



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Journalism major Jackeline Silva, a Brazilian, teaches community members how to dance at Carnival Brasil on Saturday night.

Carnival Brasil brings night of exotic culture to Gerlinger

Funds from the third-annual event went to help provide education for underprivileged children

BY AMANDA BOLSINGER
NEWS REPORTER

The sultry sound of a Brazilian band filled the room as couples moved to the music. Dim lights and masks added further exotic flair to the night.

The music and dancing were a part of the University's third-annual Carnival Brasil on Saturday night at Gerlinger Hall. The night was an

immersion into the Brazilian culture, with music, dance lessons, a martial arts demonstration and the atmosphere of a Brazilian street party.

The night was also a fundraiser for Students Helping Street Kids, a benefit program that sponsors underprivileged children in Brazil and other regions by offering scholarships to private schools.

The program was founded by Bob

Crites who was once a counselor at Briggs Middle School in Springfield.

"I wanted the kids to learn more about this world we live in," Crites said. "What better way than to get them involved in the lives of children in other countries?"

Students at Briggs have raised money to sponsor a private school education for Elizabeth, a Brazilian girl. She will also have the opportunity to become an exchange student at Thurston High School to meet the same students who helped fund her education.

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Recall: Student urges Court to act quickly on his request

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Snider said it was unclear exactly how replacements for the officials would be selected. He said replacements might be selected by a special election, appointed by the court or appointed by the three senators who were appointed and thus can't be recalled.

In the request, Snider urged the Court to act quickly, saying he is "requesting haste in this matter, both because I would like to get this done before dead and finals week (sic), and because I would like to get this over with as soon as possible."

Chief Justice Randy Derrick said the court has received the petition, but wouldn't discuss the specifics of the case because it is under review.

"As a court we don't talk about specifics of a case as it is before us, except to say we will handle this in a manner that is consistent with the ASUO Constitution and the Constitution Court rules," Derrick said.

He said the court will review the case in a time frame consistent with the constitution.

ASUO Public Relations Director Nathan Strauss said it was "unfortunate the student feels the way he does," but the Executive won't act until the petition is complete.

"Until 10 percent of the associated students' signatures are gathered, this is not really an issue we're concerned with," he said.

He noted that 10 percent of the student body is about the turnout of last year's general election.

Strauss said "there is no doubt (Snider) would feel more confident" if he spoke with ASUO officials about his concerns, noting that the ASUO held a

town hall meeting on Tuesday to solicit such feedback.

"It's too bad he couldn't make it, though. We didn't see him on Tuesday," Strauss said.

Strauss said he was not sure if the Court would automatically grant Snider's request to petition, but he assumed it would allow him to gather signatures.

Snider said he started thinking about taking action in October, but only seriously considered it two to three weeks ago.

"When they decided to take group responsibility and not really do anything, I was appalled and tried to take action," he said.

He said he has been concerned about other ASUO actions as well.

"I probably wouldn't be quite as upset over the Sunriver incident if it was the only thing they had done," he said.

Snider said he and his friends plan to distribute petitions if his request is granted, adding that he is optimistic about getting enough signatures to recall the officials.

"It's been encouraging. Everyone I've talked to has been willing to sign," he said. "Whether they vote is another matter."

This isn't the first time students have attempted to recall an elected official. In 2000, two students received permission from the court to gather signatures in an effort to oust ASUO President Jay Breslow, accusing him of political bias and neglecting his duties. But their efforts ended Dec. 13, 2000, when they failed to collect enough signatures, according to a Jan. 8, 2001, Emerald article.

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