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IFC members question vote on USSA request

Delegation: Vote to approve funding may represent a conflict of interest, IFC members say

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

On Jan. 11, the Incidental Fee Committee approved funding to send four more delegates to the United States Students Association lobbying conference in Washington, D.C. this March.

Five IFC members applied for the new slots and a few days after the vote, the four IFC members who voted "yes" to approve the extra funding received the four new positions, and the member who voted "no" didn't.

Now, several of those IFC members are questioning their vote, wondering whether there was a conflict of interest. The mem-

ber who voted "no" said there was and added that he felt pressure from USSA itself.

"This was definitely a political game," IFC member Samir Kumar said, concerning the timing of the group's IFC request and the announcement of the new USSA delegates.

IFC member Joey Lyons, who voted "yes" and was chosen as a delegate, said, "Now looking back on the issue, I made an uninformed decision that I would reconsider now. And, in actuality, I realized that I should've reconsidered or changed my vote days too late."

IFC members have seven days to change their vote.

Then-ASUO Vice President Diana Collins Puente presented the approximately \$3,400 request, along with Rob Alvarez, a USSA member from Rutgers

University who was visiting the University for a USSA conference.

Both Collins Puente and Alvarez were on the selection committee for the four new members. ASUO President Eric Bowen and ASUO Safety Affairs Coordinator Troy Shields, both USSA members at that time, also sat on the committee.

USSA presented its special request to the IFC on the same day as the meeting. This was an exception to the IFC's rule that emergency funding requests be made at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Kumar said that was a surprise, especially since he interviewed for the USSA delegation slot the night before and was told he would know a day or two after the meeting.

"The list is close to being finalized, but it's not finalized at this time," Collins Puente said, according to a tape of the

meeting.

That statement concerned many committee members, Kumar said.

Both Kumar and IFC Chairman Jian Liu voted "no" because they wanted to see more fund raising by the USSA, they said.

Kris Cornwell, both an IFC member and now newly elected to the USSA delegation, said she had no problem with voting for the funding.

"I voted 'yes' because I was under the impression that USSA was running smoothly," Cornwell said, adding that she feels there was no conflict of interest because she wasn't nominated as a delegate when she voted. "That did not cross my mind.... And, if that affected (the selection process), that's wrong on their part. If I was qualified to go, my vote shouldn't

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Art nouveau



Troy Wendt, a graffiti remover for Eugene Public Works, removes gang slogans from a wall in Eugene. An increase in the number of gangs has forced the city to step up police patrols and spend more money cleaning up after the gangs.

UNIVERSITY

Students can take GRE via computer

Exam: The relaxed atmosphere, quick results make centers attractive

By Heatherle Himes
Oregon Daily Emerald

When University biology student Giles Thelen took the Graduate Record Exam, he spent the early hours of a Saturday morning in a crowded lecture hall trying to think despite the sound of 100 other students blackening answer sheets with their pencils.

Thelen said that the next time he takes the GRE, a general knowledge test that most graduate schools require applicants to suffer through, he will pay \$40 more to take the computer-based version through the Sylvan

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Yale summit to focus on environment

Strategy: Speakers to discuss campuses and the environment

By Eric Buckhalter
Oregon Daily Emerald

Today's campus environmental issues are the focus of this weekend's Campus Earth Summit at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., hosted by the Yale Student Environmental Coalition and sponsored by the Heinz Family Foundation and the McIntosh Foundation.

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GOOD MORNING

► SALEM (AP) — The executive director of Planned Parenthood in Portland was named Tuesday to the post of special assistant to the governor for combatting unwanted teen-age pregnancy.

Allie Stickney will be on leave from Planned Parenthood of Columbia-Willamette while she serves in her state post. She begins work March 14 and will be paid an annual salary of \$65,000.

Gov. Barbara Roberts announced a special effort last month to cut the teen-age pregnancy rate in half within the next year.

In Oregon, the pregnancy rate in 1992 was 19.3 per 1,000

females ages 10-17. The goal is to lower the rate to 9.8 in 1995.

Stickney "has the knowledge and the experience to assess what programs are reducing unintended teen pregnancy and where we need to do better," the governor said in announcing the appointment.

"The costs of failing to curb teen pregnancy are high: low birth-weight babies, more delinquency, more school dropouts and more families that can't support themselves," Roberts said.

Stickney will recommend ways to build on programs that work, eliminate those that do not, and develop a plan for meeting state goals for reducing teen-age pregnancy.

Stickney, 48, has been executive director of Planned Parenthood of Columbia-Willamette since 1989. She previously worked for Planned Parenthood affiliates in Vermont and New York.

► MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A lawyer in Minneapolis is trying to make some money advertising what he calls the "Tonya Tapper."

The device is a telescoping metal baton — similar to the one used to attack Olympic figure skater Nancy Kerrigan at the U.S. National Figure Skating championships in Detroit on Jan. 6.

Attorney David Anderson is advertising the baton for sale by



mail order for \$39.95, plus \$6.05 handling.

Anderson is promoting the baton for self-protection. He chose the name to tie in with the attack on Kerrigan, in which associates of rival skater Tonya Harding have been charged. Harding has denied any involvement in the attack.

The ad, in last Sunday's *Star Tribune* of Minneapolis, reads: "You've Seen How It Works. Now Get One for Your Own Protection."