

Vilches, Colson win IFC seats

By Alice Thornton
Emerald Reporter

In a close race for two-year Incidental Fee Committee positions, Freddy Vilches and Michael Colson received the majority of votes in ASUO general elections last week.

Vilches, a current IFC member, was reelected with 979 votes. Colson received 804, beating opponent Tim Hughes by 57 votes.

"I was hoping Tim Hughes would have been elected too," Vilches said. "He would have been a good person to have on IFC again. He's had a lot of experience."

Vilches said the amount of help he received with his campaign gave him a lot of confidence in the election.

"I could tell that people trusted me," Vilches said. "I also got endorsements from a variety of people which shows I've been fair to a lot of student groups."

Improving the budget process is a goal for the coming year, Vilches said adding that he hopes the groups will meet their deadlines during next year's budget season.

"It will take a good IFC and a lot of help from organization leaders to make it work," Vilches said.

"It was a tough race throughout the entire election," Colson said. "It wasn't as negative a



Freddy Vilches



Michael Colson

race as it has been in past years."

Colson said his effort to talk to students during the campaign contributed to his victory.

"I thought I had a real good shot at winning," Colson said. "It was a matter of hoping the turnout remained constant."

In future IFC elections, Colson said he hopes there is an opportunity for more forums and debates between IFC candidates. Voters should be more educated so they do not have to rely on name recognition, he said.

"IFC positions are just as important as the ASUO executive offices," Colson said. "IFC races should be taken just as seriously. We need a more in-

formed voting population."

Vilches and Colson will take office May 25 along with the newly elected one-year seat IFC members.

"I hope we can establish some strong leadership in the new IFC," Colson said. "I hope we can avoid having people resign during the year. We need to keep the group intact. I'm pleased to see a lot of new blood in the committee."

Vilches said he hopes the transition will be smooth for the new IFC members, adding that he has already been working with the finance coordinator and the ASUO to prepare for next year.

Vilches encouraged all new IFC members to attend Tuesday's meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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increases to provide more counselors at the Counseling Center, to help pay state-mandated wage increases at the EMU child care center and to continue unlimited bus service on LTD.

OSPIRG's request for an 11 percent budget increase passed by a margin of about 1,200 votes despite a last-minute attempt to call into question the organization's funding.

"Of course we're really pleased," said Dalene Lovie,

OSPIRG's chapter chair. "It shows that a majority of students know what we do and trust us to use the money in a responsible way."

Students passed Measure 6, which asks graduates to sign a voluntary pledge stating they will consider the environmental consequences of any jobs they take.

Moreover, students want job recruiters who come to campus to sign equal opportunity employer statements saying they

will not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, sexual orientation or any other basis named in Oregon law. Measure 4 passed by 1,200 votes.

Finally, students asked the ASUO executive to encourage the University to keep toxic substances out of the Riverfront Research Park area.

All the ballot measures passed by comfortable margins, receiving at least 58 percent of the vote.

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showed no signs of common chlorinated solvents enzyme, toluene, ethylbenzene and total xylenes.

Squier's employees found 47 drums in a fenced storage yard north of a warehouse in the eastern portion of the area. Seven of the drums were labeled waste sulfuric acid and one was marked waste asbestos. However, the University office of environmental health said the drums were filled with rainwater and later arranged for their proper disposal.

Wiley said the drums were apparently being stored for use as waste receptacles. No soil samples were taken from the area because the drums were stored on a concrete pad.

She said the drums have been turned on their sides in accordance with DEQ regulations to prevent rainwater from collecting in them.

In their historical study of the area, Squier found that three other commercial properties were located near the Silva area in the early 1940s and 1950s. The properties were sites of a gasoline station, a battery and electric company, a truck repair company and a motor clinic.

The report said the environmental implications of these are unknown, and recommended no further investigation.



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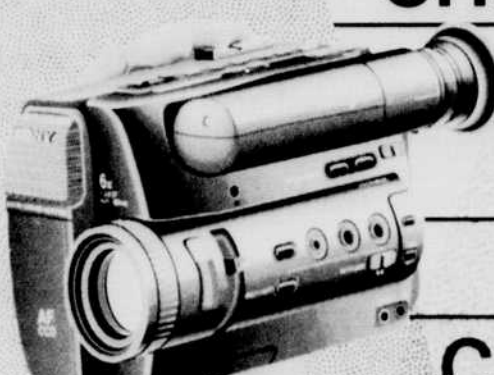
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