

## Election board needs law lesson

Last week's primary elections were sufficiently flawed to raise serious questions as to how the elections board operates and how ASUO elections are conducted in general.

Poor planning and a number of oversights by the elections board resulted in violations of the election rules and cost students at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology their opportunity to vote.

The board may have also violated the Oregon Public Records law, election rules and the spirit of an Oregon law pertaining to post-election procedures when it refused to release tentative voting results to the *Emerald* Wednesday night.

Election rules require that students at OIMB be given the opportunity to vote, but ballots and voting information were not received until Tuesday night, not nearly soon enough for students to make an informed decision.

A graduate student at OIMB said the board called the institute Thursday and said students could still vote, as long as the ballots were faxed to the board by 5 p.m. However, the election ended Wednesday. The board's apparent willingness to ignore this minor fact demonstrates a severe disregard for the electoral process.

Election rules require the board to give students the opportunity to vote in advance if they will not be able to vote during the prescribed times. Although no students took advantage of this offer, it may be because they were not aware of the opportunity.

They would have been, however, if the board had published the provisions for absentee voting in the *Emerald*, as specifically required by election rules. Although the election board said this was an oversight, it may have been sufficient to alter the results of the election. But we'll never know.

There has also been an uproar concerning the fact that a representative from the Leslie Warren/Mark Johnson campaign was not present for the recount Thursday. Election board members said they left a message with a representative of the campaign, which is all they were required to do.

Election rules do not require the presence of campaign observers, just that they be permitted to attend.

There have also been persistent, albeit unsubstantiated, rumors that graduate and law students were told by poll workers that they could not vote for president or vice president, and that international students were told they could not vote because they were not citizens.

All that is required of any student is a valid ID card. Election board members, equally aghast at these rumors, hopefully will track down the source of these rumors and attempt to verify or dismiss them.

On Wednesday night, the board refused to give the *Emerald* tentative results. In 1991, the Oregon Attorney General ruled the ASUO Executive Office is subject to the Public Records Law, which states, "Every person has a right to inspect any public record of a public body in this state, except as otherwise expressly provided by (Oregon Revised Statutes) 192.501 to 192.505."

A public record includes "any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business." As soon as the board had a written tally of votes, regardless of whether it was complete or even accurate, that tally became a public record.

Further, ORS 254.525(b), concerning post-election procedures, says, "If all votes cast at the polling place are tallied there, the election board shall post one copy of the return sheet in a prominent location outside the polling place."

Although Oregon election law does not apply to student government elections, the spirit of the law should, and it says results must be posted. It does not say they must be complete or accurate — merely posted.

Hopefully, the election board will learn from its mistakes this year and strive to ensure future elections, including this week's general elections, are conducted in a more professional manner.

**Hopefully, the election board will learn from its mistakes this year and strive to ensure future elections, including this week's general elections, are conducted in a more professional manner.**



## LETTERS

### God helps

For more information in understanding sexuality from a Christian perspective, call or write to the addresses listed below.

Love in Action, 2130 4th Street, San Rafael, CA, 94401. (415) 457-9489.

Metancia, P.O. Box 33039 or at 115 N. 85th #101, Seattle, WA, 98133. (206) 783-3500.

Many of these counselors have probably come from a background of questioning their own sexuality, and found truth that has worked for them.

Janeen Elmont  
Eugene

### Measure 9

Ballot Measure 9 asks if the ASUO should issue a statement declaring the OCA "wrong, abnormal, and perverse."

The reason I oppose the OCA is precisely because its members make that kind of hateful, generalizing statement. For the ASUO to do the same would bring us down to their level.

I think the OCA is a terrible group and a threat to our freedom and way of life. I think they should be defeated, not imitated. Please join me in voting no on Measure 9.

Russell Gladhart  
General Science

### Have faith

Over the past few weeks, I have followed the dispute over Biblical declarations of right and wrong. Most of the letters and articles have focused on homosexuality. I believe these arguments have entirely missed the truth that Jesus preached: salvation is received through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, "righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe" (Romans 3:22). It also says, "everything that does not come from faith is sin" (Romans 14:23). Therefore, regardless of one's sexual orientation, those who are without faith in Jesus Christ sin in everything they do.

Salvation cannot be attained by following the law of the Old Testament because we cannot possibly fulfill its requirements (try it and see). Seeing this, God has provided salvation for all who put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And evidence of one's faith is a changed life, a life in which one more and more behaves as Jesus did.

Jesus loves everybody. But it's only to those who believe in Him that he grants eternal life and the escape from eternal punishment. It's all in the Bible. See for yourselves.

Father, I pray that You would give power to the students on this campus to understand how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and give them the ability to offer that love back to you. Amen.

Eric Eckhart  
Physics

### Bad Ed

I recently stopped by the office of the *Oregon Commentator* to complain about the blatant misogyny of its republished, satirical article "Ramride." I explained to publisher Ed Carson that all satire has a message, and that "Ramride" implies that women do not really want protection from rape; they want sex.

Of course Carson denied this, but could not come up with any plausible alternative message. Instead, he acted as if there was no intended message at all, only meaningless humor. Since when do words have no meaning?

I am arguing that by associating "Saferide" with a "whorehouse on wheels" (my own words), the writer of this article, and by association the *Commentator* staff, perpetuates the age-old stereotype that women ask for rape. At best, they are completely insensitive to the serious problem of campus violence against women. At worst, they are promoting it.

It is irresponsible to encourage this attitude on our campus, no matter how thinly veiled, in the name of "satire."

Karen Smyer  
GTF  
Romance Languages

### Shelley said

It seems all we hear of lately is the catastrophes going on in this world. Are there any good people out there willing to actually make a change? People talk of change, but when the heat is

turned on, they are turned off.

I believe Percy Shelley wrote it best in *Hellas* in 1822:

"Oh cease! must hate and death return? Cease! must men kill and die? Cease! drain not its dregs the urn of bitter prophecy. The world is weary of the past. Oh, might it die or rest at last!"

To make change, we must forgive for the past, look ahead to the future and get involved in the present.

Kristen Kessler  
Psychology

### IFC debate

The *Emerald* has a responsibility as a media member to run objective articles and opinionated editorials about events that directly or indirectly affect students. It should also run information about the larger issues at hand. This, I should think, includes the IFC candidate debate of April 15.

The debate, which was between the nominees for next year's vacant seats on the powerful Incidental Fee Committee, gave students a chance to see who and what the candidates stood for. This is an important media event. At least I think so. The *Emerald* apparently does not agree with me. It did not send so much as one representative from its humble media establishment to cover the debate.

Why not?

Do the students who did not attend deserve not to know what happened? Does the *Emerald* have the choice to choose which event it would or would not like to cover depending on the editors' moods. Is the IFC so far removed from the student body that the *Emerald* did not think the debate concerned us? The last I heard, the IFC was responsible for the distribution of \$4.6 million of student fees for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

The irony is that the *Emerald* ran a large ad paid for by the ASUO in the April 14 issue encouraging students to attend. Students attended. The *Emerald* did not. Maybe the ad should have been directed to the staff of the newspaper encouraging its members to attend instead.

Micah Jung  
Undeclared