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ASG

Elections attract five candidates

By Amy LaBare and Shelley Ball
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With Associated Student Government (ASG) officer elections approaching on April 25 and 26, five students have turned in their petitions and will begin campaigning for the offices of president and vice president.

As of press time presidential contenders include Eric Latinen, Darwin Dale Keller and Daniel Hilts, and students Henry Palacios and Shawn Watterberg will be vying for the vice presidential spot. The deadline for turning in petitions is April 19.

The candidates will have a chance to speak on April 22, the first day of activities for the ASG-sponsored "Zap Week." They will speak around noon outside of the Community Center Mall.

Latinen, 19, is majoring in hotel and restaurant management at the College. Currently an activities senator on ASG, said he has enjoyed being on ASG this year and wants to make next year even better. He explained he wants to develop new activities because he thinks students are "getting bored" on campus and would like to see some changes. "People seem to always like change," Latinen said.

Latinen sees ASG as having two main purposes. The first is to be a link between students and the board. The second is to keep students interested in school so they "don't drop out." Other purposes of ASG, Latinen said, are to help students with any problems they might be having and to answer questions about the staff or handle problems with staff members.

Keller, 31, said he is running for president because he would like to see ASG become more vocal on political issues. "I feel there are never enough issues brought up," he said, adding "They (ASG) never wanted to make waves" in dealing with political issues.

"Waves hurt, but you don't make progress unless you make waves," Keller said.

Keller has attended the College between stints when he served in the military and worked. One of his jobs included being a union local president. He is currently majoring in arts and letters and



Darwin Dale Keller

would someday like to become a writer. He also would like to obtain a bachelor's degree in folklore mythology.

Hilts also said he would like to see the ASG sponsor more political activities. A second-year student at the College, Hilts, 20, has not declared a major yet but is interested in becoming a teacher.

If elected president Hilts said he would like to form a political awareness committee that could include holding a series of discussion forums dealing with local, state and national issues of concern to students. "I want everybody to be involved and know what's going on in politics," he said.

Currently president of the International Club, Hilts also said he would like to get all the club presidents on campus to starting meeting on a regular basis, as well as making the



Daniel Hilts

ASG more accessible to students. "I think there's a lack of communication between students and ASG," Hilts said.

Vice presidential candidate Palacios is currently a senator to the assistant to the president. If elected to the position, he would be working on the budget, which he said would be a good experience and would help him with his major in mathematics. He also said he wants to see exactly how the budget is run.

Palacios also stressed that meeting students is very important to ASG. He wants to "let them (students) know we're (ASG) here." He said that to accurately represent the student body ASG members must have a lot more contact with students. "We can't go by our own thoughts. We have



Eric Latinen

to know what they are thinking."

Palacios said ASG also needs to be involved with the community so "they will know we're doing something (at the college)."

Watterberg, who will be rivalling Palacios for the position of vice president, also said that it's important for the ASG to "keep in touch with students." Majoring in business, Watterberg said that becoming involved with ASG would be a valuable learning experience for him. "I'd like to get the best possible education here, and vice president seemed like the best position for me to run for at this time," he said.

He added that if he is elected vice president one of his goals would be to "get the voice of the students as a whole represented in ASG as much as possible."



Shawn Watterberg

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