

Second chance for IFC to settle scandal

IFC Committee Chairman Mike Colson has wisely decided to abstain from voting and step down as chairman. Colson first offered to abstain from voting on budgeting matters only, reserving his right to vote on committee policy decisions.

But because the accusations that have been made against Colson are regarding operational procedures, the rest of the IFC voted to remove Colson's voting rights entirely.

Colson will abstain from voting until the Constitution Court decides on the legality of ASUO President Kirk Bailey's investigation.

Colson should be commended for taking the first step to allow the IFC to continue with its duties. But his acceptance of the non-voting restriction raises one important question: Because Colson won't be voting at IFC meetings, he could technically be removed from office after three weeks for non-fulfillment of duty.

The fate of Colson's future still rests in the votes of his fellow committee members.

The ASUO should make sure this does not happen. Removing Colson from office in such a back-handed manner would be skirting justice.

Colson has agreed to step down in good faith until this matter is settled. His decision to do so should not be exploited for political maneuvers.

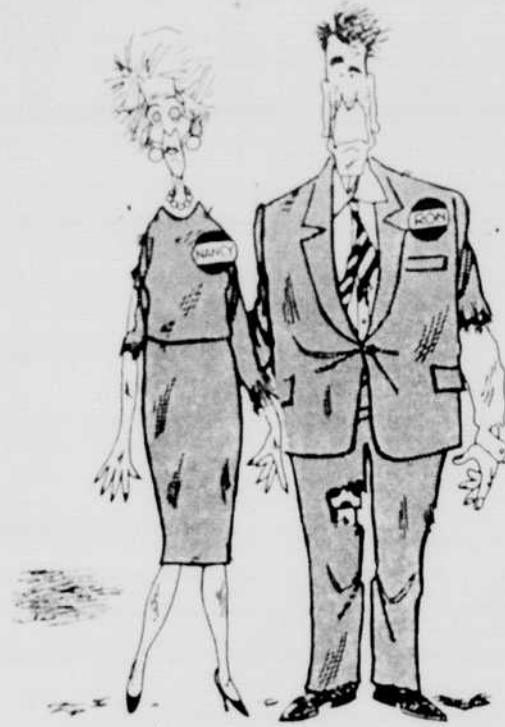
In the past, the Constitution Court has been a fairly slow moving body. In order to get the Colgate issue decided quickly (preferably before the upcoming campus elections, in which Colson is a candidate), Bailey should hand over all necessary materials to the Constitution Court as soon as possible.

Even after the Constitution Court has rendered its decision the issue will not be resolved. Regardless of which way the Constitution Court decides on Bailey's authority in conducting such an investigation, the fate of Colson's future still rests in the votes of his fellow committee members. Apparently there was not enough support to remove Colson before. The question is, will an OK from the Constitution Court change that?

The first time this was brought before the IFC there were not enough votes to remove Colson, but there were plenty of votes to shut the IFC down — basically saying, "We won't work with him if he won't resign."

Because Colson continues to vehemently deny Bailey's accusations, and because there has been no actual proof making it clear-cut who tampered with the notes, it is likely the IFC could face the same set of circumstances when they decide the issue again.

This time, IFC members will have to remove Colson, or if the votes aren't present for removal, accept him back as a member in good standing.



LETTERS

Clap your trap

Over the years I have read with interest the endless stream of letters published in the *Emerald* that were directed to some individual or group telling him, her or them to stifle incorrect opinions.

I simply want to say that I agree with each and every one of these letters. Furthermore, I wish to extend and democratize the message by saying: Why don't all of you shut up? That's right — every single one of you.

If everyone were to shut up, think how fine life would be. We'd never have to backhand anybody for failing to spell "womyn" correctly. We would never be assaulted by ads that encourage women (and occasionally men) to leap about in the altogether to the strains of awful disco music.

Why, we wouldn't even have to listen to George Bush explain how it's nice to bomb the Iraqis back to the bronze age but naughty to interfere in their internal affairs.

Enough of this "free exchange of diverse ideas" claptrap. As I always say, "Sticks and stones may break my bones — words are fine as long as they're mine."

On your mark. Get set. Shut up.

Dennis Fitzgerald
Journalism

One question

Looking objectively at the recent controversy surrounding Mike Colson, it is starting to seem like the victim is not Colson, but the student body as a whole.

An IFC that is freezing funds is useless. They were elected to distribute, not hold student money. Right now this responsibility lies solely on the shoulders of Colson.

Resigning would not be an admission of guilt for Colson, but a responsible move from someone who claims to care for the University.

Finally, I have one question

for Colson. If he knew over 40 days ago that Kirk Bailey was part of the note-tampering investigation, why did he wait until after the results were announced to cry foul?

Stephen Thomas
FAA

View from Hell

Regarding Anthony Russell's weasel whipping letter (*ODE*, Apr. 5):

If Russell is so intent on gagging and whipping people with leather belts who hold opinions opposite of his, I suggest he seek professional help; not only for his apparent sexual perversions but also for his complete intolerance for contradictory viewpoints.

Russell's letter concerning "Our Version of Hell," a community access television program on Cable 34, is clearly an unwarranted attack on some very upstanding young adults who have found the courage to take a conservative perspective of today's issues and televise it. This viewpoint is very refreshing in a community that has become so accustomed to viewing events through a fogged liberal eyeglass that people can't distinguish a successful war effort from a hole in their tie-dye underwear.

I have often watched "Our Version of Hell" and encourage others to do so the same every Monday at 5:30 p.m. The program is well-written, witty and politically insightful.

These media trendsetters should not be "whipped out of town" as suggested, rather they should receive applause, not beatings. Russell, on the other hand, should enroll in some logic courses instead of so

many peace studies classes and hacky-sack tournaments.

People with his attitude should spend less time on the steps of the Federal Building and more in the stacks of the library. Whoops — they cut down your trees for more books. Never mind.

These brave souls have my applause for the brilliance, wit, insight and sweat they have incorporated into their skirts. I suggest that intolerant liberals wake up to reason. These heroes of media are anything but "filth monkeys." Russell sounds like the weasel. Pop goes the weasel.

Joseph Hume
Student

Liberalism

In response to Bret Yager's "Lost Ideal" (*ODE*, Apr. 5): Homophobia isn't liberal. Liberalism is based upon the political philosophy of the "belief in progress and the essential goodness of man" (*Liberalism* 2c., Webster dictionary).

Homophobia is just as unacceptable as heterophobia, anti-semitism, or any other prejudiced doctrine. Why should there only be tolerance of homosexuality and not acceptance?

Homophobia stems from ignorance and fear of what one does not know. Ignorance is not acceptable.

If Yager considers himself a liberal then he should believe in progress through understanding and learning about those things which he does not know.

Wesley Reinsch
Amy Hammond
Students

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

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