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Student Senate approves two proposals

■ The proposals covering respect and the WRC will be enacted if passed by Dave Frohnmayer

By **Jeremy Lang**
Oregon Daily Emerald

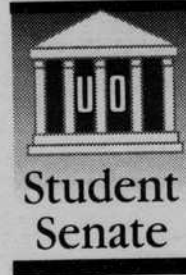
In the first meeting of spring term, the Student Senate sent two strong messages to University President Dave Frohnmayer regarding a policy of respect and the Workers' Rights Consortium.

The senate approved the proposed public policy statement on respect, which comes out of the pledge of respect proposed by the Summer Diversity Interns. It includes a statement about the University and its dedication to freedom of speech, academic freedom and a culture of respect that honors individuals' rights, safety, dignity and worth.

A list of six commitments follows the statement, including promoting a culture of respect, rejecting bigotry and discrimination and promoting a diversity of opinions on campus.

However, their approval does not instantly enact the document. It only urges Frohnmayer, who has the power to make University public policy, to do so.

ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani said the policy only establishes the University's stance on diversity and does not force individual students to meet any requirements.



"We can't make everybody sign a pledge," she said.

While a 13-3 majority supported the document, Sen. Emily Sedgwick said she disagreed with some of the wording in the document, such as the pledge of academic freedom.

"What is academic freedom? I can't graduate without completing my multicultural requirements and ones, twos and threes," she said.

Sedgwick also raised opposition for First Amendment reasons last term when the senate briefly discussed a pledge of respect.

At Wednesday's meeting, speech concerns were raised again that rejecting bigotry and promoting a diversity of opinions may conflict, but it was not enough to sway the vote.

In the second rule passed, the senate announced its support of the WRC to Frohnmayer. The document is very similar to the ballot passed in this year's student election, pledging support for the group, which monitors the labor standards for the production of University licensed apparel.

The rule passed with almost unanimous support and senators voiced their strong opinions that the University needs to be a part of the WRC.

"[In regards to other schools,] we're kind of behind on this stuff," Anoushiravani said.

In the second part of the meeting, the senate approved a special request for \$5,186 from the ASUO Multicultural Center for its up-

coming speaker series, which runs April 4-8.

While the senate usually requires a week to look at special requests more than \$1,000, senators voted to hear the request because of time lost last term to dead week, finals week and spring break.

Usually, the senate sees requests in the hundreds, but many senators said they thought the extra money was justified because of the heavy fund raising the MCC had done and the importance of the conference.

"This is not just a one-day conference, it's five days," Sen. C.J. Gabbe said. "It's a representation of a collaboration of many student groups."

At the end of the meeting, Sen. Michael Dixon announced his resignation from the senate for academic reasons.

The Student Senate is the legislative branch of the ASUO and handles financial issues regarding student programs. The Senate meets at 7 p.m. every Wednesday in the EMU Board Room, third floor. All students can attend these meetings.

Justices makes it easy to ban nude dancing

By **Laurie Asseo**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court made it easier for local governments to ban nude dancing, the entertainment in about 3,000 adult clubs nationwide, ruling Wednesday that a performer's freedom of expression can be restricted by forcing her to wear pasties and a G-string.

Nude dancing can be banned in an effort to combat crime and other harms that adult entertainment clubs often attract, the justices said in a splintered decision reinstating a public-nudity ordinance in Erie, Pa.

Such dancing is "expressive conduct" but it falls "only within the outer ambit" of the Constitution's First Amendment free-speech protection, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote in the court's main opinion.

The ban promotes Erie's "interest in combating the negative secondary effects associated with adult entertainment establishments," such as crime, and was not aimed at a dancer's erotic message, O'Connor said.

Although the court's rationale was divided, the decision is sure to have widespread impact. Nude entertainment is featured in about 3,000 adult clubs nationwide, the justices were told when the case was argued in November.

"We're delighted," said Valerie Sprenkle, Erie's assistant city solicitor. "We didn't ban any expression.... What's being regulated is the means of expression."

Sprenkle said dancers at a nude dancing club in the city "will be required to cover up to the extent required by the ordinance."

The ruling bolsters the effect of a 1991 Supreme Court ruling that let Indiana ban all barroom-style nude dancing under a state law generally prohibiting public nudity.

That decision was badly splintered, however, and when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down Erie's ordinance, it said the 1991 ruling offered little guidance.

Wednesday's ruling was divided too. The court voted 7-2 to allow bans on nude dancing but voted 6-3 to reinstate the Erie ordinance.

O'Connor said that even if the ordinance "has some minimal effect on the erotic message by muting that portion of the expression that occurs when the last stitch is dropped, the dancers ... are free to perform wearing pasties and G-strings."

She compared the nude-dancing ban to a prohibition on burning draft cards, which the Supreme Court upheld in 1968. In that case, the government "sought to prevent the means of the expression and not the expression of antiwar sentiment itself," she said.

Most of O'Connor's opinion was joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Anthony M. Kennedy and Stephen G. Breyer.

Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, in a separate opinion by Scalia, voted to go further. They cited "the traditional power of government to foster good morals."

Justice David H. Souter wrote separately that he agreed with O'Connor's rationale, but that the city needed to provide more evidence that its ordinance was designed to deal with "real harms."

Justices John Paul Stevens and Ruth Bader Ginsburg dissented. Stevens wrote for the two that the court had decided for the first time that an effort to combat secondary effects such as crime "may justify the total suppression of protected speech."

While Souter was among the 7-2 majority in supporting a ban on nude dancing, he voted with the minority, along with Stevens and Ginsburg, against the 6-3 decision to reinstate Erie's specific ordinance.

The ordinance was "aimed directly at the dancers in establishments such as Kandyland" and should be held "patently invalid," Stevens said.

Erie's 1994 ordinance was challenged by Nick Panos, who used to own the Kandyland nude-dancing club. He later sold the club to a new owner, Joseph Cunningham, who closed it and opened a similar club, Kandy's Dinner Theater, at a new location with a sign out front that proclaims: "First Amendment Rights Headquarters."

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