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ery day, and they're opposed to that (mandatory insurance)," he said. "I can take you ... to my classroom and they'll only say 'No, we don't want that.'"

**Apathetic students**

But Clark noted that students have been given many chances to attend SHIC meetings and voice their opinions. "There's an assumption that students haven't been involved in the process," he said, adding that another open SHIC meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. today in EMU Century Room A.

"How many more forums can we have? Nobody shows up," Clark said.

Although Nebergall agreed student apathy is rampant on campus, he complained that "the importance of what's being decided at these meetings hasn't been advertised enough."

Nebergall also voiced skepticism regarding the validity of SHIC's membership.

"If (insurance) is mandatory, every student will be required to do this by a committee that was appointed by Andy," he said, adding that Wyckoff and ASUO comptroller Richard Ong also sit on the committee. "What does this look like? He's using his political office to affect this."

Clark's own position on SHIC is "simply rational," Clark said. "Whether or not the health insurance program is abolished or if we keep it or whatever happens to it, I am responsible for it."

Nebergall also claimed he had personal misgivings about Clark's past work in the insurance industry.

**Knowledge isn't obstacle**

But Clark doesn't believe his work at State Farm should be considered an obstacle in selecting a good insurance plan.

"If my having knowledge of the insurance industry and being on the health insurance committee is a negative, then that's completely up to the person who views it that way," he said, denying that his internship made him pro-industry in insurance matters.

"I'm pro-not-getting-screwed-by-the-industry, because the industry ... will screw you without hesitation," Clark added.

Creating a 100 percent man-



Andy Clark

datory plan would best protect students from insurance companies and their often discriminatory policies, Clark explained.

"Mandatory with a right of waiver is just playing at the edge of the water, when we can really jump into this (with a mandatory plan) and get on the front end of the insurance industry because the University of Oregon students would, in effect, be the insurance company," he said. Clark said students would be in control of the money the plan would generate.

"The most important factor, I think, is that students retain control of this program and the money that comes in through this program," Wyckoff said.

**The right to vote**

As for Nebergall and Morales, they agreed the most important point is that students get the chance to vote on what insurance plan the University

will have for the students.

Nebergall said the recall was withdrawn initially on the stipulation that Clark would hold a special election during February to let the students vote on the insurance issue. But the lack of incidental fee funds to put on the election and the desire to find out how much SHIC's plan is going to cost students convinced Nebergall to withdraw the recall anyway.

"Right now the recall is in the process of being withdrawn on two conditions," Nebergall said.

"We want Andy's commitment to put it on the ballot in May and to put it to a student vote, and we want Andy's commitment the student health insurance committee will be bound by the vote.

"If we can't get those two things, the recall process will go back in effect," Nebergall said.

Although Clark has not answered those conditions, Nebergall said he is encouraged that Clark is willing to communicate through mediation, and he hopes they can find a solution for the insurance problem.

Clark said all he is looking for is a way to relieve the insurance headache.

"If my recall is a solution, then I support that. If my being out of office is our answer to our health insurance woes, then ... I encourage that," he said. "Unfortunately, I don't think it is."

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*William Mitchell is a professor in the UO Political Science Dept.*

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