

# Election results: Apathy by a landslide, IFC just slides

Election time has come and gone here at good ol' Oregon. This current political season has witnessed a 5 percent bumper crop of the student body taking five minutes to vote on nearly a half-million dollars in student fees.

No wise-guy punch line is necessary here. As someone paid to determine what students want to read about, however, I can only come to the conclusion that the *Emerald* has given WAAAAAYYYYY too much coverage to student government. Only 985 students out of nearly 17,000 actually voted in the general election.

On a strictly percentage basis, only 5 percent of our space should be devoted to the inner workings of Suite 4.

I apologize for the lack of insight and will use all my pull around here (slim to none) to make sure we cover the important things such as the barrage of theme weeks coming up the rest of the term. Cliche Sensitivity Awareness Week or Endless Drone of Marimbas Week are just a couple of examples.

Or better yet, we could run issues entirely filled with the mean-spirited, oft-times unbelievably repetitious letters to the editor.

But there's always room for some post-election insights. So for the 16,000-plus students who couldn't give a damn about student government and its elections, Calvin and Hobbes and the crossword are on Page 15.

Now, the rest of the story. As usual, the small, incestuous voting block of ASUO inbreeders has elected its hand-chosen leaders to push the interests of a handful of students on campus. Other than deciding how much money the "student government" will take from the apathetic majority's wallets, there really is no reason to care who is running the ASUO "add-a-line-to-my-resume" office.

As voters (or lack thereof) point out year after year after year, student government is irrelevant — unless of course you care how much money it takes from you and where that money goes.

Enter the Incidental Fee Committee. In a rational world, the IFC would be a group of well-

trained, professionally acting budget analysts carefully reviewing each program's fiscal allocations to decide how much money the programs need to operate efficiently.

But this is Oregon. Throw the word "rational" out the window.

Until a common-sense minded voting block recently evolved on the IFC, the committee was led and dominated by several ideologues who voted politics rather than fiscal prudence.

Although the committee is back on track and its members seem determined to follow through with their elected duties, the political conniving and manipulation exhibited throughout most of the budget season nearly ran the committee into the ground.

The typical recipe for an IFC increase consisted of reciting a few simple buzzwords: diversity, empowerment, diversity, indigenous, diversity, access, diversity, hand-ground corn, diversity, multicultural, etc.

A liberal sprinkling of these words would ensure an increase, whether you wanted to pay for karaoke night, parties at the Hilton or tortillas made of corn grown by a Latina. It worked even if you wanted \$25,000 to bring in speakers to a conference that less than 5 percent of the student body would ever attend.

Throw out the ledgers and fiscal examination, throw in the magic words.

Hocus pocus, this picture's out of focus. And surprise, now the administration wants to take back the magic wand.

In one year, the special-interest politics of the chairman and vice chairwoman have managed to provoke a proposal that would limit the power students have exercised over incidental fees for years. By abusing the power inherent in a committee that allocates nearly \$5 million, the power-seekers have caused — not been victims of — a move to "disempower" students.

What's that phrase again? Oh, yeah, self-fulfilling

prophecy.

The special-interest politics of one or two IFC leaders has created friction, tension, divisiveness and a death-march atmosphere at the committee's hearings. Is it any wonder three members just weren't having enough fun to stick it out for the entire year?

Sadly, the outlook for next year's IFC is even more dismal. The apathetic majority hasn't learned, allowing the ASUOers and their groupies to put their buds in government yet again.

The most frightening pick of the election is that of Tonija Lynelle Edwards for a one-year IFC position. This personal reaction to Edwards' win does not stem from her politics or fiscal agenda, but rather a memory from a lowly *Emerald* freelance reporter who recollects her tenure as IFC chairwoman in 1989-90.

It was my first-ever assignment for the *Emerald*. I nervously showed up prepared to do my best and impress my peers. Unfortunately, the committee was not so inspired. No one had a tape to record the meeting for minutes, so Edwards selflessly volunteered to

go buy a cassette.

