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Programs Finance Committee

Court rules on 'viewpoint neutrality'

Eden Cortez and Mason Quiroz were removed from their positions for showing bias at a budget hearing

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Two members of the committee that allocates student money who made controversial statements at a Feb. 1 budget hearing for the Oregon Commentator have been booted from the committee because they "acted in willful defiance of viewpoint neutrality," the ASUO Constitution Court ruled on Monday.

The judgment removes former Programs Finance Committee members Eden Cortez, Dan

Kieffer and Mason Quiroz from the committee, although Kieffer resigned last month. The decision removes Quiroz from the PFC and Cortez from the PFC and the ASUO Student Senate.

The ruling came in response to a petition filed by Commentator Publisher Dan Atkinson on Feb. 7.

Cortez says he will appeal the decision by the end of the week, saying the court acted improperly by basing its ruling on a quote he claims he did not say during the meeting.

Chief Justice Randy Derrick, writing for the court, stated Cortez said, "Of course we can look at content in determining a group's value. Otherwise this job could be done by robots."

Derrick also said in the decision: "This statement clearly demonstrates that Cortez was considering content in his analysis of the Oregon Commentator outside of the bounds set by viewpoint neutrality."

But Cortez said he has reviewed minutes from the meeting and can verify that he did not make the statement. He said an audience member made the statement.

"That's a false statement to be

making," he said. "To quote me on something (they) assume I said ... that's just giving wrong information from the Oregon Commentator's part to the Con Court."

Atkinson told the Emerald that the statement is "not an exact quote," but that Cortez said something to that effect. He said he specified in the petition that he wasn't quoting Cortez's exact words.

"I was just trying to recall my own experiences of the hearing," he said.

He added that he didn't think the accuracy of the statement affected the court's overall ruling.

"I don't know that the court

PFC, page 4

Inspectors divulge area health code violations

Campus Sub Shop received the highest score, 99 out of 100, of the eateries near the University

BY EVA SYLWESTER
NEWS REPORTER

The square block just west of campus, bound by East 13th Avenue, East 12th Avenue, Alder Street and Kincaid Street, is home to several restaurants students frequent. The Lane County Environmental Health Department inspects all restaurants in the county, including these restaurants, to ensure health codes are followed and writes semi-annual food service inspection reports for each restaurant.

According to Lane County's food safety rules, if a restaurant obtains a sanitation score of less than 70 out of 100 points upon an unannounced complete inspection, the operator or person in charge is notified that the restaurant will be closed if the score of another inspection conducted within the next 30 days is not at least 70.

"We try to afford people the opportunity to correct things, and if they're not willing to work at it, they're going to be closed," Lane County Environmental Health Department sanitarian Scott Kruger said. "But if people find out they're going to be closed, they usually correct things and keep them corrected."

Kruger described restaurant closure as a last resort.

"It's not fun for them, and it's not fun for us, either, so if we don't have to go down that road, we won't," he said.

Points are deducted from a restaurant's score for violations, which are divided into two categories: critical and non-critical. Restaurants determined to have critical violations, which pose direct threats to customer safety, are re-inspected within 14 days of the original inspection. If the violations are not corrected upon re-inspection, the restaurant may be closed.

Common critical violations found at University-area restaurants included not keeping foods above 140 or below 41 degrees Fahrenheit and storing raw meat above ready-to-eat foods.

China Blue Inn received a score of 80 on its last evaluation in November 2004. Because it had critical violations, including storing food at room temperature and storing raw meat and eggs above vegetables, Kruger came back for two more inspections until the problems were deemed corrected.

"He said we put something on (the) wrong plate," China Blue Inn manager Li Tsui said, describing the inspection. However, Tsui added that the inspector gave detailed, written instructions on how to correct the violations.

"We follow everything," Tsui said. "Right now, we do everything right."

Maple Garden Restaurant received the lowest score in the neighborhood, 72 out of 100 points. According to the November 2004 food service inspection report, the restaurant lost points for storing food at improper temperatures, holding chopped, cooked meats for longer than 24 hours and not date-labeling the meats, storing raw meats above ready-to-eat foods and storing knives with food debris, in addition to assorted non-critical violations. The violations were pronounced resolved after two follow-up visits by Kruger. As of press time, Maple Garden Restaurant could not be reached for comment.

Non-critical violations are not likely to immediately endanger the health of customers, but can detract from the restaurant's general sanitary

SANITATION, page 8

A SCHOLASTIC SMASH



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

(Above): Journalism majors Ashley Coortes, left, and Desi McCormick, center, pre-education major Jenny Wickersham and (right) anthropology major Gavin Walker donate to the Start Making a Reader Today program at Delta Sigma Phi's car-smashing event near East 13th Avenue and University Street on Tuesday afternoon.



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Community searches for transportation

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

Members of the University community scrambled to find alternative means of transportation Tuesday, as the Lane Transit District strike rolled into its second day.

Bus drivers voted to strike Sunday following 10 contentious months of contract negotiations between Amalgamated Transit Union District 757, which represents the drivers, and LTD. The strike has completely suspended bus services in Lane County.

LTD surveys indicate that more than 10 percent of University students ride the bus on a daily basis.

The ASUO and Department of Public Safety worked to provide transportation options, and is offering free parking at Autzen Stadium. The University also accepted an offer from PeaceHealth to allow students, faculty and staff to ride a private shuttle from Lane County Fairgrounds to Sacred Heart Medical Center.

Beyond those two alternatives,

DPS encouraged biking or walking to campus, options which were further supported by Monday and Tuesday's fair weather.

"Weather impacts transportation even under normal times," said Rand Stamm, DPS parking and transportation manager.

DPS has received no complaints of specific incidents or clashes between University members and picketers, Stamm said. Students are, most likely, driving and parking near campus, then walking the rest of the way.

"You're probably seeing a lot more vehicles parking out into the neighborhood," he said.

Stamm added that there aren't many options for transportation.

"We have to be creative," he said.

The ASUO hasn't taken a position on the strike; ASUO officers indicated that the student government wanted to avoid the appearance of strike breaking.

ASUO President Adam Petkun said the ASUO will try to stay above the fray. Petkun defined



Buses sit unused in the Lane Transit District's bus depot at 3500 17th Ave. in Glenwood.

TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

"strike-breaking" as "a large-scale effort to provide an alternative and equivalent source of transportation," something the ASUO cannot afford. "We're trying to educate students on what is available," said Nathan Strauss, the ASUO public relations director. Strauss added that the Assault Prevention Shuttle is a transportation option as well. APS runs from 6 p.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday and 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Strauss added that the ASUO incurred no costs in connection with the strike other than printing costs for fliers.

Some members of the campus community simply need the buses. Angee Langenberg, who works at the University Bookstore Duck Stop coffee shop, said she lives about 40 minutes away from the University.

"I'm not really sure what I'm going to do, to be honest, if it

LTD, page 8