

# The Liberal Informer

Issue 2

Your Right To Know

## ASUCD Attacks 1st Amendment!

On February 5th, 2007 a Leadership Institute member from out of state was invited by Steven Ostrowski (CDP) to an Internal Affairs Commission meeting at 5:10pm. The individual had a video camera with him and was advised by IAC Chair Mike Rivera that video cameras were to be turned off during the meeting. At 6:00pm Ostrowski was just about to enter Author's Comments on Senate Bill #51, also known as the Pledge of Allegiance Bill. This was the third time Ostrowski had brought the bill to the Internal Affairs Commission. The Senate Bill would add the Pledge of Allegiance to the Senate agenda and would be voluntarily recited by Senate and audience members. The bill had been defeated in May of 2006 and October of 2006 by wide margins. Senate Bill #51 if enacted would make the Pledge of Allegiance a once a quarter occurrence, a compromise to that of his original two.

Just as Ostrowski was to begin Author's Comments IAC Chair Mike Rivera ordered the Leadership Institute member to turn off the video camera. The LI member refused and stated that he had the right to video tape the meeting under the 1st Amendment. Rivera defered to Student Government Administration Office employee Paul Harms (L) to advise the LI member of the legality of tape recording the meeting. Harms stated that not all of the commission members had consented to be tape recorded. The LI member replied that he was within his rights and asked for Harms name. Harms then threatened to sue the LI member and was advised by Senator Andrew Peake (L) to call the police. Peake also dismissed the LI member's assertions concerning the 1st Amendment and also threatened to sue.

Rivera motioned to recess the commission for three minutes to which there were no objections. After three minutes time Rivera adjourned the meeting and tabled Senate Bill #51 for one week. Soon thereafter Ostrowski and the LI member walked into the AS PAPERS room to discuss what had just occurred. After a short time the LI member left the room to get a good phone reception. Senator Peake, the Director of the UC Davis ACLU, confronted Ostrowski and requested the name of the LI member for the purpose of civilly suing the individual. Ostrowski stated to Peake that he did not know the LI member's last name. Peake then left the room. At no point did campus police arrive to question Ostrowski, the LI member, or any other witness. Two days later Ostrowski recieved confirmation from Mike Tucker, the ASUCD Student Advisor, that video taping is permissible in commission meetings. A video of the confrontation is currently on Youtube. A police report on the incident was filed by Ostrowski on February 12, 2007.

## Pledge Bill Withdrawn

February 12, 2007 Senator Molnar (I) withdrew introducing Senate Bill #51 which would have mandated a voluntary, quarterly recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Author Steven Ostrowski designed the bill so that it would only be recited by those willing once a quarter. Co-Author Ronald Payne also voiced support for the Pledge Bill along with Senator Eric Friedman (SF). IAC Commissioner Daryl Suyat commented that the Pledge of Allegiance was similar to that of the American Imperialist conquest of the Philippines. Andrew Peake (L) voiced public opposition to the bill and told the commissioners that the bill was "disrespectful" to the association.

## ASUCD Court Case War

During Christmas Vacation Steven Ostrowski (CDP) sent several emails to Justices containing Court Case complaints. Ostrowski later learned that the Court had received the Court Case after reading a California Aggie article. Vice Chief Justice Joe Harney announced to the Senate the three lawsuits at the January 11th, meeting. It is an ethics violation for a Court Justice to announce all three cases at the same time. The proper procedure was to announce each case separately.

On January 16th, 2007 at 6:30 pm after an External Affairs Commission meeting Ostrowski was confronted by ASUCD Defense Council Kevin Powers (L), SGAO employee Paul Harms (L), and Internal Affairs Commissioner Matt Shannon. Powers, the defense council for ASUCD in Court Case #34, attempted to convince Ostrowski to drop the court cases. Ostrowski, vaguely aware of the progress of the court cases refused to agree on the spot and an argument ensued. Powers informed Ostrowski that he could also send lawsuits to the Court concerning a missing Internal Affairs Commission minutes in May of 2006. At the time Ostrowski was an IAC recorder. Powers also stated that he could sue Ostrowski for irregular hiring practices during an External Affairs Commission hiring session. The hiring committee was composed of only the EAC Chair Mike Lay (L), Senator Mara Harris (SF), and Senator Alexandra Frick (SF), one less person than allowed in the ASUCD Bylaws. A Court Case against Lay could have indirectly caused the removal of Ostrowski from EAC. The argument ended at around 7:00pm with no resolution. A court case by Powers has not yet been submitted.

## Voters Decide Unitrans Fee Hike

The February 21st-23rd ASUCD election will decide if voters will pay an extra \$6.00 a quarter in new fees. The fee designed by ASUCD Controller Kai Savaree Ruess (SF) will send an extra \$4.50 to Unitrans and a mandatory \$1.50 to student financial aid programs. The fee's grand total expense for students will be \$18.00 more a year.



