

University's constitutional court gets budget increase

Freya Horn

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Incidental Fee Committee approved a 61.5 percent increase in the University's Constitutional Court 1994-95 budget at Thursday night's budget hearings in the EMU Cedar Rooms.

The Constitutional Court's budget was increased to \$1,995 from its 1993-94 budget of \$1,235 because of the new demands put upon the court by the Student Senate decision to restructure the ASUO, IFC members said.

In asking for a budget increase, the court's three representatives explained that the court is undergoing a heavier workload because of this restructuring process. The

court has been asked to review all ASUO rules, resolutions and policies to ensure that they are in compliance with federal law, they explained.

Further, the court's budget had not changed since the 1990-91 fiscal year when the court's budget was decreased by 17 percent.

"We've had a status quo budget for four years now," court member Keith Kramer said.

Yet IFC member Kris Cornwell balked at giving the court a budget increase because last year the court did not spend 99 percent of its administrative budget.

"In my opinion, it's irresponsible to allocate money that's not

going to be spent, especially this year when our goal is to tighten our belts," Cornwell said.

But the court's representatives said next year's court should not be penalized for the actions of past court members, who often paid for photo copies out of their own pockets and did not accept their stipend payments.

95 percent of the court's budget is for stipends and the remaining five percent is for administrative costs such as making photocopies.

"We have made efforts to make the court more responsible in its budget activities, and next year's budget should reflect this new effort," court member Steve Suarez said.

Kramer added that it would be "inappropriate" to require the court to request further funding if it has a budget shortfall because of the court's role in overseeing ASUO groups.

He also explained that the five law students on the court don't usually have the time to go from the law school to the EMU to request funds every time they need to make photocopies, but that the option should be there for future court members.

After the budget increase was approved, IFC member Joey Lyons said, "When you look at the past, it's usually indicative of what will happen in the future. But the court does a job that has to get done."

Diverse panel discusses race issues in the media

Ben Moebius

Oregon Daily Emerald

"Welcome to the United States of Diversity," said Aly Colon during his opening speech for a panel on race and reporting yesterday.

The panel featured Colon, Diversity Coach and reporter for the *Seattle Times*, as keynote speaker. Other panel members included: Professor Cynthia Coleman, who is active in the Native American Journalists' Association; Nicole Muhammad, who is an undergraduate at the University and President of the Black Student Union; George Rede, who is Associate Editor at both *The Latino Reporter* in Albuquerque, N.M., and the student newspaper published at the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and Voices in Seattle; Jim Upshaw, a professor of Broadcast Journalism at the University; Thor Wasbotten, a journalism and communication graduate in his final year; and Karen Champagne, who recently received her Ph.D. from Michigan

State University in advertising.

This diverse panel focused on some of the issues that have been most frequently cited in discussions of the media's credibility in the 90s. How will the news media change to address the issues and concerns of a growing minority population?

"How we see each other, and how that vision colors the world, is important," said Colon.

Many of the panelists felt that a more diverse newsroom and a sense of social responsibility would be keys to responsible media coverage.

"Journalists have a responsibility to communities, and especially these changing communities," said Muhammad. "Your background dictates the way you are going to report."

Rede felt a journalist could also keep responsible by keeping in mind basic journalistic rules: keep it accurate, keep it fair and equal. He punctuated this point by holding

up copies of the *Register-Guard* and the *Oregonian*, pointing out photographs in both papers which illustrated the inconsistencies in the treatment given to members of different races.

Wasbotten, a former *Emerald* employee who also has worked in television news at KOIN-TV in Portland, quoted a study that researched differences in crime stories involving white suspects and black suspects. According to the study, only 17 percent of white suspects were photographed while being physically restrained. In contrast, the number of blacks being photographed was over twice as much.

"Things like this affect how we view minorities," said Wasbotten.

The panel agreed that none of the issues are easily defined and solved.

"There is no set formula for dealing with race issues," said Upshaw. But with minorities set to outnumber whites in America by 2050, such issues will become more important.

Demonstrators protest release of man convicted of sex crimes

By Susanne Steffens

Oregon Daily Emerald

Demonstrators protested the release of convicted sex offender Daniel David Lichau outside the Lane County Courthouse Thursday.

Lichau was convicted in September 1992 of child molestation, but was released Jan. 4 on bail pending appeal. Last September, Lichau was found guilty by a jury trial on first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual abuse of an 11-year-old girl.

Sexual Assault Support Services was behind the demonstration, which drew more than 60 protesters over a judge's decision to set Lichau free.

"He is a danger to our community, and we are

afraid for our children," one protester said. "Lichau belongs in the prison, and not on our streets."

Lichau allegedly also committed similar acts against other young girls for which he was not prosecuted. Several of the alleged victims were present at the demonstration, reading their statements about putting Lichau in prison.

Phyllis Barkhurst, Sexual Assault Support Services Executive Director, was satisfied with the demonstration, and though the judge was not present, she hopes that he will realize how people are reacting and sentence Lichau for the maximum time when he reviews the decision next week.

"It's people out there who are victims, and they will never feel safe before he is in jail," she said.

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