said patrols are beneficial in keeping things under control in general.

"I've seen a more calming effect by having regularly scheduled party patrols," Montes said.

Contact the news editor at ayishayahya@dailyemerald.com.

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U	F	O	S	R	I	L	E	S	U	E	D	E
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