

Court uses Spock, hotline for opinions

The ASUO Constitution Court was shooting 33 percent from the free-throw line Friday after it issued its latest set of bizarre opinions.

The court ruled on three cases regarding the recent ASUO elections. Two cases requested new elections and another requested a reversal of decision by the ASUO Elections Board.

In its only correct opinion, the court ruled that Oscar Garcia was elected to the Student Senate even though he did not file for the general election ballot. Garcia made the ballot after running a successful write-in campaign in the primary election.

The court ruled that Garcia did receive more votes in the general election than his opponent, and thus it is in the best interests of the students that the candidate they elected be appointed to office.

However, the court went way off the mark in ruling on complaints from Leslie Warren and Mark Johnson, candidates for ASUO Executive. The two complained the elections board violated its rules by not giving students the chance to vote via absentee ballot.

The court ruled that the violation did occur but was "unable to subject the orderly operation of government and the student body to what would be a tumultuous period based purely on a hunch." This is after the court points out that Warren and Johnson "lost this election by an extremely narrow margin," and that "it would appear that (calling new elections) is the best thing that could be done."

In what is sure to be a resounding legal precedent, the court ultimately based its decision on a line uttered by Mr. Spock in the last 10 minutes of *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*: "The needs of the many outweigh those of the few, or the one." A solid legal foundation upon which to render a decision.

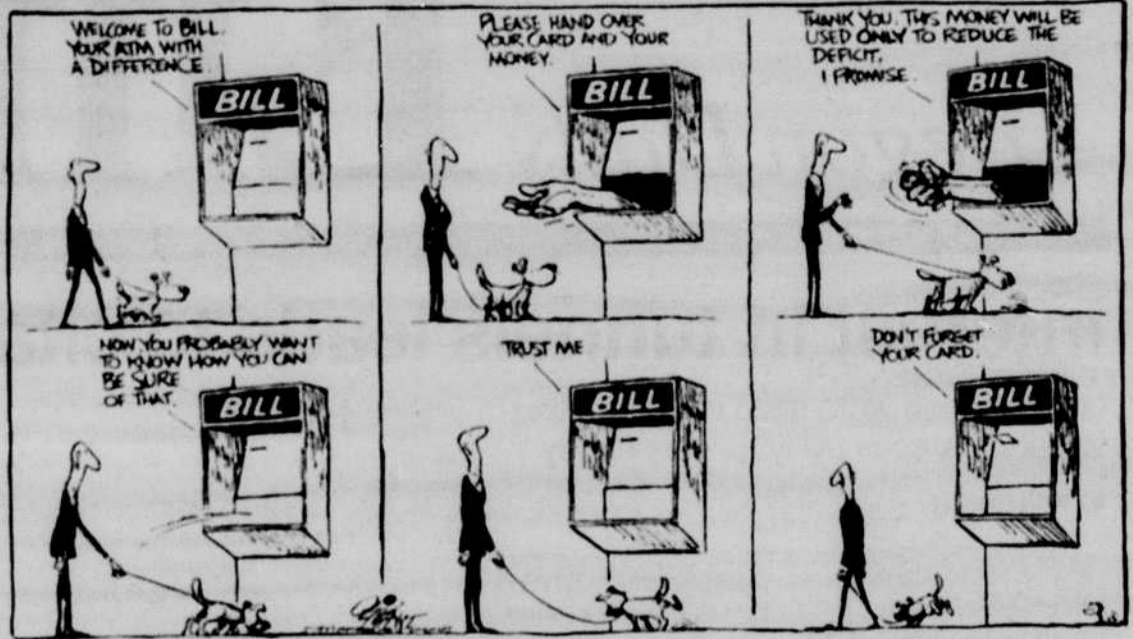
This is the second time in two years the court has decided that a rule has been violated and has done nothing about it. The last time was in November 1991, when the court ruled then-Incidental Fee Committee Chairman Mike Colson was improperly removed from office but decided the IFC would simply vote him off again, so the court refused to reappoint him.

These decisions seem more likely to originate with Dione Warwick's "Psychic Friends Hotline" than from any judicial source.

Finally, the court issued a statement asserting the *Emerald* falls within the authority of the Constitution Court because it receives "enormous amounts of student funds." There is a difference between receiving student funds and being student-funded. Lane Transit District receives student funds; student unions are student-funded.

Receiving student funds in exchange for providing a service does not beholden the recipient to the ASUO. Being wholly funded with student fees, on the other hand, does.

Perhaps the court is unwilling or unable to seek out legal, or at least logical, grounds for its decisions. Whatever the reason, the court should re-evaluate its role in the student government and begin to take its responsibilities a little more seriously.



LETTERS

Hatfield speaks

I would like to thank all of you who have written me during the past few weeks in support of the Violence Against Women Act. Your letters have illustrated to me how important this issue is to students on campuses in our state.

Violence against women is a serious national issue that has permeated our society. The occurrence of rape, sexual assault and other violent crimes against women has increased to outrageous and frightening proportions. It is estimated that an act of domestic violence occurs every 18 seconds, 16 million women are beaten each year by their husbands or boyfriends, and as many as one of six college women will be sexually assaulted before their graduation.

These women often experience further victimization because of the inability and unwillingness of the legal system to prosecute their attackers. While the women who choose to recognize the frequency of these atrocious acts are forced to live in fear, those who remain ignorant of the reality of violent crimes unknowingly continue to put themselves at risk of becoming future victims.