Forty-five minutes to an hour later, she returned with said tape in hand. And a couple of donuts. And a Coca-Cola. And several CDs she had picked out while the rest of us waited in the claustrophobic confines of Century Room A.

The "professional" standards of the IFC are sure to increase under Edwards' influence.

Despite Edwards' apparent lack of consideration for others, she may at least make committee dynamics interesting for next year by being what the committee needs — a strong-willed, self-assured woman-able to see through IFC Chairman Steve Masat's groveling yet destructive petty power politics and stomp the lead out of him like the softest of No. 2 pencils.

Pat Malach is editor of the *Emerald*.



Write Angles

Pat Malach

**... she returned with said tape in hand. And a couple of donuts. And a Coca-Cola. And several CDs she had picked out while the rest of us waited in the claustrophobic confines of Century Room A.**

## LETTERS

### In writing please

In regards to the article about the ASUO recount (*ODE*, April 27), I would like to make several comments. First off, as the Leslie Warren/Mark Johnson campaign representative, the elections board informed me Wednesday that there would be a recount at an undetermined time and place and that the candidates would be contacted.

I inquired if they would let me know by 12:30 p.m. Thursday. They said they would. I told

them if they could not find Warren or Johnson that I could be contacted at work before that time, and I would make the appropriate arrangements.

I left work at 12:30 p.m. and checked back between classes throughout the day, but because I had not heard from them, I assumed they had contacted Warren or Johnson. They had not.

This is just one of several incidents I was referring to when I said, "we had not been notified about anything." This lack of

communication was typical and problematic throughout the campaign.

Elections board member James McCafferty said they began counting at 3:30 p.m. Elections board coordinator Tracy Dennis said they notified campaigns at 4 p.m. Does anyone else see a problem here?

To respond to McCafferty — No, we did not ask for a written invitation. We merely expected the common courtesy that should be accorded to any candidate, to be told what's going

on. Next time, we will ask for a written invitation. Apparently, the recount was an invitation-only event.

Michelle Kuwasaki  
Journalism/Sociology

### More than obey

I would like to make a few comments on the letter written by Eric Eckhart titled "Have faith" (*ODE*, April 27).

It is true that people need to have faith in Jesus Christ, but that

is simply not enough. To obey his commandments and his word is what he calls us to do.

He gave us a choice. He doesn't want robots, yet at the same time we can't only give him half of our lives.

It is my prayer that people will have faith, obey God and read the Bible — all of it with an open heart.

Even the New Testament talks about how homosexuality is wrong.

Kristen Kessler  
Psychology



**TONIGHT**.....  
**Lloyd Jones Struggle**  
**SATURDAY 5/1**.....  
**Terraplanes**  
**SUNDAY 5/2**.....  
 Unplugged \$1  
**MONDAY 5/3**.....  
 Blues Jam \$1  
**TUESDAY 5/4**.....  
 High St. \$2  
**WEDNESDAY 5/5**.....  
**BEAT FARMERS**  
 with  
 LACH & Guardians of  
 American Morality  
 375 E. 7th • 484-7181

## T-SHIRT SALE!

**20% OFF**

**ALL HANES & ONEITA T'S**

Prices effective through May  
Some restrictions may apply



896-0101

# ECHO

S H I R T S

## TACK & SADDLE AUCTION

Tuesday, May 4 • 7:00 p.m.

To be sold at **Public Auction**; 60 heavy using saddles, built on bull hide trees. Most with 5 year guarantee. Also, English, Australian and Pony saddles. Pads, halters, bridles, cinches, leads, lariats, silver show bridles, grooming items, winter blankets, spurs, bits, English bridles and hundreds of additional items. This sale includes just about anything used on or about a horse.  
Viewing from 6:00 p.m.

**Lane County Fairgrounds**  
796 W. 13th St., Eugene  
Auctioneer: Mike Murphy  
(502) 592-6727

