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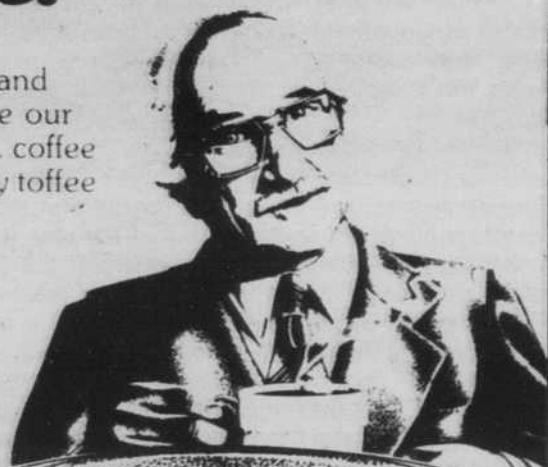
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## Palmitessa seeks to void complaints

By Rich Burr  
Of the Emerald

ASUO Elections Director Gus Palmitessa is trying to cancel the constitutionally required elections court hearings, former ASUO presidential candidate Jeffrey Houston charged Tuesday.

Houston said Palmitessa asked him to withdraw his six campaign violation complaints. Palmitessa is also trying to get other complaints withdrawn, added Houston, a senior in Russian.

Houston said he would not withdraw his complaints and would "put pressure to bear" to hold the elections court. The ASUO should do likewise to keep student elections clean, he added.

"I'm trying to preserve the integrity of the electoral process," Houston said.

"Gus told me to keep my eyes open for violations and now he's telling me to withdraw them," he said.

Palmitessa said Monday it was unnecessary to prosecute violations now that the elections are over. He was not available for comment on Tuesday.

court proceedings.

A complaint calling for sanctions imposed against Palmitessa has been withdrawn, plaintiff Edmundson said. The sanctions were withdrawn because Palmitessa is graduating in one week and because the elections director "looks silly enough already," he said.

Edmundson said he now wants the elections board to make a policy decision on the elections director's role. The position should be either a discretionary job - "do whatever you please, as Gus interpreted" - or an administrative job with limited authority, he said.

Since the sanctions complaint has been withdrawn, the court may now make an objective decision without directly condemning Palmitessa, Edmundson said.

The Emerald question placed on the general ballot by Palmitessa sets a dangerous precedent for future election directors, he said.

Since immediate action was taken on his complaint, he is not interested in pursuing the campaign violation, said Alan

'Gus told me to keep my eyes open . . . now he's telling me to (close) them.'

Palmitessa has withdrawn all his personal complaints to expedite matters, said Alan Contreras, ASUO vice president for program administration.

Election court member Julie Bell said fellow court member Jeff Boiler told her the court will meet as scheduled Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Another reason the court may be cancelled is because of the schedule for law school final exams, said Jim Edmundson, a law student who has filed a campaign violation against Palmitessa. The elections court consists of third-year law students (one of whom recently resigned) who have final exams starting Saturday, he said.

Bob Needham, formerly of the elections court, said he resigned about two weeks ago because as EMU Board chair he had time-consuming budget matters that would affect the attention given to

Scarce, EMU Board member-elect. The complaint has not been formally withdrawn.

The campaign violations filed against ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins have not been withdrawn, said Bruce Beckwith and Bryan Huitt, who filed two of the five complaints against Wilkins.

If the elections court is not convened, Houston said he will file student conduct violation complaints against Palmitessa.

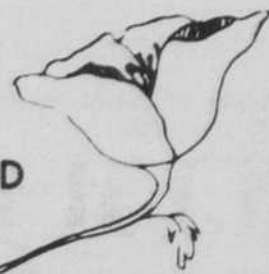
"I would nail his ass," he said.

Houston said Palmitessa strained their friendship by openly campaigning for ASUO presidential candidate Debbie Mellow during the primary elections and allowing her to use ASUO-funded resources, Houston said. Palmitessa asked him not to file complaints, he said.

"He pledged me to secrecy on the Emerald question," Houston added. "I thought he was joking."

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