

Dix shouldn't give up his House seat

Oregon Democrats suffered a major political blow this week when David Dix (D-Eugene) decided Tuesday to step down from his House Majority Leader post.

Dix and his party have come under serious criticism because of alleged campaign contribution and expenditure violations, and the subsequent fine from Secretary of State Barbara Roberts. Intermixed with this was the furor raised over one of Dix's former aides, Carl Wiederaenders, who was accused of tampering with a public document. Just Monday, he was convicted and fined \$2,500.

When Wiederaender's role in the controversy was exposed, he resigned from Dix's office. When the fine was leveled, Dix immediately said he would pay the amount for which he was personally liable. Though some in his party were calling for him to step down from the majority leader position, it looked like Dix would weather the storm.

But apparently the whole issue got to be too much for Dix. His announcement came as a surprise to many, including those in the Democratic caucus.

Dix stepping down is just another problem the Democrats will have to face. With a primary barely two months away, there is still much to do. The majority leader helps choose candidates for the Legislature. A new party leader is scheduled to be elected Monday, but it will be some time before the Democratic caucus mess will be straightened out.

At his Salem press conference Dix said he is undecided about his political future. He has not pulled himself out of the District 44 race yet, and he shouldn't. If he decides not to run again, the state will lose a very capable legislator.

Dix has proven himself to be a friend of the University. In both the 1987 and 1989 sessions, he fought for higher education interests and lobbied for state funding of intercollegiate athletics. He has been responsible for the Sports Action lottery game and many other University-oriented bills.

Anybody who has ever seen Dix operate on the House floor knows what an effective lawmaker and leader he is. He can best be described as fiery, strong-willed and passionate. He cares deeply for the state, as well as his constituents, and it is reflected in his performance.

Though it is ultimately his decision, Dix should run for the House again. Give the voters an opportunity to decide whether he has served well. If they want him as their representative, they'll vote for him. If they think the controversy has affected his legislative ability, they won't.

David Dix should stay.



Student code changes worthy of notice

Rarely do student conduct code changes get the attention they deserve from the majority of students on campus. That's unfortunate because these changes are usually the result of months of anguish from the few students and administrators truly concerned with flaws in the conduct code.

Two recent changes in student conduct policy are worth noting. The first, concerning University treatment of mentally ill students caught in cases of academic dishonesty, has been a long time in coming.

Over the last year, we've raised one concern or another with proposals that would change how mentally ill students are protected from conduct code sanctions and how they can seek that protection.

The latest revision leaves us a little more satisfied. Under the latest revision, academic and disciplinary sanctions are separated. Now, students charged with academic dishonesty will have their grades re-evaluated to reflect the dishonesty, but no further disciplinary actions will be brought against them.

This seems like a good compromise. It makes cheating an unattractive risk for those who would feign mental illness, yet is not unduly harsh on those who do suffer from it.

Another change, this time in policy, is the creation of a University-wide grievance procedure. Before this change, grievance rules were dictated by the individual departments. Several people, including student advocate Marlene Drescher, lamented having one universal set of rules to guide students.

In 1988, then-University President Paul Olum drafted a committee to examine the grievance issue. Again, after months of work, a policy has been enacted that seems fair.

Students should take time to get familiar with these changes. While they hopefully will never have to become workingly familiar with the mental illness and academic dishonesty rule, the grievance procedure change is one that could potentially affect a good number of students.

Letters

Ultimate control

After failing to locate one person who submitted a mockery of my last letter, I decided to submit my response as instruction to all who might think Jackie Houey's arguments (ODE, Feb. 6) stood up to reason.

To update the reader, Houey argued that my reasoning dictated that she not have sex with her husband for the next seven years, since she has made up her mind not to have children until then.

As I said, there is a chance that, if you have sex in the next seven years, you will become pregnant. If you are really that committed to seeing your plans succeed, you must either be willing to abstain, or kill any life which might begin outside of your wishes.

In either case, I just wanted to make it perfectly clear that you have made a specific set of plans for, what I shall venture you would call "your body," in the next seven years. If these plans don't come about, it will be very clear to all that you are

not in control of "your body." Therefore, your desire to have control doesn't refute my reasoning.

Control of the body has been a desire of the greater portion of humanity since history began. Death, of course, has always been the one thing which proves that none of us has ultimate control of my body, because he knows me better than I know myself.

Bob Weigel
Lab tech

Crazy?

Am I crazy or did the ASUO president say that we should vote on every budget of every group on campus? Hasn't he ever heard of the freely-elected Incidental Fee Committee?

I feel lucky to be on a campus that has control over student fees. I know at many schools those decisions are made by the administration. I think that if Clark gets his way, we will lose this control.

And aren't those groups ac-

countable now? If I want to complain about a group's funding, I know where to go: their IFC hearing. If I don't like what the IFC is doing, I know what to do: organize a recall campaign or run for office myself.

It seems this plan is designed to zero-fund groups that Clark doesn't like. How long would GALA or the Black Student Union last if all students got to vote on their budgets? And why should a group like MEChA have to spend their time and energy campaigning for a budget instead of providing the cultural events and Chicano solidarity that they do now?

Saying that students of color organizations should have to outreach to white students and grovel for funding could be construed as a racist notion.

So Clark, no thanks. Please leave what little student power and diversity we have alone. I applaud your stated intention of encouraging students to vote. But don't use bigotry as a tool to that end.

Matt Snider
History

Equality

The Student Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers is offended at being classified as "Interior Decorators" in the *Oregon Daily Emerald* article of Feb. 23. As part of the Architecture department, the Interior Architecture program at the University is rated among the top three in the country. We are trained for a highly technical profession, to which the word "decorator" does not apply.

Secondly, in regards to our Incidental Fee Committee budget hearing on Feb. 22:

1. We were denied recognition as a student group because of our membership dues and targeted to serve as an example to others, despite the fact that many student groups are nationally affiliated and charge

dues — this was blatant discrimination.

2. We had no advance notice that the issue of membership dues would be brought up by the IFC — our group has existed on campus for 25 years, and never before were dues an issue.

3. We had no notice that our budget hearing was even scheduled — a common problem other groups have had.

We hope in the future the IFC will act more responsibly and fairly to all student groups on campus, and give each one equal treatment.

Pearl Kim
ASID President
Maureen Belle
ASID Vice-president
Peggy Whelan
ASID Secretary
Laura Schaefer
ASID Treasurer

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.