College should be a time for you to bask in the enjoyment of life and learning, not be in fear for your safety as many college women are today. That is one of the reasons I am an original co-sponsor of the Violence Against Women Act.

This bill addresses the issues of rape and sexual assault at all levels, including the classroom, the courtroom, the treatment of survivors and the conviction of perpetrators. This act would provide increased resources to help prevent violence against women in the streets and on school campuses.

It would double the penalty for sex offenders, as well as increase funding for campus rape education courses and training to help impede further violence.

The Violence Against Women Act reflects the need in this country to treat the abhorrent abuse of women as a top priority and national concern. By implementing its provisions, we could mark the beginning of a strong, large-scale effort to end

the cycle of victimization that has continued for too long.

College students like yourselves can greatly assist in this effort by remaining committed to opposing violence in all of its forms.

Mark O. Hatfield
U.S. Senator

Angry biker

Do you enjoy the feeling of the wind rushing through your hair while riding your bike? Well, in as little as two weeks, that feeling may be a thing of the past. The state of Oregon is trying to shove another government restriction down our throats. This time, in the form of Senate Bill 1088 — the mandatory bicycle helmet law.

This bill, sponsored by Sen. Ron Cease, D-Portland, does not differentiate for age or location. If passed, bicycle helmets will be required not only along Oregon highways, but also on quiet side streets, bike lands and paths, and on campus.

This new law will include a hefty fine of \$50 every time your child under 18 is caught not wearing his or her helmet.

According to Cease's office, an average of 250 people a year are injured on bicycles in our state. This figure includes both adults and children, as well as head and non-head injuries. In a state of almost three million people, this is not many.

If you have more questions on this bill, I received my information from the office of Cease, who is the sponsor. His number is 378-8073. The governor also needs to be urged to veto this bill if it passes in the Oregon Senate. You can call Gov. Barbara Roberts at 1-800-322-6345.

Let's not give the police another excuse to harass us. Your voice does count. Call now.

Susan Semenek
Oregon State University

Enrich oneself

A good project for a multicultural class to have for its students would be to assign them to observe a week of special events sponsored by a culture

other than their own and report on their observations in a comparison paper to stereotypes promoted by the media or upbringing from early childhood.

For the uninformed, all events sponsored by any one group of the University community is open to anyone in the University community at large.

On May 9, I attended a Mother's Day brunch that was sponsored as part of the Black Arts Week. The hosts and hostesses, all Africans and African-Americans, were lovely and gracious individuals who made sure the food served was delicious and that the guests present were relaxed and comfortable. The entertainment was superb.

Later on, all mothers present — of color or not — were presented with the traditional appropriate rose bouquets for having undertaken one of the hardest jobs in the world. Unfortunately, I was earlier unable to attend the dinner, the talent show, the fashion show, or the dance, but conversations with those who had reflected growing reports.

It is unfortunate that media stereotypes such as beatings and riots, or stereotypes from early childhood that preclude people from associating with others not like them put the total cultures in a bad light and perpetuate untruths. It's time that more individuals attend the events, mix with the people and find out the truth for themselves.

Ann Leadon
Leisure Studies

High standards

Thanks for the educational and energetic piece on hot guys in *Beverly Hills 90210* (ODE, May 10). Just think, the *Emerald* might have chosen to use that space for an insightful critique of the American Studies Conference, a thoughtful review of the John Trudell concert or a report on the Black Student Union party/art show — all of which happened in the EMU the previous weekend.

But you made sure your readers didn't have to hear about those. You make it easier for us all to rest easy. I'm so glad you resisted temptation and stuck to your standards.

Jeff Harrison
English

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3155 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.

Editor: Pat Malach
 News Editor: Jake Berg
 Editorial Editor: Martin Fisher
 Graphics Editor: Jeff Paslay
 Entertainment Editor: Freya Horn
 Freelance Editor: Mandy Baucum
 Editorial Editor: Rivers Janssen
 Sports Editor: Dave Charbonneau
 Supplements Editor: Calley Anderson
 Night Editor: Jake Berg

Associate Editors: Tammy Batey, Student Government/Activities; Daralyn Trappe, Community; Colleen Pohlig, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Chester Allen, Matt Bender, Justin Brown, Sarah Clark, Meg Dedolph, Amy Devenport, Jen Ellison, Amanda Ferme, Anthony Forney, Beth Hege, Teresa Huntsinger, Rebecca Merritt, Steve Mims, Katy Mueller, Trifini Mueller, Trista Noel, Ellen Shaw, Erick Studenicka, Marion Sutor, Randy Theben, Michele Thompson-Aguar, Amy Van Tuyl, Todd Williams, Clayton Yee

General Manager: Judy Riedl
 Production Manager: Michele Ross

Advertising: Tom Leech, Sales Manager; Shawn Berven, Office Manager; Jane Irola, Teresa Isabelle, Philip Johnson II, Chris Kanoff, Jeremy Mason, Van V. O'Bryan II, Gillian Oh, Rachael Trull, Angie Windheim

Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager; Barry Logan, Sharon Sauve
 Distribution: Brandon Anderson, Nick Manning, Graham Simpson

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor; Judy Connolly
 Production: Ingrid White, Production Coordinator; Kristine Granger, Dee McCobb, Stacy Mitchell, Jennifer Roland, Jennifer Smith

Newsroom: 346-5511
 Business Office: 346-5512
 Display Advertising: 346-3712
 Classified Advertising: 346-4343