



Franklin's arrest raises concerns

In light of the recent arrest of Associated Student Government President Tony Franklin, or, as the local jail refers to him, Mark Anthony Franklin, a.k.a. Robert Glen Brown, many students have quite a few questions and concerns.

One question on the minds of many is why weren't students told of Franklin's criminal history? Was Franklin being given the benefit of the doubt and a chance to redeem himself? That would be understandable by some. Still, it doesn't quiet the concerns students should have now after Franklin was arrested by his parole and probation officer on campus last Thursday.

Students should be concerned about the man who represents them. The position of ASG president is an important one. In addition to the duties the president must fulfill on campus as a role model to the students at this institution of higher learning, the ASG president serves as the college representative to the board of community college presidents, CCOSAC. The president is a ex-officio member of the college board of directors. The ASG president also serves as a member of John Key-

ser's President's Council. In short, the position of ASG president is a full time job.

Certainly having a criminal history should not exclude someone from being president. In the case of Franklin, students were not informed of his previous convictions, though. They did not have the opportunity to make informed decisions when they voted because students were not told that Franklin had three felony convictions on drug related charges.

Franklin, like the presidents before him, does receive compensation for his time and efforts. His tuition paid by the college, and he is paid a \$125 monthly for travel expenses related to his position as ASG president. What are we getting for our money?

Maybe students should look at themselves now and ask what kind of person they are responsible for electing. More importantly, what kind of image do they want this college to have? If, after knowing that Franklin has been convicted previously and, at press time, is still sitting in jail on alleged parole violations, this is the man Clackamas students want to represent them,

Franklin represents integrity for some

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in response to present allegations against Tony Franklin. I have known Mr. Franklin for two years. I have found Mr. Franklin to be one of the most ingenuous human beings that I have ever met. I am not familiar with the facts pertaining to this case, but I am familiar with Mr. Franklin and therefore feel compelled to contribute testimony with regard to the man's character.

Tony Franklin appears to be the kind of man that one would expect to have to struggle to like. The image of "The Biker" has long engendered a negative connotation. Tony Franklin is a "Biker," in that he rides a motorcycle. He rides that motorcycle on benefit toy runs, to take students home when they're out of luck in lousy weather, to help someone with their car repairs, and even down to the state legislature to represent the common welfare of all those people in this state who are trying to better themselves by way of higher education.

Tony Franklin is also a very hard worker. Mostly he is involved in short-term jobs that can be accomplished on the weekend. A full-time student that maintains a high GPA, as Mr. Franklin does, has to orchestrate his spare time and the weekend in order to work. Tony and I have often talked about our occupations (we share the vocational aptitude and attitude to get a job

Trial deemed necessary before conviction

To the Editor:

Everyone has a right to his/her own opinion regarding Tony Franklin, but shouldn't we let the courts make their decision before we convict him here on campus? Do any of us know enough about the facts in this case to set ourselves up as judge and jury?

Some people feel "someone like Tony" should never have been "allowed" to run for office. Much of this was based on a stereotype of his appearance. Now he is being stereotyped by his past. Is that saying that anyone who has made a mistake in the past can not make a change for the better, or that we will not allow them to? Tony has worked extremely hard to turn his life around

done right the first time) and he is usually involved in the maintenance or restoration of somebody's house. His labor has also been present for charitable events; he has helped to clear berry vines away from the installation site of a 'fish ladder' at Newell Creek. Just recently he evolved (sic) a project to further protect the stream by painting the water drains with ODF&W approved 'fish drain' stencils.

I haven't met anyone that avidly dislikes the man. This is to say that anyone who is interested in who the man is will find a man that elicits respect. It's not just all of the things that he does for no reason other than they need doing, but also that his integrity is unimpeachable. If he says he is going to be at a certain place to do a job, he gets there.

Tony Franklin is a biker. He is a non-conformist. The image is an old stereotype; a cliché. Another old cliché says that we are known by our associations. Tony Franklin is associated with the members of the Clackamas Community College Board of Education, The President's Council, a student lobbying group, and myself, a zoology major and environmental activist for Newell Creek. For myself, I would have to say that when I am associated with Mr. Franklin, I am in good company.

Sincerely,
Randall W. Hodgins

and has been a good leader on campus. His prior convictions did not affect his abilities before—why should they now? In fact, his determination to overcome these problems has been a driving force in Tony's life.

I would like to encourage everyone to think about this controversy with an open mind rather than with your emotions. Ask questions, get the facts, and know what you are doing before you make up your mind, sign a petition, or vote for a recall. The conclusions you reach will drastically affect a man's life.

Respectfully,
Rena Austin

From the editor Consider college's image

I do have an opinion about the current circumstances of the president. Frankly, I don't believe that Tony has done anything significant for the Associated Students at Clackamas Community College. This belief has nothing to do with the recent course of events. I didn't vote for Tony either time he ran for office. My beliefs about his performance in office, or lack thereof, are not directed at Tony's personal life or any members of ASG.

Since stories concerning the allegations against Tony have been in The Oregonian and The Enterprise Courier, the community is now aware of the allegations. Most people have probably only read the first story concerning the allegations and are no longer interested in the situation. The association between drugs and Clackamas Community College has been made. Once people make that first association, it is hard to get rid of whether Tony is found guilty or not.

This situation is being taken too personally. Sure, it deals with the personal aspects of a public figure's life, but I feel that everyone with ties to Tony should take a step back and look at the situation objectively. Tony is innocent until proven guilty. His hearing concerning this matter is set for Friday and he shouldn't be judged before then. But these allegations reflect negatively on the college and the students who attend. Although most people would like to think that image isn't important, it is... to the students and tax payers who support this college.

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