

Legality of fall term elections questioned

The ASUO Constitution Committee decided Tuesday afternoon to send back to ASUO Vice-President Fred Loveys a memorandum he submitted asking for a ruling on the constitutionality of the fall term ASUO Senate elections.

The committee will instead ask for an argumentative statement from Loveys, outlining his position and supporting his arguments on the case.

Loveys submitted the memorandum following last Thursday's ASUO Senate meeting during which the rules of procedure for the Constitution Committee were approved. The memo he turned in simply asked for an advisory opinion on the matter and did not contain his position on the subject.

The Constitution Committee originally felt that it could rule on Loveys' initial memorandum under Article IX, Clause Two of the ASUO Constitution. However, committee member Steve Rhodes felt that the second clause was unclear and possibly in conflict with the third clause of the same article. The committee then decided to send the memo back to Loveys.

The election issue is the first affair the Constitution Committee has been asked to render an opinion on since the formation of the committee near the end of fall term and the ratification of its rules of procedure last week. The ASUO Senate has also asked the committee for an opinion on the constitutionality of the Winkelman check-off plan for allocating student incidental fees, but no formal action has been taken on that as of yet.

The Constitution Committee will hold its next meeting at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 31 in the EMU. The room number will be posted.

Ortiz:

Pueblo ritual drama responds to nature

By KYLE JOHNSON
Of the Emerald

Ritual drama enables the Pueblo Indian to reaffirm the basic tenets of his society, according to Alfonso Ortiz.

The Princeton University anthropology professor spoke Wednesday night before more than 150 people in the EMU Ballroom. Ortiz's lecture was sponsored by the department of religious studies as part of its Distinguished Visiting Lecturers program.

Ortiz, a Pueblo, said Pueblo ritual drama is a "difficult topic" for anthropologists to understand.

He cited a "homegoing" ceremony for the gods of one tribe. He said it was a "tense moment" as the Hopi chiefs prayed to the gods because they "have to consider that the gods may never return."

Just before sundown, the gods filed through the town and off into the horizon. As the tribal members walked after the gods an "old man" stopped him, said Ortiz. The man told Ortiz not to go any further because "they are they, we are we."

This saying describes what scholars of the Native American have failed to understand, said Ortiz. The scholars fail to realize they are "outside" the Indian culture.

Ortiz also described a ritual around the time of the summer solstice done by a Hopi village. The Hopis were doing a Navajo dance in step, while a number of Hopi men dressed as Navajo women were dancing out of step. Ortiz said this is one way a tribe makes fun of another tribe.

While the dancers were resting, two groups of "sacred clowns" appeared, said Ortiz. He said they were called "sacred clowns" because they were "much more than clowns."

The clowns "pick on individuals, agencies and institutions," said Ortiz, but do it "for making some point about themselves."

Asked whether there was any comparison between Pueblo and Greek drama, Ortiz said "yes" but felt a better comparison would be with "neolithic near-East" civilization. Ortiz felt it was a better comparison because Pueblo ritual drama has "implications for a whole people."

Indian ritual drama is also responsive to nature's "basic rhythms," said Ortiz.

MEChA plans memorial

The direction of the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) and the incorporation of new programs seems to be thwarted until the issue of more money can be resolved.

"The whole issue revolves around the money," stated Jose Fonseca, the newly elected director of MEChA. Fonseca, a University student, stated that as soon as the problem of money is resolved he hopes to sponsor a Cinco de Mayo celebration. Fonseca feels that MEChA and the Cinco de Mayo celebration can be used "as a vehicle for change. Not only on an

educational level but also on a political level."

This Fifth of May celebration is comparable to the United States Fourth of July celebration. Cinco de Mayo commemorates Mexico's military victory over the 1861 French invaders. It was on May 5, 1864 that Mexico defeated the French at the city of Puebla.

In MEChA's election of officers held last week, Fonseca was elected director, Olga Marie Estrella and Dottie Florez assistant directors, Gloria Ojeda secretary, and Aurora Gutierrez secretary-treasurer.

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