

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Associated Students' Constitution up for review

Student Government seeks to become more responsive, accessible to students

ROBERT SCHOENBERG
News Editor

A step towards convening a constitutional convention was taken Monday night at the weekly ASG meeting.

The representatives in attendance voted to form a Constitutional Review Committee that will consist of nine students from the campus as well as a Chair, or head of the committee.

It was voted that the Chair of the Constitutional Convention Committee would be ASG President David Ledoux and that when his term is over at the end of this school year in June, the Vice-Chair, who has not yet been picked, will become the Chair.

LeDoux said that any student interested on joining the committee should stop in at the ASG office and see him.

The committee was formed by a

vote of 12-4. The same proposal was defeated, 7-14, at last week's ASG Monday meeting.

"I think some people were confused about the process and the purpose of the convention. After a week of discussion people became more comfortable with what was going on," said LeDoux.

The Constitution is available in the ASG office to students interested in reading it. The document was last amended and approved on May 8, 1995.

In a memo that LeDoux released last week after the April 12 meeting, he said that some students were concerned about adequate representation of students by the ASG and that "there is not a clear understanding of what student government is and how constituents can use it as a medium of information, service, and/or get involved in it themselves."

Legislative Officer Christine Reed, Childcare Senator Jennifer Rankin and Student Access Senator Saida Johnston were some of the students expressing concern about student representation in the ASG.

They have been debating these

issues as well as ideas about the Federal, State and Associated Students' Constitutions in Political Science Instructor Dean Darris' class this term. The debates have involved students within and outside of student government.

"There's so many great ideas out there and ... so many people in the Political Science Dept. that understand the Constitution in depth," said Rankin.

Darris confirmed that after discussion of constitutions students became interested in reviewing the ASG Constitution.

Darris said that the process of analysis and evaluation of a constitution and amending the document is a normal function of a democratic government. Every constitution should be looked at carefully from time to time in the interest of the people that it concerns.

Johnston suggested that the ASG Constitution be made available at the ASG office for any student interested in knowing what it contained.

"If the student sees anything that they would like to improve or change, if they would just give us some feedback and give it to any-

one in the office. And that is just what we want to get back right now. We need their ideas," said Johnston.

"When students say they don't even know where the ASG office is I feel bad and I ask, 'why?'" she said. "Why don't they know? Because it's there for them."

The convention will be a series of forums attended by students with discussions about the different articles of the Constitution. Office manager Lynn Brown said that the forums will begin in May

and will probably continue next fall.

The review committee will then consider what the forums have proposed as changes to the Constitution.

LeDoux said that three goals he wants to see accomplished with the constitutional convention are better representation of the students, a review of the bylaws, and to make any necessary changes. In particular, he would like to see the bylaws reflect the ASG's responsibility to develop better communications with students.



Gaines at Gregory

Ernest J. Gaines, one of the most celebrated authors of literature today, will read and sign books Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Gregory Forum.

Gaines' most current success is his novel *A Lesson Before Dying*, which will be made into an HBO movie. Originally, the film was to debut in April, but the date has been moved back to May 22.

There is a great appreciation for Gaines' work by both blacks and whites. His lectures are popular and he is often invited to speak and read at libraries.

Ironically, some of the libraries that have asked him to speak

are the same libraries that had kicked him out during our country's segregation period.

Of his eight books, *Catherine Carmier*, *Of Love and Dust*, *In My Father's House*, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *A Gathering of Old Men* and *A Lesson Before Dying* are novels, *Bloodline* is a collection of short stories and *A Long Day in November* is a children's book.

Admission to the event is \$10 general, \$5 students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the college bookstore or at Looking Glass Bookstore, 318 SW Taylor, Portland. For further information, please contact ext. 2230.

Phi Theta Kappa garners awards at convention

STEFANIE SMITH
Staff Writer

Clackamas' chapter of Phi Theta Kappa attended the Oregon Region Convention in Springfield Oregon on Sat. March 27, and received numerous awards.

The Alpha Xi Zeta chapter received 12 total awards. Eight students received participation certificates, including: Hillary Wootan of Colton; Jennifer Cameron and Chris Sparrows of Estacada; Jan Baer and Lynn Brown of Milwaukie; Stacie Harp of Molalla and Matthew Ives and Scott Landauer of Oregon City. The minimum requirement for receiving a

participation certificate was to acquire 30 points through attendance and participation by attending meetings held four times during the school year.

Two members of Alpha Xi Zeta, Stacie Harp and Hillary Wootan have outstanding achievements.

Harp is the current chapter president and the outgoing regional vice president. Harp received the Personal Fellowship award for the person with the highest number of points. She received 207 participatory points. Wootan received the Personal Hallmark award, which is for exemplifying four previous Hallmark awards during the past year.

Two of the awards were to the Clackamas Chapter. The chapter earned the Participation award and the Leadership Hallmark award. The Participation award is for sending the highest number of members to the four regional meetings. The Leadership Hallmark award is for doubling the number of leadership positions within Phi Theta Kappa. Alpha Xi Zeta was also named as a distinguished chapter in the Oregon region. They were awarded with a scholarship to the International Honors Institute at Catholic University of America. This will be held this May in Washington, D.C., and the scholarship has a value of \$750.

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