

## Election

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son and Cook at the same time last Thursday in response to a grievance filed by another candidate, Jeff Oliver.

The top two finishers in the primary advance to the general election. Oliver and his presidential running mate, Eric Bailey, placed third, but received the opportunity to advance after the board disqualified Jacobson and Cook.

Oliver filed the grievance after Jacobson's campaign volunteers distributed fliers outside doors in the residence halls before the primary election. Oliver said the action broke election rules requiring equal access for all candidates to University facilities.

He added that University Housing also adopted a Residence Hall Association rule that candidates could place a poster in each of the common areas of the four complex lobbies, but not in the actual residence halls.

The board agreed, and Jacobson said he decided to appeal the decision during the weekend.

"We couldn't let it go without a

fight," he said.

Jacobson actually asked the court to place him on the general election ballot against Brooklyn and Nair, but he said he and Cook are more than happy with the current results.

"We're happy that at least the court is going to take into account campus democracy," Jacobson said. "This is a big victory for campus democracy."

Jacobson has two main points he will bring to the March 16 hearing. First, he said the elections board simply told his campaign to examine the rules instead of specifically telling them whether it was legal to campaign in the residence halls.

He also contends that although the board can use Housing rules in its decision, the board incorrectly considered him and Cook guilty because Housing never released any ruling on the matter.

"It's like if we were accused of a federal crime, the board would not be so quick to bring their own charges," he said. "The elections board didn't have the jurisdiction to find us guilty. Our due process was just obliterated."

He also criticized the board for not giving his campaign enough

## Labor

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that "doesn't diminish the concern."

The committee will be meeting with the Senate Executive Committee on approximately March 21 to further discuss the issue and give its final recommendation.

"We want to provide a history of what the campus wants to do," he said.

Frank, however, also expressed his desire that the issue will soon come to rest. "I'm hopeful we'll be moving on to other issues soon," he said.

University Senate President James Earl has said that the WRC issue on campus is essentially dead.

Southern Oregon University has been the only other institution to deal with labor-monitoring issues in this state. Frohnmayer said he has been in touch with the acting president, Sarah Hopkins-Powell, to discuss such issues.

She said that while SOU "isn't a big gorilla" in the labor issue, it has developed its own code of conduct that she didn't expect to be in conflict with the OUS policy though their policy "bears a fair amount of resemblance to other codes."

## Five Ecuador hostages free after five months

MEDFORD — Four American oil workers and a New Zealander held captive in the jungles of Ecuador for nearly five months are back on U.S. soil.

A private jet carrying four of the men, all employees for Erickson Air-Crane, arrived early Saturday at the airport in Medford, Ore., where they were quickly whisked away in a corporate vehicle.

"Erickson Air-Crane is delighted to confirm the arrival of Arnie, Dennis, Jason and Steve to Medford, Ore.," a company statement released Saturday said. It said the four returned at 12:40 a.m. Saturday.

"We wish to express our deepest gratitude to both the families and to Erickson employees for their patience, faith and support during this trying [time]."

"We send our prayers and support to the Sander family," the fax said, in reference to the hostage killed by the captors.

Arnold Alford, 41, Steve Derry, 41, and Jason Weber, 29, all of Gold Hill, Ore., and David Bradley, a Helmerich & Payne employee from Casper, Wyo., were among 10

hostages freed Thursday for a reported \$13 million ransom.

Dennis Corrin, a helicopter mechanic from New Zealand, also arrived in Medford with the three Oregon residents.

Their captors, believed to be a professional gang of Colombian kidnapers, killed another Helmerich & Payne employee last month — Ronald Sander, 54, of Sunrise Beach, Mo. — in order to pressure the companies to pay.

The five Americans, two French men who later escaped, a Chilean, an Argentine and a New Zealander were abducted at gunpoint Oct. 12 from an oil field in Ecuador's oil-rich northeast Amazon jungle near the border with Colombia.

Foreign Minister Heinz Moeller said Friday he feared the ransom allegedly paid for their release would be used by the kidnapers "to step up violence, perhaps other kidnappings or other crimes" along Ecuador's northern border region.

The companies have not publicly confirmed the ransom payment.

The Associated Press

- The ASUO Constitution Court halted the general election, set to start today, until it can hear an appeal by candidates Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook
- The ASUO Elections Board disqualified Jacobson and Cook last Thursday, the same night of the primary election.
- The board ruled in favor of a grievance filed by rival vice presidential candidate Jeff Oliver after Jacobson's campaign

placed fliers in residence halls.

- The court will hold a hearing March 16 and release a decision no later than 5 p.m. March 19.
- The top two finishers in the primary election advance to the generals. Nilda Brooklyn and Joy Nair received 624 votes. Jacobson and Matt Cook came in second with 356. Eric Bailey and Oliver had 237.

time to respond to Oliver's grievance before a decision was made.

"We effectively had three hours to defend ourselves," he said.

Elections Coordinator Shantell Rice was not available for comment at press time.

With the ruling, everyone running must decide how to conduct a campaign that will run at least another two weeks instead of four days. Oliver said he and Bailey will still be on the streets campaigning today though the court could end

their run.

"It's kind of tough to campaign for an election when you don't know what it's going to be," Oliver said. "But as far as we know, we're running in this election."

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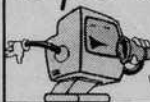
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