

# Con Court waffles on major decisions

It's beginning to look like a habit.

In almost every major decision this year — Jennifer Bills and Sheila Stickel, Mike Colson, and now, the ASUO stipend controversy — the Constitution Court has gone right up to the line and backed off.

If wrist-slapping were an Olympic sport, the Constitution Court would be the favorites for the gold.

When Colson, who was ousted from the Incidental Fee Committee last year, brought his case in front of the court, he had sympathetic ears. In fact, the court ruled Colson's removal was unjust, but would not put him back on the IFC because he would "just get removed again anyway."

When Bills was accused of using student funds to send Stickel to a USSA conference despite an earlier Constitution Court ruling against it, the court was angered. Bills had violated the spirit of the law, but was not punished because it was "unintentional."

And finally, on Tuesday, the Constitution Court ruled on a case in which the ASUO (particularly Bills) was accused of violating IFC rules when she reallocated staff salaries last year.

Do you want to hear the result or can you make an educated guess?

Yup, the court ruled Bills was in violation of the rule, but didn't chastise her further because the violation wasn't intentional and not been done in bad faith.

Conspiracy and fraternization are perhaps a little too strong to describe the situation, but there's an alarming precedent being set. It seems every time the Constitution Court has to make a tough decision, it drops the ball, says, "aw shucks," and backs off.

This is not how a ruling court should act.

To the members of the Constitution Court: If there is a case, rule on it. If there is a violation, punish the perpetrators. The punishment does not need, nor should it be, draconian, but the current trend sends a message that violators of the ASUO Constitution can get off scot-free if they can prove they didn't mean to do it.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

However, there was one thing brought up in the most recent case which does make sense. In defense, the ASUO argued that the salaries and positions for the ASUO executive were estimates by the previous administration.

The ASUO has a point. The incoming president has a right to decide how he or she wants to set up the executive staff, and how much to pay them. Take a note IFC: move the ASUO budget hearing back until after the new president takes office.

**If wrist-slapping were an Olympic sport, the Constitution Court would be the favorites for the gold.**

# ASUO CONSTITUTION COURT

## Ruling Form Letter

The ASUO Constitution Court finds that (ASUO officer's name here) violated section (take your pick) of the ASUO Constitution when he/she did \_\_\_\_\_.

However the court believes this violation was carried out 1). unintentionally 2). not in bad faith 3). due to ignorance of the law 4). because no one cares, including us. Therefore, we find that no punishment or sanctions are necessary. (Thereby, letting the court off the hook once again.)

## LETTERS

### Donor sought

If you could save someone's life, wouldn't you try? The Asian/Pacific American Student Union wants the community to know that you can by participating in the National Marrow Donor Program.

Every year, thousands of people die from leukemia and other fatal blood diseases. Many of these deaths could be prevented by a bone marrow transplant.

A transplant is accomplished by finding a matching marrow donor with the same unique tissue characteristics of an individual's bone marrow, which is usually inherited. Thus, the best chance of finding a matched donor is with someone from the same racial background.

The situation is especially desperate for Asian-Americans and other ethnic minorities. Asians make up only five percent of the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. The chance that a patient will find a matching, unrelated donor is between 100 to one in a million.

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Walnut Room of the EMU, APASU will host a testing drive for all persons of Asian ancestry, American or foreign. All that is done on testing day is a simple blood test in which less than two tablespoons of blood are taken. The blood will be computer analyzed and put in a data bank in order to find a match.

There are also times available after 12 p.m. for drop-in testing.

For those not of Asian ancestry, APASU still encourages participation in the program. For more information, call the APASU office at 346-4342.

Gary Hoh  
APASU co-director

### Humor

I'm responding to Nathan Harrell's letter, "Different Game" (ODE, Feb. 17). I found it quite humorous that he'd accuse someone of living in a hole for the past several years, when it appears that he has.

Harrell's solution to put a trade wall up to Japan with a sign reading, "We'll open us when you do" is absolutely ridiculous. Japanese goods are a part of our daily lives and to ban Japanese goods would be

devastating to America.

American companies would object to Harrell's "protectionism" solution because companies, like American International Group, receive half of their billion dollar pretax profit from overseas.

Why is it that a Ford, which is built by Japanese workers in Hiroshima, is a U.S. car, but a Honda built by Americans in Ohio is not? American companies are urging consumers to "Buy American" when their products are made in foreign countries, which could have supplied jobs for Americans.

