

Logging town to give Watt his own day

By Brooks Dareff
Of the Emerald

Far from the crowds of Washington, D.C., life in the little town of Forks, Wash., goes on.

While Senate democrats work for a speedy vote on a resolution urging the dismissal of Interior Secretary James Watt, and administration officials move to block a floor vote before the one-week Columbus Day recess, Forks residents are going ahead with plans to honor Watt on Oct. 15 — whatever, or whenever, his fate.

Forks residents invited Watt to James Watt Appreciation Day, but Maris says Watt won't be able to attend because of previous engagements.

Comments made by Watt about the composition of a coal leasing commission the week of Oct. 17-23 have prompted House and Senate clamor for his dismissal.

Much of the castigation of Watt — whose support in the Senate would not allegedly survive an official vote — is being leveled by senators from the West, the region where sits the vast majority of federal land, and is therefore the region most affected by Interior Department policies. Of the 24 senators in 12 Western States, only 10 are voicing support for Watt, according to an Associated Press survey conducted late last week.

But in Forks, support for Watt is unwavering, says John Maris, husband of Lorraine Maris, the publisher of the Forks Forum and Peninsula Herald. James Watt Appreciation Day will go on as scheduled during the annual Hickory Shirts Days, a logging festival which lasts four or five days.

Maris objects to suggestions he says were made in an Associated Press story, that the day was planned as a reaction to Watt's current trouble. Plans were initiated about five months ago, "long before the media picked up on it," he says.

The day has been planned as an appreciation for the improvements the government has made on trails in Olympic National Park, Maris says. These improvements have made areas like the beach more accessible to everyone, including the handicapped. "He's improved tourism a whole bunch," Maris says of Watt. Logging and tourism are Forks' major industries.

Hickory Shirts Days, the official weekend celebration, will feature a parade and various logging related competitions, such as axe throwing, saw bucking, log rolling and tree climbing.

ASUO embedded in thorny issue over rosy 'magicards'

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

A logo featuring two clasped hands with a rose in the background has turned into a thorny issue for the current ASUO government.

University student Dave Ridenour has filed a complaint with the ASUO Constitution Court charging the student government with violating a campaign rule by using the logo, that of Students for a Progressive Agenda, on the 'Magicard.'

The 'Magicard' is a plastic wallet-sized card, similar to a credit card, with a list of merchants on the back. Those merchants will give purchase discounts to the holder of a card.

Ridenour, chair of the University College Republicans, says the SPA-dominated ASUO has spent ASUO money to further their own goals.

"The reason I brought this case up is I feel the student government is using student money for their own purposes," Ridenour says.

The SPA was formed to elect 'progressive' candidates and so constitutes a political par-

ty. Therefore, the ASUO has violated an ASUO election rule that states "no ASUO funded resources will be used in any campaign. Candidates, as well as programs, will be held accountable for adherence to this rule," Ridenour says.

But ASUO's coordinator of student events, Bill Snyder, says no incidental fee monies were spent on the cards. The ASUO did the work themselves and the merchants involved in the promotion absorbed the costs.

In his complaint, Ridenour recommended to the Court that "the student government be required to cease in the distribution of the 'Magicards' and use the means necessary to obtain those already in circulation."

Further, "the person(s) responsible should be required to pay compensation for the funds expended in the production of these 'magicards,'" he stated.

No date has been set to hear the case by the Court, which has final authority on questions of interpretation of the ASUO Constitution, and the case may not even come to court, says Constitution Court Chair Alan Contreras.



Hearing officers are now used to determine if a rule violation has occurred, and Contreras says he will recommend to the Court that they assign someone to review the complaint and make a determination.

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