Davis Wiki Org

Currently students pay \$24.50 a quarter in ASUCD fees for Unitrans. The fee increase will bring the fee up to \$29.00 a quarter for Unitrans. According to ASUCD officials Unitrans has run out of reserves and will need a new fee in order to stay status quo. If the fee is not passed, Unitrans will cut bus services which will result in overcrowding.

January 7th 2007 the ASUCD Senate unanimously passed the Senate Bill which would put the fee referendum on the ballot. Subordinate bodies of the ASUCD Senate the Business and Finance Commission and the Internal Affairs Commission approved the fee referendum unanimously. ASUCD Presidential Candidates Kareem Salem (L) and Spencer Higgins (SF) co-authored and endorsed the Fee Referendum.

The Yes Campaign Executive for the Unitrans Fee is Controller Kai Savaree Ruess (SF). He will have to obtain 20% voter turnout and make sure 60% plus one vote in favor of the fee. No ASUCD election in recent years has ever achieved 20% voter turnout.

The No Campaign Executive is Steven Ostrowski (CDP) who volunteered for the position in order to facilitate a necessary opposition party. "If you want to vote no, you might as well not vote because a no vote in this election is essentially a yes vote."

## Presidential Candidate Spencer Higgins

Spencer Higgins and Tiny Sanders  
Class 2008  
Political Views: Moderate  
Major: Political Science

Spencer Higgins' government experience includes being an ASUCD Senate Intern, an Academic Affairs Commissioner, and former ASUCD Senator. In his professional experience Higgins was an intern for California State Senator Dave Cox of the 1st District. He is also a Theta Xi Senior House member, Neighborhood Relations officer, and Philanthropy Chair. Higgins believes that the students have been neglected over the last two LEAD administrations and that the general population is underrepresented and as a result student money has been misappropriated.

Higgins also declares that the ASUCD budget is sporadic and inefficient and needs to be taken in a new direction. As part of his platform Higgins desires to distribute more money to campus clubs, organizations, and into the hands of the general student body. He claims that as ASUCD President he will give more money back to students through services, entertainment, and cash. He proposes a wage increase for the Coffee House, discounts for student employees, and more money for Club Finance Council. He says he wants to reinvigorate campus entertainment and will work more for student outreach and advocacy.



## Senator Eric Friedman Promotes Open Government

At ASUCD Senate January 11th Eric Friedman (SF) promoted a Senate Bill that would require senators to spend half of their office hours in public venue. Currently ASUCD Senators spend four hours for their office hours. The Senate Bill mandates that Senators hold at least half of their office hours in a public place such as the Quad, ARC, Memorial Union, and various campus resource centers. Senators would report in advance the location of their outside office hours. Senate Bill #37 passed 10-2-0.

## Senator Friedman Struggles For Democracy

Senator Eric Friedman (SF) was advised in an informal discussion by the Internal Affairs Commission to write a Constitutional Amendment that would reduce the required signatures to be put on the ballot to 5% from 8%. ASUCD Constitutional Amendment #21 if passed would have been put on the Winter 2007 ASUCD ballot. The Constitutional Amendment if passed by the voters would reduce the amount of signatures to 1150 from that of 1840. The bill passed 5-4 with both Davis College Democrat officers Max Mikalonis and Joseph Bleckman (SF) voting in favor. Events Coordinator for the Executive Branch and Internal Affairs Commissioner Kevin Powers (L) voted against it. Senator Friedman stressed the point that students have not filed a ballot measure in years, and that the current level discouraged students from being active in the ASUCD process. Senator Andrew Peake (L) disagreed stating that an individual getting signatures for a ballot measure is attempting to work outside of the ASUCD Senate and is not willing to work with the system. He also stated that students tend to rubber stamp any ballot measure that comes to them. Senator Dan Xie (L) advised the Senate that 1840 signatures could be collected within 2 days if they were as organized as a Calpirg crew. The bill failed 1-11-0 with Senator Friedman voting in favor of his own bill.

## ASUCD Police Relations Committee Missing in Action

The Police Relations Committee made permanent in May of 2006 has yet to hire a chair, committee members, or have one meeting. The task of hiring the committee chair rested with External Affairs Director James Schwab (L) who then passed the job to Senator Naomi Amaha (L). Ideally the Police Relations Committee would work with the University of California Police Department and the Davis Police Department to resolve disputes between students and the police. The Police Relations Committee differs from that of the City of Davis in that police officers are not present when complaints are made to the committee. The Committee is also charged with informing students of their constitutional rights and what to do when stopped by the police.

On February 5th, 2007 the Internal Affairs Commission passed President Holloway's (L) reorganization of the Police Relations Committee. The Committee as written would invite leaders from various aspects of society to consider police-student relations.

