

## Conflict of interest hard to find on IFC

ASUO Constitution Court was asked this week to consider the sticky question of "conflict of interest" — and whether Incidental Fee Committee member Armando Morales created such a conflict when he voted to approve the budget for the United States Student Association. The question was settled Wednesday when the court found no conflict of interest, and did so for the right reasons.

Morales serves as vice chairman of the lobbying group's Northwest region. The hearing request came from Thomas Mann, publisher of *Oregon Commentator*, who wants the court to consider whether Morales violated Amendment 4.6 which prohibits IFC members from voting on a budget when that members holds a paid position in the group under consideration.

Mann and the *Commentator* have long had it in for student lobbying groups such as USSA. Their position is that such groups waste student incidental fees. Despite their energetic efforts, they haven't had much success, and Mann's current campaign seems headed toward similar defeat. If the court should invalidate Morales' vote, the USSA budget will still pass by a 3-1-1 vote.

Realizing that USSA is protected for now, Mann and court members are wondering whether this case should be used to expand or clarify the intent of 4.6. Clarification of legal points is usually helpful, but we caution the court from expanding its definition of a conflict of interest too far.

It's our opinion that 4.6 should be narrowly construed to prohibit IFC members from getting monetary gain. The court is being asked to find that IFC members should be prohibited from voting on the budgets of groups they are involved with in other ways, and that's asking too much.

IFC members come to that board not as disinterested participants, but as people with constituencies and agendas. That's how it should be. IFC members are elected as representatives of the student body. We expect and encourage IFC members to represent the concerns of the constituency that elects them.

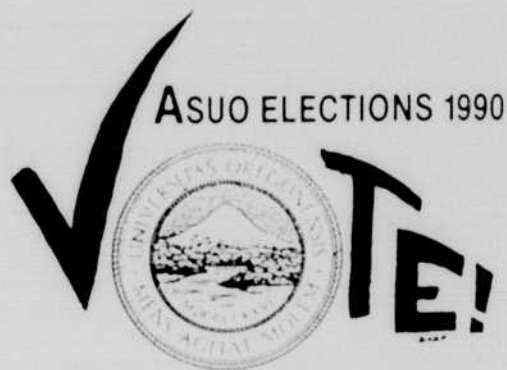
It's easy to see what unenforceable precedent would be established if the court expands 4.6. If a member of the Black Student Union or Gay and Lesbian Alliance is elected to IFC, we'd fully expect this member to represent the black or gay campus community. To gag these members from voting on their groups' budgets and the concerns that most affect their constituents would be to disempower them.

The argument against this interpretation of the proper role of an IFC member is that the committee will become ruled by special interests. To this, we offer that IFC is a seven-member board; any interest will need the vote of a majority. The checks and balance system is already in place. To adopt a conservative argument (and one often espoused by the *Commentator*) for a change, we urge the Constitution Court to not exceed its judicial authority and create law by decree.

## ODE endorsements for ASUO elections

Today is the last day of the ASUO general elections; be sure and vote today! Just as a reminder, here's the list of people the *Oregon Daily Emerald* endorsed for Incidental Fee Committee Seats and our positions on ballot measures. Take this with you to the polls.

- IFC two-year seats
  - Tim Hughes
  - Freddy Vilches
- Measure 1 — LTD Yes
- Measure 2 — Campus Radio Yes
- Measure 3 — OSPIRG Yes
- Measure 4 — Equal recruiting Yes
- Measure 5 — Riverfront toxics Yes
- Measure 6 — Environmental pledge Yes
- Measure 7 — Student insurance Option D
- Measure 8 — Counseling Center Yes
- Measure 9 — Child Care Yes



## University recycling woes embarrassing

Earth Day celebrations and TV specials are fading from the public's memory, and a situation is unfolding right here at home that illustrates the problems faced by putting environmentally sound beliefs into practice.

The Pearl Buck Center, a local facility for people with disabilities, had been recycling the University's waste paper to raise funds since August. But the center has notified the University administration that it will stop collecting paper next month.

There is no central location for picking up waste paper, and because of logistical problems, the center was losing up to \$800 a month. Recycling activities are also affected by a University rule, which states confidential documents must be shredded before they are recycled. This alone cost Pearl Buck 11 cents a pound, not good for a center that gets a large share of its funds from recycling.

The Physical Plant had previously performed the campus' recycling tasks, employing two students to collect the paper, and will take over once Pearl Buck bows out. But the plant also lost money in its recycling days, and officials are discussing just what to do with the program. The recycling program's future is in doubt.

With environmental issues being hotly debated right here in our own little corner of

the world, the University's recycling troubles are embarrassing. It is shameful that a way to rework the Pearl Buck agreement hasn't been found. Universities by nature generate tons of waste paper a year, and it is important for this school to divert its wadded-up memos and test papers back into use.

The opportunity is ripe for some sort of centralized recycling system, one where students could get involved directly in the process. A visible work-study or credit program could be set up for minimal cost, and would educate students while doing the world an environmental favor.

It should be added that the general attitude of most of the University population concerning recycling has been at best apathetic. It's not really that difficult to take the extra step to separate colored and white paper and put them in the appropriate bins. Recycling takes a little bit more effort than stuffing paper into a wastebasket, but consider the benefits.

Hopefully, with a little work from the University administration and its students, recycling will make the move from slogans and brochures to an environmentally sound reality.

## Letters

### Beware

Beware of some candidates for the United States Senate. Behind closed doors they are for sending troops into Central America to wage senseless war for profit.

They should be questioned carefully and exposed as frauds. I try to avoid senseless war. I've walked away from senseless war for many years. Nobody should be forced into a senseless fight by multimillionaire candidate for the U.S. Senate. The candidate who is for war is Mark Dayton from Minnesota.

Pete Fena  
Graduate student

### Hatfield

We have suspected all along that Senator Hatfield has been on the take from the timber companies and thus a staunch defender of clear-cutting our

state. It is outrageous to see the huge amount of political action committee money so blatantly in print, which bought his clout in Congress.

In my eyes, he is not doing anything for our Oregon but just for himself. He never "compromised" last summer! His greed speaks too loudly and only supports the real greed of the timber barons, with no regard for the workers.

He (and Packwood) just use the environmental community as scapegoats, thus farther dividing the community. Now is the time for Hatfield to take the lead into conversion of jobs into other fields and away from dependence on old growth.

Hilde Cherry  
Eugene

### Not amusing

I am not surprised that someone has attempted to minimize the significance of what I was

saying about *The Simpsons* (*ODE*, April 13). It is easier to deny that one finds amusement in a show that portrays abusive behavior than it is to admit to it.

To what degree are we addicted to abusive actions and/or shows? We can call it a satire, or a cartoon, or we can rationalize it a dozen ways. But it still comes back to portraying abusive behavior as acceptable and funny. It also exemplifies the abusive character "Bart" as being "rad, cool, or bad."

How many people come from families that treated each other similar to what is shown, and felt that the situation was normal because they didn't know anything else? *The Simpsons* "cartoon" desensitizes us to abuse and culls us into accepting behavior such as this to be acceptable, tolerable or even normal. That's the point; and it's not amusing.

Gary Darby  
Student

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