

Justice For All

continued from page 1

has been in existence since September 1999. It was not, however, an ASUO-recognized group, which meant it could not get incidental fee money.

The fee system had been in question since the 1995-96 school year when University of Wisconsin students Scott Southworth, Amy Schoepke and Keith Banach objected to their money going toward student groups with views opposed to theirs.

Wisconsin's incidental fee system was already more liberal than the University's before the Southworth case. No distinction was made there between educational and political student groups, allowing College Democrats, College Republicans and WISPIRG—Wisconsin's version of OSPIRG—to receive funds for political purposes.

At the University, the incidental fee could not go to support political efforts. But when the court unanimously supported Wisconsin's system, it opened up the breadth of groups at the University that could be supported by stu-

dent incidental fees.

Not long after the court declared the system legal, Justice For All applied for and garnered the status of an ASUO-recognized group.

And while the group was for the most part an ASUO-recognized organization since early this term, it was not officially so until last Wednesday, immediately prior to the Student Senate meeting. During the meeting, the senate approved \$150 to the group for an upcoming conference and the executive donated money to the group from its fund raising account.

"Before the Southworth case came out, approving student organizations was pretty cut and dry," Chen said.

But one member of the ASUO resigned after Justice For All was granted money from the Executive's fund raising account, which is money that it raised itself. Jennifer Eliot, a senior English major, resigned from her position as ASUO safety advocate after the Executive approved giving Justice For All money for its conference in June.

The fund raising donation isn't directly from the fee, and Eliot said she doesn't disagree that Jus-

tice For All has a right to be a recognized group. But by giving that group its own money, she said, the ASUO was essentially co-sponsoring the event and thus putting its stamp of approval on it.

"I still feel that the ASUO Executive made the wrong decision," Eliot said. "I feel that because groups like this are ultimately working to legalize abortion that they are threatening the safety of all women, including women on our campus."

ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani defended the decision and said the executive does not discriminate or make political choices when giving fund raising money to ASUO programs.

"For example, we support getting students on the Oregon Health Plan, but we don't take a stance on doctor assisted suicide," she said.

Groups seeking recognition had to follow a set of guidelines in the Green Tape Notebook, which include rules such as having at least three organizational meetings before becoming recognized.

After the Southworth case, considering Justice For All's application for recognition was not so cut and dry as sticking solely to the

guidelines, Chen said. Because the group has restrictions on who can be a member, Chen said he wanted to double-check with the University's General Counsel, Melinda Grier, on the validity of Justice For All being recognized.

The group's membership conditions include opposition to abortion and euthanasia, support of battered women and single mothers and commitment to non-violence.

"No one's allowed to break the law in our group," said senior political science major and Justice For All's fund-raising chair Scott Austin. "We're also required to be civil even when people are being rude to us."

It also requires that members support the use of graphic pictures to demonstrate the group's beliefs, a stipulation that has caused some controversy within the ASUO ranks.

"You're in support of diversity when it favors you, and you're not in support when you don't like it," Austin said. "It takes a lawsuit ... to finally say, 'Hey, you don't have a choice. You're going to have to give us the same treatment you give everybody else.'"

At Justice For All's special re-

quest hearing last week, one senator questioned the group's methods by asking whether graphic pictures were going to be used.

"I don't think it's good for children to see violent and disgusting images so that Justice For All can try and force its morals on the rest of the students," Student Senator Spencer Hamlin said. "I don't care that they're pro-life. I think that their tactics are despicable. I voted for their request, but I felt sick to my stomach when I was doing it."

That graphic photos were brought up at all, Austin said, showed that the ASUO was not acting fairly with regard to Justice For All. Their use should not have been an issue because the request before the Senate dealt strictly with money the group was entitled to through being a recognized organization.

"You know what, that's none of your business," Austin said. "You're position is to treat us like you'd treat anyone else."

Hamlin, however, said that was exactly what he was doing.

"All we're trying to do is to hold them accountable like we do all other groups," he said.

Report raises health concerns about asbestos in crayons

SEATTLE — A newspaper reported Tuesday that two government-certified labs found asbestos in crayons, sending public-health and art-industry officials scrambling to allay concerns about possible health risks.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported that the labs found asbestos in crayons made by Crayola, Prang and Rose Art. Of 40 crayons that were tested from the

three major brands, 32 were contaminated above trace levels, the newspaper said.

"We were very surprised to even see any of this in any crayon product at all," said John Harris, director of Lab-Cor, one of the two laboratories the newspaper used for the tests.

The findings do not shed light on whether there is a public health threat, however. Con-

trolled experiments would be required to determine any possible risk from airborne particles, Harris said.

There are no known reports of anyone getting sick from using or making crayons. And asbestos-related illness tends to result from exposure to airborne fibers — usually in an industrial setting.

The manufacturers said they did not believe their products

posed risks, but they were looking into it. Government officials also were investigating.

"We have never heard of this being a problem with crayons before," said spokesman Russ Rader of the Consumer Product Safety Commission in Washington, D.C.

"Our position is that asbestos should not be in any product, and that's what we're telling the

companies," Rader said.

Virtually all asbestos-related illness affects the lungs. Little is known about illness from ingestion, though a federal task force in 1987 said such exposure "should be eliminated whenever possible." It can take decades for disease from asbestos exposure to develop.

The Associated Press

Too much drinking

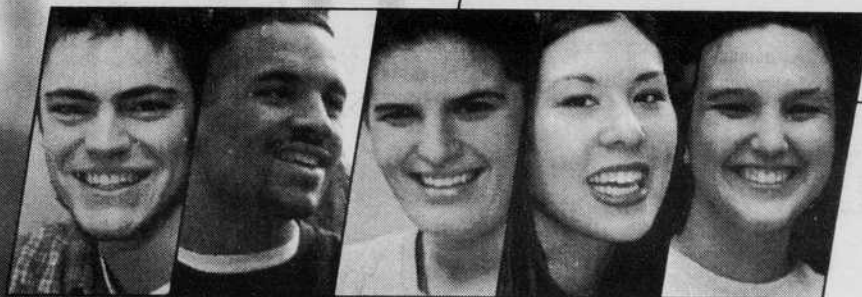
can really put your

GPA

in perspective



Most UO students are serious about their grades.



According to the 1998 CORE Survey, 82.6% of UO Students didn't let alcohol or other drugs get in the way of performing well on tests or important projects.



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