

ASG releases official candidates list

ROBERT SCHOENBERG
News Editor

Clackamas has more candidates for this year's ASG elections than ever before, said ASG Elections Officer Paul Creighton. Four candidates are campaigning for President and three seeking the office of Vice-president.

Every registered student has a vote.

It should prove to be one of the more interesting ASG campaigns in a long while. Not only will there

be many candidates, the elections will be held during a week when events outside the Community Center will bring students out of doors.

Except for one candidate, the office seekers are already involved in ASG. Campaigning for President this year are, in alphabetical order:

- ASG Chief of Staff Lynn Brown
- ASG Senator at Large Mike Lewis
- ASG Childcare Senator Jennifer Rankin
- ASG Student Access Officer Rachele Snowley

Those seeking the position of Vice-president are:

- ASG Campus Affairs Officer James Gould
- Student Jacob Pence
- ASG Legislative Officer Christine Reed

ASG adviser Norm Berney said he is not aware of any election that has had as many candidates.

The candidates and their election managers can begin campaigning today. The ASG provides materials, using student activity funds, for the posters and flyers that will appear on campus.

Next week, a candidate's forum will be held on campus at a location to be announced. The candidates will present their views and take questions from students, said Creighton.

Over the last three years, voter turnout during the spring elections was low. There were 1,554 full-time students enrolled for spring term, 1996. Only 214 cast ballots. In 1998, of 1,964 full time students, 204 voted in the elections.

ASG Student Affairs Officer Laurie Robinson said that voter turnout was high in the year when

the polls were open during International Week. This year the elections will be May 10 and 11. The Environmental Fair will be May 10 and 12. On May 10 the Clackamas Chamber Singers will perform outside the Community Center.

Creighton said that election volunteers will walk the campus that day asking students to vote. He expects a high turnout this year.

Polling stations will be set up outside the Community Center for eight hours each of the two days of the election. The candidate with the most votes, even without a majority, will win.

What makes a kid *NOT* explode, turn to violence?

SUSAN ABE
Staff Writer

In his Senior year of high school, Lance was killed in a car accident. Chuck was the driver, and for months friends feared that his life was over, too. Years later, Joe's sanguine reaction was: "It couldn't have happened to a nicer pair of guys."

Now, Joe's not a cruel, insensitive guy. In fact, he was shocked that he could react so callously to a tragedy touching people he knew. But Chuck and Lance had tormented him, day after day after day, since sophomore PE, had rejected him and put him down. Eventually that had eroded his ability to see Lance and Chuck as human beings. Joe can understand the emotions that drove Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold to massacre their classmates in Littleton last week.

But Joe never killed anybody. Neither did Leah, or Jeremy, or Sarah, or Bernie.
Why not?

Reducing the motive

Every crime involves motive, means and opportunity. This week, people have looked at gun control—reducing means—and school security systems—reducing opportunity. Others are trying to reduce motive, by taming violent young people.

According to human developmental theory, teenagers are tasked with *differentiation*—learning how they differ from other people and defining their own separate identities. As a consequence, feelings of isolation are common; Simon and Garfunkel's "I am a rock" and Joy Division's "Love will tear us apart" resonate in high school.

Most kids manage to endure it. How?

Joe remembers one talk with his father, who said, "At graduation, your life begins. These guys, their time will be over." Leah got in-

involved in journalism projects. Jeremy and Sarah were certain that they'd get caught and that their tormentors weren't worth facing punishment. Bernie didn't want to disappoint his dad.

Here is the common factor: each of these people knew that somebody noticed and cared what they did. Adolescent counselors report that youths who become violent are often not convinced that anybody knows or cares.

How do we provide every adolescent with that knowledge?

Juvenile Crime Prevention

Across the country this week, civic leaders are debating ways to establish firm supports for shaky kids, supports that will endure when the horror has worn off.

In Salem, Governor John Kitzhaber's Juvenile Crime Prevention Agenda, first announced in January, 1998, is moving to the fore. The first days of the 1999 legislative session were devoted to a workshop on the issue.

Senate Bill 555 adds youths who are "taken into custody for possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon in a public building" to the list of those who must appear in court before being released to their parent or guardian, and requires the court to order a mental health and sociological evaluation. It was heard before a crowd by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Friday afternoon, April 23, and appears likely to pass.

SB 555 is only one element of the Agenda. Other goals focus on intervening with children and youths before they begin carrying weapons, investing in crime prevention rather than punishment. Specifically, the Agenda calls for:

- Community support for high-risk juveniles before they fail.
- School participation in this community support.
- Adult and juvenile substance abuse prevention.

• Protection from domestic violence for children and families.

• Ensuring the health of each child entering school (and also insuring each child's health).

Most of these ideas do not require new statutes. They do require funds. Kitzhaber has called for \$30 million for these programs in the 1999-2001 biennium; since the budget is the last task for every Legislative Assembly, this won't really be debated before late May.

Various departments of state government are directing special attention at at-risk youth. Most of the money, however, Kitzhaber intends to devolve to the counties and cities to use according to the needs of the specific communities.

Who is an at-risk youth?

The difficult question, in a population where almost every teenager feels isolated, is identifying those most urgently in need of help. Kitzhaber's Agenda targets those who are disproportionately represented in youth correctional facilities:

those who have not succeeded in school, those with a history of self-abuse, those with family members convicted of crime, those with gang affiliations and those with children.

Such a complex target population requires diverse support solutions. The Legislature will cer-

tainly allocate some money to the effort, although probably not the \$30 million that Kitzhaber requested. Organizations around the state, inside and outside government, are making plans to use those funds, and they are looking to the Governor's Agenda to help coordinate those diverse plans.

Gun control shot down in Oregon House

Senate Bill 700 would require gun sellers at gun shows to check that purchasers are not convicted felons or otherwise ineligible to buy firearms.

Recent investigations by the Portland police bureau indicated that up to 27% of the guns used in the city's gang-related crimes were purchased at gun shows, mainly from unlicensed gun dealers and collectors.

SB700 passed the Senate but is dying in the House Committee on Business and Consumer Affairs, where Chair Roger Beyer, R-Molalla, is disinclined to allow it to be debated.

Last Wednesday, the day after the Littleton shooting, Randy Leonard, D-Portland, tried a rare parliamentary action to remove it from the committee and bring it to debate on the floor. The Republican leadership of the House, protecting the authority of the committee chairs, got wind of the attempt and organized its members to vote against the measure.

Under Beyer, it is unlikely that SB700 will pass in this session. Such a measure has been proposed before, and will probably reappear in 2001.

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Call your legislator

Most Clackamas students are represented by Kurt Schrader, D-Canby, or Roger Beyer, R-Molalla, in the House, and by Rick Metsger, D-Welches, in the Senate.

Metsger: (503) 986-1714, or metsger.sen@state.or.us

Beyer: (503) 986-1428, or beyer.rep@state.or.us

Schrader: (503) 986-1423, or schrader.rep@state.or.us

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