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ASUO loses divestiture battle in appellate court

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

The ASUO and its fellow student plaintiffs were handed a defeat Wednesday in their legal battle seeking divestiture of state funds from South Africa.

The Oregon State Court of Appeals dismissed the nine-year-old lawsuit saying the students do not have the right to bring suit in the case because "they do not allege any legally recognized injury" resulting from the investment of Oregon State System of Higher Education endowment funds in stock of companies doing business in South Africa.

"Neither agreement with plaintiffs' opposition to apartheid nor the desirability of encouraging students to become concerned with social and moral wrongs and to seek to right them can

turn the alleged 'injuries' into legally recognized ones," said the decision handed down by a three-judge appeals court panel.

The opinion, written by Judge John Buttler, said the injuries alleged by the student plaintiffs were too "abstract" to distinguish them from any Oregonians who are strongly opposed to apartheid.

"Basically, what the court is saying is the public can't sue, so neither can you. So nobody has the right to go to court" for a review of the investment policies, said Michael Goldstein, the ASUO attorney in the divestiture suit.

"The court felt that students at the U of O and PSU and the other plaintiffs had no closer connection to higher education endowment funds than the public at large," Goldstein said. "Who is closer to

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WISTEC Medieval exhibit shows copy of Magna Carta

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

In 1215, a group of angry English barons forced King John to accept the Magna Carta, or the Great Charter. This document was one of the earliest that established a limit to the power of the monarchy and served to restore some liberties to the people.

There are four original copies of the Magna Carta still in existence, one of which currently is on display at the Willamette Science and Technology Center, 2300 Centennial Blvd., Eugene.

The document has been housed at the Lincoln Cathedral in Lincolnshire, England, and is touring the United States as part of the upcoming celebration of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

The exhibit will run from Nov. 13-22 before moving on to Jacksonville, Ore.

The exhibit includes the Lincoln Cathedral Magna Carta and two other 13th-century objects from the cathedral: a hand-written Latin Bible and an original stained glass window.

These three items, because of their an-

tiquity and sensitivity to light, are kept in a special viewing room with dimmed lights. In the main viewing area, there is a 13th-century, solid-oak chair used by King Edward I in Parliament. Also included in the WISTEC exhibit is a modern replica of needlepoint tapestry from the Middle Ages and a replica of King John's sword.

Paul Parker, the executive director of Magna Carta in America and a Lincoln Cathedral representative gave three reasons for bringing the document to America.

"First, there is a basic intellectual and historical significance as much in American government and the constitutional laws as in the English system," he said.

"Second, the Dean and Chapters (Anglican priests who run the Lincoln Cathedral), really believe that this is a way to encourage international cooperation and understanding.

"Third, they feel responsible for the cathedral, a great building of the world,

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Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

ASUO Vice President Caitlin Cameron, ASUO President Steve Nelson and University President Paul Olum field questions from an audience of eight.

Drug testing, the Carnegie Report discussed at forum

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

Athletic drug testing and the Carnegie Report on Higher Education were among the topics discussed at the 'Meet the Presidents' brown bag forum on Wednesday.

The forum, sponsored by the ASUO, allowed the audience to question University President Paul Olum and ASUO President Steve Nelson. Eight people attended.

Olum said he remains undecided about his position on the Athletic Department drug testing policy, which requires all athletes to be tested for drugs.

"I would really like to have an open discussion to see if we can't resolve some of the concerns about the policy," Olum said.

The discussion would be an informal one, and would not be equal to a formal rule-making hearing, he added.

"There is no question that drugs are a problem at the University as they are

around the world in general, but the question is what is special about athletes," Olum said.

Arguments in favor of drug testing are that athletes should be tested for performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids, in order to keep athletics fair, Olum said.

Another argument for drug testing of athletes is that the testing is different from general drug testing because it is not a question of private drug use, Olum said. Athletes under the influence of drugs may behave wildly while in competition and may injure others, he said.

"There is probably adequate reason to be concerned about athletes who use drugs. The question is are these invasive procedures that are being used justified, and are we so badly interfering with people's personal liberties and their privacy that we just don't have enough case in the drug testing to do such terrible things," Olum said

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City Council to consider amendments to Measure 51

By Jolayne Houtz
Of the Emerald

City officials are questioning the legality of Eugene's nuclear-free zone, which passed by a 3 to 2 margin Nov. 4, and City Council members say revisions may be necessary before the ordinance can be put in place.

The City Council decided Wednesday to consider an amendment at its next meeting that would extend the deadline for appointing the Nuclear-Free Zone Board that will serve until the next election, giving councilors more time to study several unanswered questions stemming from the measure.

A recent memo from the city's attorney lists some of these issues, including:

- the preemption of federal authority granted by the U.S. Constitution to execute foreign and military policy;
- the preemption of state laws already governing radiation sources, transportation of radioactive materials and the storage of nuclear wastes;
- the preemption of city legislative

powers by the Nuclear-Free Zone Board, an elected seven-member board that would oversee compliance with the ordinance;

•and the definitions of terms used in the ballot measure wording, including "legitimate interstate commerce" and "military defense systems...that can be used to prosecute a nuclear war."

Ballot Measure 51 prohibits the production of major component parts of nuclear weapons or their delivery or control systems. It also would ban military defense systems that could be used to wage nuclear war and would ban the transportation through Eugene of nuclear weapons systems or wastes generated by nuclear weapons or power production.

The City Council will discuss the ordinance at its meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m., when councilors will consider an amendment changing the deadline for appointing the Nuclear-Free Zone Board

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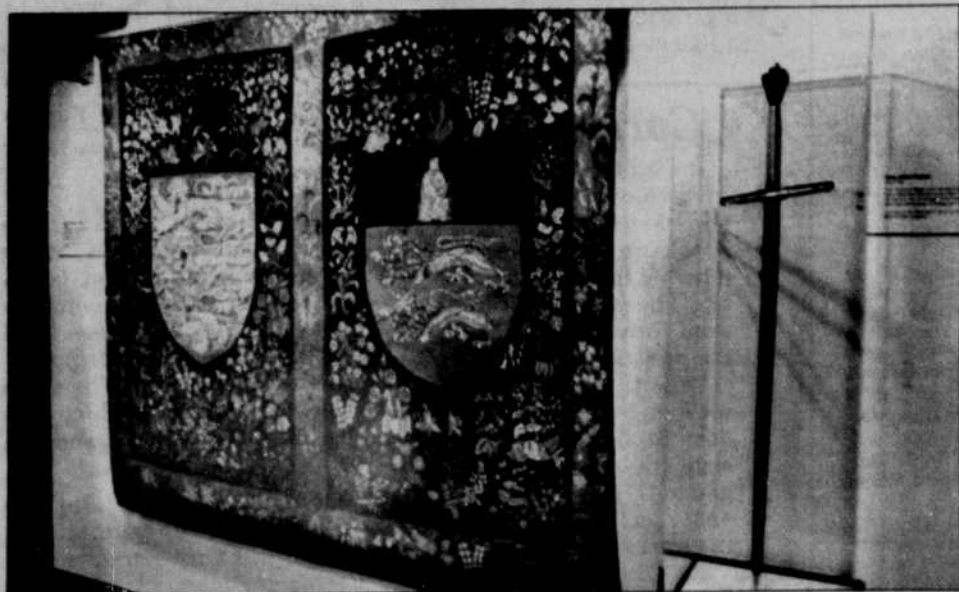


Photo by Maria Corvallis

Replicas of a Middle-Age tapestry and King John's sword are two of the many objects on display at WISTEC.