

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

An independent newspaper

www.dailyemerald.com

SINCE 1900 | Volume 106, Issue 41 | Friday, October 22, 2004

ASUO Senate says it violated law

The organization admits members consumed illegal substances at a finance retreat in Sunriver

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Numerous ASUO members violated Oregon Administrative Rules and the Student Conduct Code when they drank alcohol and smoked marijuana during the 2004 fall finance retreat in Sunriver, prompting student government leaders to write letters of apology and discuss potential disciplinary actions, a panel of ASUO officials told the Emerald on Thursday.

In a letter released today to the student body, retreat attendees wrote that they "deeply apologize for the actions of a few participants" during the weekend event, which was supposed to be alcohol-free in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rules.

Thirty-nine ASUO members attended the Oct. 8-10 retreat, including representatives of the ASUO Executive, Student Senate, Programs Finance Committee, EMU Board of Directors,

Athletic Department Finance Committee and ASUO Controllers Office. Senate President James George would not say which student government officials violated the laws or to which groups they belonged. He also refused to disclose the number of people involved.

"We basically found out through the chain of command that the drinking that was involved transcended multiple groups," George said.

"One thing that we wanted to stray away from was pointing fingers at any one particular person," George said. "We all took responsibility for the actions because that's what we are — we

are all leaders — and because we were there."

George said an "informal" investigation after the retreat revealed that participants, including minors, had consumed "illegal substances." He also said the ASUO office received a faxed copy of an "immature" letter that was left in one of the five houses program participants rented from Sunset Realty of Sunriver.

ASUO Vice President Mena Ravasipour said the police were not called to the retreat.

Student Judicial Affairs Coordinator Chris Loschiavo said some of the conduct currently falls under OAR Article 5,

Section 571, Division 21 of the Student Conduct Code, which says campus living organizations and recognized groups are responsible for compliance with the Student Conduct Code. The code mandates that people of legal drinking age may only drink or possess alcohol in areas designated by the University president and forbids underage drinking at University activities.

The infractions occurred after all-day workshops on the new ASUO budget process, George said.

"This was ... after there were announcements that this was to be a

ASUO, page 5A

★ AMERICA VOTES 2004 ★

'Soft money' is gone, but 527 groups fund campaigns

Unlimited contributions by interest groups were banned in 2002, but 527 groups remain a major force

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
NEWS REPORTER

Money talks. At least the U.S. Supreme Court seems to think so. In 1976, the high court ruled in *Buckley v. Valeo* that money spent for political purposes is a form of speech covered by the First Amendment.

While restrictions on the amount of donations from different classifications of contributors have since been put in place, some experts and elected officials say there is need for further campaign finance reform because the 1976 court decision has made it easy for groups not officially affiliated with a party to funnel unlimited amounts of cash to either of the two major po-

litical parties.

"Money, like water going downhill, finds a way to get to its destination," said Cal Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University. "You can shut off one avenue but the next one opens up."

Before unlimited fund raising by the two major parties was banned through the McCain-Feingold legislation enacted in 2002, Jillson said so-called "soft money" from unions, corporations and political

interest groups was a major player in campaign finance.

"Soft money" no longer exists, but the recent reforms have spawned unforeseen implementations in the form of 527 groups. Named after a section in the U.S. tax code that a l-

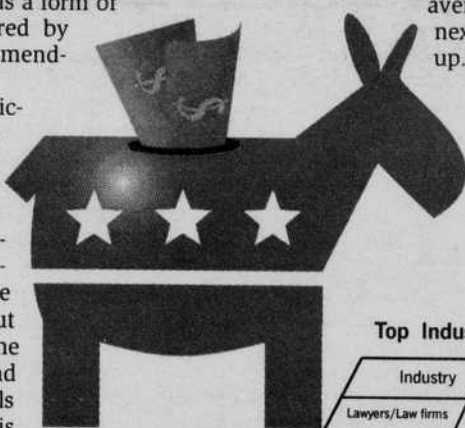
lows them to operate tax free, the groups are not covered in the McCain-Feingold legislative restrictions and are consequently playing a prominent role in the 2004 elections, Jillson said.

America Coming Together is one of the largest 527 groups, with a budget estimated at \$135 million, according to Scott Ballo, ACT's chief communications director in Oregon.

Although 527 groups like ACT are prohibited from coordinating directly with a political party, Jillson said they can still have considerable influence on political campaigns.

"Most people who are interested in a clean and open electoral process remain worried that interested money is exercising undue influence," Jillson said. As long as a 527

FINANCE, page 6A



Top Industrial Contributors

Industry	Amount	Tilt
Lawyers/Law firms	\$132,378,272	Strongly Democratic
Retired	\$123,361,090	On the Fence
Real Estate	\$69,486,009	Leans Republican
Securities/Invest	\$63,649,249	On the Fence
Health Professionals	\$51,594,570	Leans Republican

Democrats' total contributions:
\$922,991,049

Republicans' total contributions:
\$851,619,679

Top Individual Contributors

Contributor	Amount	Tilt
Canizaro, Joseph C. and Sue Ellen	\$280,000	Solidly Republican
Cooper, Jeffrey S. and Francesca M.	\$257,500	Solidly Democratic
Fabian, Alan B. and Jacqueline M.	\$242,350	Solidly Republican
Jones, Allan and Janie P.	\$230,150	Strongly Republican
Buttenwieser, Peter and Terry M.	\$227,000	Strongly Democratic

Graph Source: opensecrets.org

Control of actions central in **Ramadan** celebrations

The Islamic holiday began Oct. 15 and encourages participants to refrain from activities such as sexual relations and swearing

BY CANELA WOOD
NEWS REPORTER

Just before sunset Sunday, members of the University's Muslim community gathered in the EMU's International Student Lounge carrying dishes of pastas, chicken, dates, cookies, meat pies and soda to share with the others.

Beginning at sunset, a member of the group made the call to prayer, allowing the 20 University students and faculty in attendance to break their daily fasts. After having juice and a date, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Timothy Gianotti led the group in prayer. The room was silent as they removed their shoes and lined up behind Gianotti, a row of men followed by a row of women, standing on cloths

that had been laid on the ground. Following the prayer, everyone joined in eating their first meal of the day, the first since a small pre-dawn meal they had before 6 a.m., said Gianotti.

The gathering was a part of the month-long Islamic celebration of Ramadan, which began Oct. 15. During the daylight hours, Muslims don't eat, drink, swear, fight or have sexual relations, said Khadija Al-Rafea, who is here from Bahrain as a part of the Fulbright exchange program.

"We do it to be in the shoes of the poor and to control your life," said Al-Rafea. "We control our own lives for a change instead of letting things control us ... Once a year you get in control of daily pleasures, instead of them

RAMADAN, page 4A



Professor Timothy Gianotti, middle, looks on as Ayub Khawreen offers Khadija Al-Rafea a date after their fast for Ramadan on Sunday evening in the EMU International Student Lounge.

DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR