

Ducks down WSU  
in dual track meet  
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# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## Three student initiatives voided by ASUO Court

By Carolyn Lamberson  
Of the Emerald

The ASUO Constitution Court disqualified three measures from the ballot for the April 22-23 student general election, Friday.

Funding initiatives for the University Athletic Department and the University marching band, and an initiative to save the Riverfront Research Park construction site were all disqualified because the court ruled that the signatures gathered for the initiatives were unconstitutional.

However, ASUO President Steve Nelson, with the support of Incidental Fee Committee Chairwoman Jodie Mooney and Student Senate Chairman Randy MacDonald, will ask the ASUO Elections Board to make an exception to the constitution and place those three measures back on the ballot.

The Court's decision, written by Court member Mary Kay Menard, was sparked by a request from IFC member Bob Baldwin. Last week, Baldwin asked the Court to look into the constitutionality of three issues.

Baldwin questioned the constitutionality of the IFC's role and procedure in placing the Oregon Daily Emerald's funding measure on the ballot, and asked the Court to declare the action unconstitutional because the IFC did not get the wording of the ballot measure approved by the Court beforehand.

He also asked the Court to declare all measures placed on the ballot by the ASUO Executive, the IFC and the Student Senate unconstitutional for the

same reason.

In addition, he asked the Court to "declare as null and void any and all signatures which have been...gathered in support of any initiative measure, except where such signatures have been affixed to a petition in which the wording has previously received the specific approval of the Constitution Court."

The Court agreed with Baldwin on the final point, and nullified signatures gathered by the marching band, the Athletic Team Council and a coalition to save the Riverfront Research Park construction site.

These groups cannot re-solicit signatures because the Constitution requires all initiative signatures to be in the hands of the ASUO Vice President two weeks before the election.

There is, however, another constitutional route to getting these measures on the ballot, Nelson said.

Nelson, Mooney and MacDonald, as the heads of three branches of student government, will join together in asking the ASUO Elections Board to make an exception to "give the students the chance to have a say," Nelson said.

"We feel that the Court ruled correctly in this matter," Nelson said. "But at the same time, these three groups did (gather signatures) with good intentions and with the understanding they had the approval of the Constitution Court."

Nelson stressed he was not supporting any of the measures by placing them on the ballot, but was simply giving



### Raising the beat

African drummer Chata of Obo Addy and Kukrudu played for about 200 people Saturday night at the "Caravan for the Forgotten" dance in Condon School. The caravan consists of 20 Guatemalan refugees touring the western states and Texas. The group is raising money to help the people of Guatemala.

Photo by John Giustina

Turn to Initiatives, Page 4

## Two weekend fires burn campus dorms

By Karen Engels  
Of the Emerald

Fires in two University dorms this weekend, one of which may have been arson related, are still under investigation, according to campus security officials.

Both fires caused minimal damage. One was in room 204 Cloran and the other in a DeCou laundry room dryer. The dryer fire appears to have been purposely set, officials said.

The dryer fire apparently started around 3 a.m. Sunday when a DeCou resident was alerted by the laundry room smoke detector. Clothes in a dryer were on fire. A resident pulled the fire alarm and campus security, the Eugene police and Eugene fire department units were dispatched.

The fire was extinguished in about 15 minutes, said Lindy Holt, resident assistant for Dymont. Holt was on weekend duty for the Walton dormitory complex when the fire occurred. Damages to the dryer were estimated at \$50, according to fire officials.

The clothes were damaged and the dryer is out of use, Holt said. No damage to the room was reported, but the blaze is under investigation by Eugene police. The north side of Walton complex was evacuated for about 15 minutes, Holt said.

The cause of the fire is unclear, said campus security officials, but newspapers may have been ignited in the dryer with the clothes, they said.

The Cloran fire apparently started at 7:31 p.m. Saturday on a desk, spreading to curtains and the ceiling, according to resident assistant Susie Wilcox.

Andy Cook and Shaun Notdurft, residents of the room, were at a movie when the fire started. The room's fire detector sounded, a resident alerted Wilcox and another pulled the fire alarm.

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## District, teachers go back to table

Mediators say insurance benefits major stumbling block

By Janet Paulson  
Of the Emerald

Bargaining teams for the Eugene School District and striking teachers reconvened Sunday at the Eugene Hilton to continue contract negotiations.

Talks broke off Wednesday after negotiating teams worked through the night in an unsuccessful effort to stop an impending teachers strike.

State mediator John Vale met briefly with reporters at 6 p.m. Sunday to say he had "nothing to say."

Vale remains optimistic about contract negotiations. "I'm always optimistic," he said. "They're still talking."

Vale said he did not foresee a quick settlement and indicated that the insurance issue must be resolved first.

The school district has proposed raising the teachers' current \$25 deductible to \$100 per person, with a maximum deductible of \$300 per family. District spokeswoman Gay Campbell said medical insurance costs have increased by more than 500 percent in the past 10 years and are expected to increase 27 to 30 percent in the next year, thereby making the increased deductible necessary.

The district also wants to delete from the teachers' contract the requirement to specifically name Blue Cross as the carrier, in order to allow competitive bidding for the school district's insurance business.

Union officials have expressed a willingness to raise the deductible to \$50, but they say that having the insurance carrier named in the contract is the only assurance union members have that the quality of medical benefits will be maintained.

Tom Doig, chief negotiator for the Eugene Education Association teachers' union, said the insurance issue is a major hurdle in bargaining at this point. He said the school district chose not to accept the most recent proposal from the union.

School district chief negotiator Steve Goldschmidt said he believes that the union has given some thought to the insurance proposals offered by the district early Wednesday morning.

"It is important on the insurance issue that whatever is agreed upon is consistent with the community's ability to pay," he said.

Goldschmidt said another important issue to be resolved is that of assignment and transfer.

The school district wants to be allowed to post job openings outside the district on August 1, rather than mid-August as is now done. The EEA does not feel that change is necessary.

Principals of Eugene schools submitted plans to the school district Friday outlining their needs for staffing in order to re-open, Campbell said. The school district is taking applications for replacement teachers and will begin screening applicants soon.

The district does not expect schools to open anytime this week unless a settlement is reached, she said.