You'll also find American goods made with foreign goods, like American computers containing chips made by foreign companies. So who's the real culprit?

It may be easy for Harrell to point the finger, but maybe he should consider whom to point the finger at.

Another point I'd like to make to Harrell is that Japan is playing the same game as America, but they're just playing to win.

Cathy Kim  
Accounting

### Never mind

Was Lucas J. Gutman watching the same film I was? Oh, wait, I guess he was. Never mind.

John Shenon  
Student

### Vision

Many people have responded negatively to Mike Freeman's column regarding JoSonja Watson (ODE, Feb. 6), but I think Mike has a point. The three charges against her are shoplifting, receiving overpayment and trying to get a fake ID.

I fail to see what any of these incidents have to do with functioning as a representative of the students at the University.

The ozone layer is disappearing, people in Russia are starving, but you guys are arguing

whether a student should try to get a fake ID or not. Well, let's admit that shoplifting is not the most adorable behavior in the world, but what difference will it make? Will it reduce the U.S. national debt by one red cent? Will it prevent the state from slashing the University budget? Will it help to slow down the speed at which the Oregon forest is disappearing?

I am disappointed to see that higher education has only taught these friends to see pieces of sand, but not the beach. I'd suggest these folks go to Yellowstone Park and practice their eyesight there.

Xiaoyan Yan  
Education

### Mistake

We are enraged by the miscredit in the letters section of the *Emerald* Feb. 17 issue. The letter credited to John Whiteside was actually authored by Daniel Stiles as well.

How typical of the *Emerald* to present an anti-rape letter as a one-sided gender issue. Rape is a crime that affects both men and women. We find it hard to believe that it was a truly honest mistake.

It seems perhaps the common myth that rape is a woman's problem alone is believed by the *Emerald's* editorial staff. We would like to see this mistake acknowledged immediately.

John Whiteside  
Daniel Stiles  
Students

### Tired

In the *ODE* article reporting Neil Postman's address to the students (Feb. 18), he is said to have advised people "to be wary of the trend of multiculturalism and the political forces behind them."

I don't know about you, but I'm a little wary of someone who tells me what I should or should not be tired of.

Gina Harris  
Student

# Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3189, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

<b>Managing Editor</b>	Pat Malach	<b>News Editor</b>	Chris Bourneff
<b>Editorial Editor</b>	Cathie Daniels	<b>Editorial Editor</b>	Don Peters
<b>Graphics Editor</b>	Jeff Paslay	<b>Sports Editor</b>	Jack Berg
<b>Entertainment Editor</b>	Layne Lakalish	<b>In Touch Editor</b>	Mike Freeman
	<b>Night Editor:</b> Daralyn Trappe		

<b>Associate Editors</b>	<b>Student Government/Activities:</b> Daralyn Trappe	<b>Community:</b> Rene DeCar
	<b>Higher Education Administration:</b> Carrie Dennett	<b>Features:</b> Lisa Milegan

**Reporters:** Tammy Baley, David Charbonneau, Karen Engels, Jayson Jacoby, Rivers Janssen, Gerrit Koopping, Kirsten Lucas, Hope Neason, Corleen Pohig

**Copy Editors:** Dan Eisler, Karen Engels, Fred Hagen, Paul Halvorson, Sheila Mitha, Kathy Sherlock

**Photographers:** Sean Poston, Michael Shindler

**Advertising:** Jean Bradley, Scott Dana, Leslie Fiat, David Gauntlett, Jennifer Huckins, Brian Kilburn, Tom Leach, Randon Riley, Catherine Royce, Dustin Stadel, Vicki Tobin, Sharon Vaz

**Classified:** Peggy McGinn, Manager, Kevin Austerman, Alan Curtis, Sheila Lorenzo

**Business:** Kathy Carbone, Supervisor, Judy Connolly

**Production:** Ingrid White, Production Coordinator, Sarah Clark, Corine Frier, Kristina Granger, Susan Head, Jennifer Huey, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Matt Morin, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith, Anne Stephenson, Jennifer Viale, Todd Williams

**General Manager:** Judy Riotti

<b>Advertising Director:</b> Bryan R. Coppedge	<b>Production Manager:</b> Michele Ross
<b>Newsroom:</b> 346-5511	<b>Display Advertising:</b> 346-3712
<b>Business Office:</b> 346-5512	<b>Classified Advertising:</b> 346-4343