

Oregon Daily Emerald

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lays a foundation
See Spectrum

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A day for music

Glenn Falkenberg plays his harp in the EMU Courtyard on Wednesday as part of the Mayfest Celebration. Falkenberg has been playing the harp for 10 years and specializes in medevil celtic music.

Photo by Maria Corvallis

Senate quits without voting on drug-testing resolution

By Laurie Schwartz
Of the Emerald

The University Senate adjourned until October without voting on a resolution recommending a halt to the Athletic Department's random mandatory drug-testing policy.

University senator Dennis Hyatt called a quorum after more than an hour of debate on the resolution at the Wednesday meeting. Calling a quorum is a parliamentary tactic to forestall a vote if half or more of the senators are absent.

The much-debated resolution, introduced by student Dan Thoma, had been postponed twice before Wednesday's session.

Twenty-two senators were present, and 27 would have been necessary for a vote after the quorum was called.

Attendance at the senate meetings is traditionally low at this time of year because faculty are involved in other activities, such as graduate committees, said Senate Secretary Keith Richard after the meeting. Normally, about 30 or 40 senators attend the monthly senate meetings, he added.

However, senator James Lemert said faculty ambivalence about the issue may have contributed to the low attendance.

The resolution would not have been binding. If passed by a two-thirds or greater margin, the recommendation would have gone to University President Paul Olum for approval. If passed by a smaller margin, the resolution would have gone to the University Assembly.

The resolution can be reintroduced for the next senate meeting in October.

The resolution also can be introduced to the June 3 meeting of the University Assembly if 10 voting members of the assembly petition for it at least 10 days before the meeting, Richard said.

Most, if not all, of the University senators who are students back the resolution, while faculty reaction appears mixed.

Senator Randy MacDonald called the current drug-testing policy "an intrusive, evasive and coercive approach" incompatible with the goals of a higher education institution.

Barry Siegel, a University economics professor and chairman of the Lane County American Civil Liberties Union, also spoke in opposition to the policy.

"We all know some students cheat on exams, but we wouldn't support random searches on students entering classrooms," he said.

"If we start with athletics, where does this end?" asked Saul Toobert of the psychology department.

Senator Dan Thoma said University athletes are widely opposed to the mandatory random drug-testing, citing a petition circulated among track team members declaring opposition.

But senator Michael Ellis said he believes University athletes, if voting on a secret ballot, would be in favor of drug-testing because it would eliminate unfair advantages caused by drug-taking.

Chris Voelz, associate athletic director, said athletes who use drugs have impaired judgment and reactions, and can be a safety hazard to other athletes during competition.

Marijuana users in contact sports have a higher degree of susceptibility to concussions, said Jim O'Fallon, a member of the Athletic Department's Drug Oversight Committee.

The University "can and must be paternalistic" to its athletes because "we create a situation that puts athletes at risk in ways the population is not at risk," he added.

Several senators questioned whether the Athletic Department was testing for steroids.

Voelz responded that not every test included the steroid test, but that the Athletic Department did sometimes send the samples to one of only three nationwide laboratories equipped to reliably test for many varieties of steroids.

Candidate not satisfied he lost

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

Although the ASUO elections were three weeks ago, Collin Farrell still isn't satisfied with the results.

Farrell lost his bid for one of three one-year Incidental Fee Committee positions in the general elections April 23. He finished 15 votes behind Kristin Teigen, who claimed a seat behind Steve Hoyt and Sandra Thompson.

Since then, the ballots have been recounted several times, and Farrell maintains he has yet to hear a consistent result.

Duane Dungannon, student senator-elect and Oregon Commentator editor, said he is pursuing the matter because he doesn't want to see the issue swept under a rug. He said the most thorough recount was the one held last Friday, in which, according to his figures, Farrell beat Teigen by 10 votes.

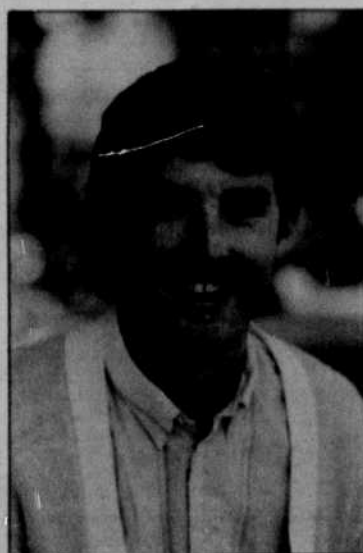
ASUO Vice President Caitlin Cameron, who presides over the elections through the Elections Board, said there are still three boxes to be recounted from Friday, and she expects no change in the results.

The first recount held shortly after the election left some people confused. Dungannon believes Farrell came out ahead.

Cameron said a mix-up during the first recount originally put Farrell ahead, but once the confusion was cleared, Teigen was still the winner. A second recount that day confirmed the first numbers, she said, with Farrell down by 22 votes.

The latest recount was called by the Elections Board and will be completed this Friday, Cameron said.

"I think that it's good making a stand to do a little extra work to make sure everyone's comfortable with the results," she added.



Collin Farrell

Farrell, who would have won in the primary election if write-in candidates had not forced the race to the general election,

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Hayward Field renovation garners support at meeting

By B.J. Thomsen
Of the Emerald

Hayward Field is likely on the way to regaining its reputation as one of the top track and field facilities in the world.

A bill now in the Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Development would allow the State Board of Higher Education to raise \$1 million in bond revenues to make needed improvements at Hayward Field.

At a Wednesday meeting of the Hayward Coalition, Rep. David Dix, D-Eugene, said the Eugene City Council is supportive of a proposed one-half percent increase in the local hotel and motel room tax to help pay off the twenty year bond.

The Hayward Coalition includes local government officials, University administrators and Oregon Track Club representatives.

The tax would be acceptable to the City Council, he said, as long as they had assurance that the money would be used only for Hayward Field improvements.

Hotel and motel owners in the area benefit greatly from major track and field events at Hayward Field.

The tax increase will generate \$90,000 per year toward paying off the bond.

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