

Court calls Colson's ouster unjust

By Kirsten Lucas
Emerald Reporter

The ASUO Constitution Court ruled Wednesday that the Incidental Fee Committee violated constitutional procedures when it removed former IFC member Mike Colson from his elected office last summer.

Colson was unfairly denied the opportunity to defend himself against allegations that led to his ouster from student gov-

ernment, and he may never get that opportunity, according to the court's decision.

The court refused to reinstate Colson to his two-year IFC seat on the basis that he would only be removed again.

A controversial ASUO investigation last spring found Colson responsible for altering January IFC minutes. The IFC subsequently voted to remove him from the committee.

Notice of the meeting to re-

move Colson was published in the *Emerald* as a "general meeting." At the meeting, Colson was informed that members would vote to remove him from office. Debate on the issue was halted by an official motion and Colson was voted out unanimously.

In the court's opinion, "the 'privileges and immunities' (Section 2.3) of the ASUO Constitution requires an elected student officer to be entitled to

adequate notice of an attempt to remove him/her from office. That officer is also entitled to a reasonable opportunity to be heard concerning his/her removal."

The court found that Colson did not have this notice or opportunity and was therefore unfairly removed.

However, the court did not see fit to put Colson back on

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Mike Colson

Librarians sorting returned items

Stolen documents not yet ready for public use

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

An eight-day journey has safely returned more than \$600,000 in rare documents and books stolen from the Knight Library four years ago, but it will be a few months before they become available for public use.

Fraser Cocks, curator of the library's Special Collections, returned from FBI headquarters in Omaha, Neb., on Nov. 12. He also made the trip last January to testify at Stephen Blumberg's trial.

In March 1990, FBI agents found Blumberg's 17-room Victorian house in Ottumwa, Iowa, filled with 19 tons of stolen materials. He appeared to have kept all the stolen items, worth \$5 million, for his own use.

University library staff will thoroughly inventory the recovered books and documents before returning them to circulation. However, Cocks is "95 percent sure that 95 percent of it is there."

The items stolen consisted mainly of letters and diaries of Oregon pioneers.

Cocks said it is nearly impossible to verify that all of the stolen items were returned because some listed as missing after the theft may not have been stolen.

At the same time, some books that the library did not know were missing surfaced at Blumberg's house, which means there could be more stolen items unaccounted for.

Despite the discovery of items missing from 327 libraries and museums over 16 years, Blumberg cannot be placed at any crime scene. He was convicted of possession and transportation of stolen materials on Jan. 31, however.

When Cocks arrived on his flight from San Diego, he met with FBI personnel in the five-room office suite where the books were stored, a place that had become known as "the bookstore."

"We had to check over several books that had

been found since the trial," Cocks said.

The books and documents had been held since the trial because the FBI could not positively identify the rightful owners of 20 percent of the books. This was a problem because some of the 20,000 seized books and boxes of manuscripts, antiques and collectables belonged to Blumberg.

"Thieves have rights, too," Cocks said.

Blumberg spent two months going through the unidentified materials with FBI, verifying what belonged to him, and what belonged to one of the libraries.

"He was cooperative in his own way," Cocks said. "I think he took pleasure in telling the FBI agents they were wrong about who a book belonged to."

The day after Cocks arrived in Omaha, he spent three hours going through the list of books and manuscripts missing from the University, item by item, with FBI agents.

