

Can the Ducks get the bad guys in orange and black off their backs?

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Divestiture attorneys consider settlement

By Linda Hahn
Of the Emerald

Attorneys in the ASUO divestiture suit are considering a settlement to decide an outstanding attorneys fee, but the deal presents many questions concerning the future of the suit.

Attorneys representing the ASUO are considering an offer from the chancellor's office of the State System of Higher Education to partially pay for the work done on the ASUO divestiture suit by attorneys Michael Goldstein and James Campbell.

But payment is contingent upon an agreement that the ASUO not use any more incidental fees for litigation.

Goldstein confirmed a proposed settlement from the chancellor's office, which offered to pay 90 percent of the \$20,000 authorized by the Incidental Fee Committee to pay the attorney's fees.

After examining a state attorney general's opinion regarding student incidental fees, which was released in June, Vice Chancellor Bill Lemman froze all student funds involved in the lawsuit pending approval by the State Board. That question has not been formally presented to the board by the chancellor's office, and the attorneys have not been paid.

Whether incidental fees will be used to pay the attorney's fees or whether other state money will be used in this proposed settlement is a question that needs to be clarified before a decision can be made, said ASUO President Lynn Pinckney.

"What will the attorney general's of-

vice say about future use of incidental fees if the proposal is accepted?" Pinckney said. "If the settlement is accepted, it seems to concede the point that incidental fees can't be used for litigation."

Assistant Attorney General Jerry Casby said he didn't know where the funds would come from. That question was an accounting matter and should be answered by someone in accounting, he said.

"Funds would come from money in control of the State Board of Higher Education," Casby said. Although students usually distribute incidental fee money, the State Board has the final say over the funds.

Additionally, Pinckney questioned whether the contingency clause is specific to the divestment suit or includes all future litigation proposed by ASUO.

"This is the crux of the issue. Incidental fees are like taxes and student government should be able to use them for litigation," she said. "If this basic premise is not accepted, then student government will become nothing more than fluff."

Attorney James Campbell admits to being confused.

"I assume it is regarding the divestment suit, but we have to make sure exactly," Campbell said. "That's still one of the less-than-clear items. How the divestment suit would continue is related to clarifying those questions."

A decision is expected next week, Pinckney said.



Ready for takeoff

Spending a day on the Willamette River in January probably doesn't appeal to most people, but this Great Blue Heron seems to be enjoying the icy water. In fact, the bird probably would much rather spend a day on the river than sitting in a lecture hall.

Of course, the heron probably will never receive a bachelor's degree in business, but it seems doubtful that Exxon would ever hire such a bird into a high corporate position anyway. Those positions are reserved for vultures.

Weaver plans to sue newspapers for libel

By Gary Jimenez
Of the Emerald

U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver said Thursday he is planning to sue the Eugene Register-Guard, the Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal for libeling him.

Weaver made his remarks

during a town meeting at the Eugene City Hall after speaking with constituents gathered there to voice their concerns.

"The press in effect blamed me of a felony," Weaver said. "The fact is they used absolutely false information without

checking out the facts."

Weaver accused the Wall Street Journal and the Register-Guard of publishing false reports in December about his campaign finances. The articles reported that Weaver had access to confidential government commodity reports while performing his duties on a House subcommittee. Both the Register-Guard and the Journal have since printed retractions.

The newspaper stories dealt with Weaver's loss of more than \$81,000 in campaign funds by speculating in commodities, U.S. Treasury bonds and other investments.

The Washington Post called for a House ethics investigation into Weaver's campaign finances in a Wednesday editorial titled "Mr. Weaver's Gamble." Part of the editorial was based on the untrue statements the Journal had published earlier. Weaver believes the Post article libeled him too because it also implied that he had access to confidential trading information from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

However, Susan Phillips, the chairwoman of the Commodity

Futures Trading Commission, has since issued a statement that the commission is not allowed to furnish members of Congress with confidential market information, according to an article in Thursday's Register-Guard.

Weaver said his lawyers have told him he has one of the best libel cases they've ever seen.

"The sums of money we are talking about are very large," he said.

In addition, he said he was particularly upset with the Register-Guard for "maligning me in this community."

The Register-Guard declined to comment on Weaver's charges.

"The real issue here is that one politician (himself) has taken on the establishment and the press will never forgive me for that," Weaver said. "They'll never forgive me for taking on WPPSS, they'll never forgive me for taking on the nuclear industry and they'll never forgive me for taking on the timber industry."

He also accused the Register-Guard of doing a hatchet job on him in recent years.

"The question is whether one person can stand up for the people and try to do the job I've done without being maligned and knocked into the dirt," he said.

He also accused the Oregonian of ordering its reporters to dig up dirt on him.

In other discussion, Weaver accused President Reagan of wanting to do away with all domestic programs, and said Reagan wants to make the government "military only."

He reiterated his stand against Star Wars, Reagan's antiballistic missile defense system. Weaver said it was a totally unworkable system.

Weaver also attacked Reagan's proposed budget cuts under the Gramm-Rudman amendment.

And, he heard the complaints of displaced timber workers and disabled veterans asking for restored funding for their needs.

One supporter urged Weaver to maintain his seniority in the House by running again. But Weaver said he didn't know if he could afford to let Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., run uncontested for his Senate seat.



Jim Weaver