

Editorial

IFC member's past may disqualify him

Newly elected Incidental Fee Committee member Bob Baldwin has a problem. His past behavior is catching up with him, and his suitability as an IFC member is in doubt.

Baldwin is a former student government official from LCC. While serving as student resource director, he was responsible for processing bus pass payments from LCC students to the Lane Transit District.

An LCC official says that Baldwin was accused of temporarily diverting LTD money for his personal use. LTD received the money over a month late.

We have so far been unable to obtain a copy of the LCC investigation. LCC Director of Student Activities Jay Jones says that the investigation concluded that Baldwin used public funds, then repaid them.

Baldwin denies using any entrusted money, even temporarily, for his own purposes.

We are unconvinced. Baldwin needs to do more than issue a general denial. To retain credibility — and retain his seat on the IFC — he must provide his own detailed explanation of the events that occurred while he was handling LTD money.

The sources we have contacted agree on the details of the incident. Baldwin resigned his position during the LCC investigation.

If he ever used entrusted money for personal needs, however briefly, he should not serve on the Incidental Fee Committee.

Whether or not the money was paid back is irrelevant to the question of Baldwin's fitness to serve on the IFC. Student government officials need to have a trustee's attitude toward student money. "Borrowing" from public funds is indicative of a low level of trustworthiness.

We hope that Baldwin can produce an adequate response to these charges from his past. So far he has not done so.

Access to ASUO court must always be available

A recent attempt to call an ASUO special election failed in part because the ASUO Constitution Court does not have all five members. That lack must be remedied immediately.

The court is the only place that students can take appeals from actions by ASUO programs or governance bodies. It cannot be allowed to go out to lunch for a while.

Two court vacancies occurred on May 18, when two law student members graduated. The ASUO Constitution requires that nominees for these positions be submitted to the Student Senate by June 18, and confirmed or rejected by June 25.

There are still three members on the court, enough to conduct business. The IFC conducted summer meetings for many years by telephone conference call, using the EMU conference phone. The court must do the same, or make other arrangements to hear summer cases.

The problem could have been avoided if the outgoing ASUO administration had selected new court nominees early in May, sending them to the Senate as soon as the old members graduated.

ASUO President Steve Nelson needs to fill these vacancies now, before the members of the Senate scatter to the far ends of the planet for the summer. No student or student group should ever be told that there is no court available to hear a complaint.

Mark O'Sullivan



Letters

Open up minds

While I understand how a predominantly black fraternity would lend itself to a more comfortable social environment for those wishing to participate in a "Greekish" lifestyle, I can't help but ponder whether the formation of one is a regression from the spirit of equality, helping to amplify an absurd dichotomy.

In a world that craves spiritual evolution, which includes racial harmony, perhaps exclusive clubs and cliques revolving about one's genetic heritage offset much needed effort to purge "feeling like a minority."

Such a label arises from grouping people under some distinguishing characteristic and then isolating them from a tacitly defined norm. Shouldn't forces that strengthen such inane categorization be shunned?

I scold those "WASPy close-minded individuals" as the Emerald's May 20 article described them, for not making the growth of their hearts a priority. Or do you folks believe superficial judgment from appearances holds greater truth? Let's promote the inside!

Mike Hendrick
Mathematics

Insecurity

Scooter, you're right. I'm just putting down the system. You've reminded me that I should say nothing unless I've something good to say. I'm crushed that you would accuse me of writing with destructive intent. Thus, I'll comment on you, in hopes that you can be taught something like my mom taught me.

In America, we're allowed to express our views, even if we're mentally and emotionally disturbed, such as yourself. It's essential to the continuance of our political lifestyle and, thus, we live in peaceful coexistence. I've had my say in print and the emotionally/mentally disturbed have, too.

My letters have commented on that part of the system that needs change. (Still with me, Scooter?) Winter term, I read letters about the Greek system, the good they do vs. countless problems they cause. Hence, I'm not insecure. It's the Greekies who feel that they must defend themselves and harass me. They're the insecure people.

Scooter, you're an expert on insecurity. Why didn't you understand my intent? You must have seen inside me, through my letters, and noticed the deep need for me to call people names. Or is it that you were locked inside the house with your disability and were never allowed to play with other girls and boys? Don't take out the anger that you've harbored all these years against your mother on me.

By the way, Scooter, I wear a size 43 in Birkenstocks.

Blake Louis Sliter
Political Science

Hiring logic

The Oregon Commentator staffers forgot to rebuke me for the main reason that I wrote the request for employment letter. I wrote it because you printed in your help wanted ads for the Emerald these words, "The Oregon Commentator is NOT an affirmative action employer." I wonder, did anybody else notice that you didn't mention that in your rebuttals?

My letter was not meant to "amuse" you. It was written to show you how others feel when they read statements in your ad. As for the Jews on your staff who were offended, GOOD. I guess I forgot to think that Jewish people can be bigots, too.

If you are all such a multi-mix there, why did you print that statement in the first place? Also, you said that you are not all Christian, or male... are you all white?

There is nothing wrong with any of the people I mentioned in my letter; John was fictitious. So, don't tell me how tall your staff is: Tell us all WHY you said those words in your help wanted ad.

While you and yours, Mr. Green, ponder your response, I'll take my merry path of logic to lunch.

Lisa A. Wilson
Health Education

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