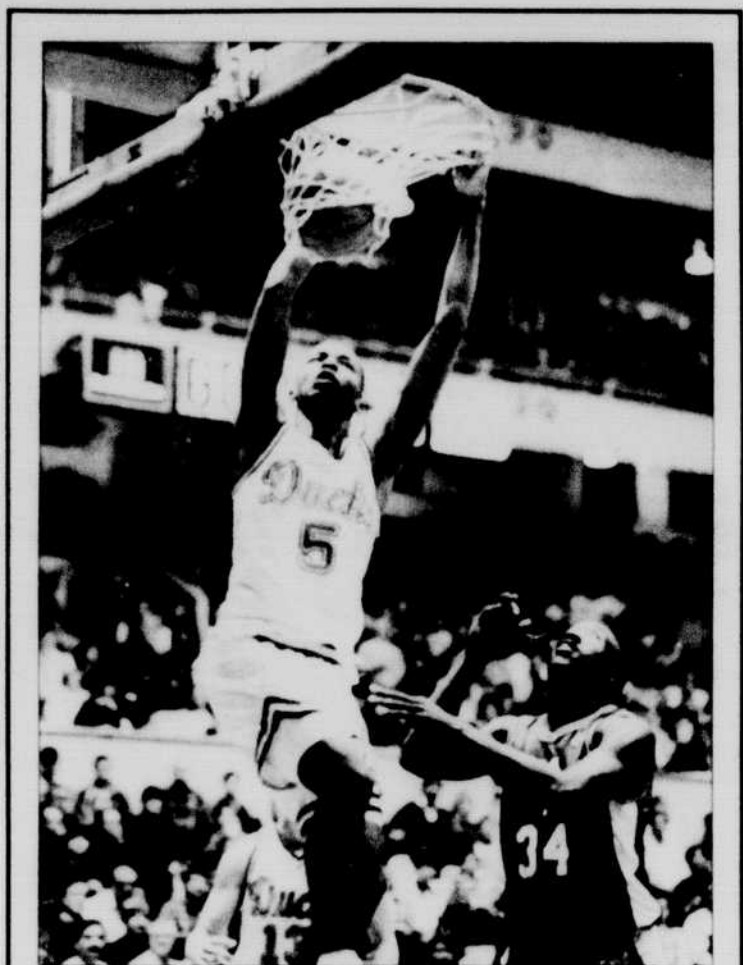
Once he signed the necessary paperwork, Cocks loaded up the boxes of books and documents into a rented truck and drove back to Eugene. The FBI told the University in mid-October that the books were ready for release.

"If anybody's going to land them in a ditch after all this time, it's going to be me, not an airline or a moving company," Cocks said of his decision to drive the truck himself.

Now that the books are safely back at the University, Cocks said there would have been dangers no matter how the books were transported. He said he thought it was best to have a library employee with the books 24 hours a day.

Fortunately, the boxes of rare letters and documents from Oregon's pioneer history were treated with a relative amount of care. Blumberg wrote in some of the books, but Cocks said it would have

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Power layup

Clyde Jordan slams home two points in the Ducks' losing effort against Athletes in Action on Saturday. See story, Page 8.

Photo by John Stoops

Study says Oregon's environment the nation's best

By Michael Sears
Emerald Contributor

Oregon has the healthiest environment of any state in the nation, according to the 1991-92 Green Index put out by the Institute for Southern Studies in North Carolina.

The index ranked Oregon best overall in 256 categories covering everything from the voting records of state representatives to the amount of toxic waste pumped into rivers.

This is the first year the index has been published, but the ISS now hopes to put out the reference on a yearly basis.

The index will be used as a tool for environmentalists and state governments to see where their state stands on environmental health issues, co-author

Despite some low scores, state ranked high in Green Index study

Mary Lee Kerr said.

According to the index, Oregon state and congressional representatives have the second best voting record on environmental issues. Not only do Oregon state and federal representatives work for laws that protect the environment, they also consistently vote to provide money for those laws, Kerr said.

California was ranked first for having environmentally conscious lawmakers.

Oregon has one of the worst records on oil spills, with nearly 2 million gallons of oil polluting the state's waterways last

year. The index put 47 other states before Oregon in this category.

Forest conservation policies also put Oregon in 48th place, according to the index. The state's reliance on the timber industry resulted in the loss of nearly 9 percent of Oregon's forests between 1982 and 1987, Kerr said.

Aside from categories that are considered standard environmental issues, the ISS also included public and workplace safety in the study, Kerr said.

"We have a fairly broad definition of environmental health that includes humans and their

environments," Kerr said.

Under this category, Oregon ranked worst in the nation for providing state funding for public health.

Despite a few poor rankings, Oregon did well enough in a large enough number of categories to earn itself the top spot in the nation, Kerr said.

Other states that received top listings in separate categories were Nevada for water cleanliness; New Jersey for curbside recycling; New York for lowest per-capita energy consumption; and South Dakota for lowest level of hazardous waste generated.

Alabama was given the worst overall environmental health record by the index.

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Housing

Six months after being denied access to family housing because of their sexual orientation, Ann Piazza and Pamela Harbeintner are still in the "pushing papers" stage of their lawsuit against the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

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Winners

The Oregon women's basketball team Sunday held off a late charge by Northwestern and emerged victorious, 79-69. The Wildcats are ranked 16th in the nation.

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