# Democrats Achieve Power!

## Democrats Distance Themselves From Gays

Former Democratic Congressman Harold Ford became the new Democratic National Council Head. Ford was one of 34 House Representatives to vote in favor of an amendment that would define marriage between a man and a woman. The National Stonewall Democrats, a group of gay Democrats stated that he “possesses a poor record on issues that impact LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender] families.” NSD Executive Director Joanne Wyrick said in a statement, “Congressman Harold Ford has demonstrated a lack of leadership and judgment on family issues that causes our members great concern.” Ford who lost in the Tennessee Senate race was appointed to the position after the resignation of Iowa Governor William Visack who is running for President.

## Democrats Snub Anti-War House Majority Leader Candidate

November 16th, 2006 Jack Murtha, a Congressional Representative of Pennsylvania and staunch anti-war critic, was defeated in his bid to become House Majority Leader. With a vote of 149-86 Steny Hoyer of Maryland became House Majority Leader. The vote defied House Speaker Nancy Pelosi who had publicly backed Murtha.

## Davis College Democrats Promote Members

With DCD President Mario Lopez leaving to Washington DC for the Winter Quarter of 2007 Vice President Max Mikalonis is now in charge. Joseph Bleckman the former DCD Treasurer is now the Vice President of the organization. During Mario’s time as president he worked on the Phil Angelides campaign, proposition campaigns, and successfully passed a club bill allowing DCD to endorse ASUCD Senate and Presidential candidates.

## Conservative Ballot Measures Succeed in 2006

Arizona Proposition 103: English as Official Language	Virginia Ballot Question 1: Ban Same-Sex Marriage
Yes 849,772 74%	Yes 1,325,668 57%
No 295,632 26%	No 1,003,967 43%

Colorado Amendment 43: Ban Same-Sex Marriage	Wisconsin Referendum 1: Ban Same-Sex Marriage
Yes 768,700 56%	Yes 1,260,554 59%
No 612,155 44%	No 861,554 41%

Idaho Amendment 2: Ban Same-Sex Marriage	South Dakota Amendment C: Ban Same-Sex Marriage
Yes 281,823 63%	Yes 172,237 52%
No 163,191 37%	No 160,756 48%

Michigan Proposition 2: Restrict Affirmative Action	Tennessee Amendment 1: Ban Same-Sex Marriage
Yes 2,137,574 58%	Yes 1,418,905 81%
No 1,552,459 42%	No 327,162 19%

South Carolina Amendment 1: Ban Same-Sex Marriage
Yes 818,894 78%
No 230,674 22%

## Mississippi Bans Abortion

The Mississippi State Senate passed a ban on abortion Wednesday February 7, 2007 by a vote of 35-4. The ban, which includes exceptions for cases of sexual assault, incest, or when a woman’s life is in danger, will be sent to the Mississippi House for consideration. Senate Public Health Committee Chair Alan Nunnelee (R) told state senators that the bill “in no way regulates young women. It regulates the folks making money off young women. They would be criminals, put in jail.”

The Mississippi Senate also passed two additional bills: the first, SB 2801, would require a physician to offer a woman the opportunity to view a sonogram and hear the heartbeat of the fetus before obtaining an abortion and the second, SB 2391, would require all minors to obtain either parental consent or the court’s permission before an abortion.

## Huckabee Challenges Republican Candidates

January 27, 2007 Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee announced on “Meet the Press” that he would be running for President. “I think this is an opportunity to show the American dream is still alive and there’s hope and optimism that can be awakened in a lot of people’s lives if they think that a person like me can run and actually become president” Huckabee told the Associate Press. The Baptist Minister and social conservative contrasts with the more moderate Sen. John McCain and Former New York Mayor Giuliani. He entered Arkansas politics by winning the Lt. Governor position in 1993 and was reelected in 1994. In 1996 he became Governor of Arkansas, a position he kept until 2007. During the Hurricane disaster Huckabee opened his state to 70,000 evacuees, “take care of those human needs first and worry about the paperwork later.”

## Democrats For Life Grows Stronger

In last November’s election Pro Life Democratic challenger Bob Casey successfully defeated Republican Rick Santorum. “If we are going to be pro-life, we cannot say we are against abortion for an unborn child and then let our children suffer in schools that are broken and suffer in homes that need the kind of help we should be providing.” Six other Pro Life Democratic Congressional candidates were also successful. Congressman Heath Shuler defeated Republican incumbent Charlie Taylor in North Carolina’s 11th District and stated, “I am a pro-life Democrat and I believe that all life is sacred. I also believe that a commitment to life extends beyond the womb and means ensuring that all people have adequate health care, receive a strong education, and be given proper care in their later years.”

## Walk For Life in San Francisco

Several Davis Newman Center and Pro Life supporters traveled to San Francisco for the Walk For Life March on January 20, 2007. The event was organized largely due to the efforts of the Democrats For Life organization. They claim that true Democrats support all life whether it be concerning abortion, education, jobs, and health care. The amount numbered was an estimated 20,000 people an increase of 5,000 from last year. Davis Pro Choice supporters were assisted with rides by the National Organization for Women. Pro Choice counter protesters were estimated to be 1,000 people.

While Queers for Choice simulated abortions and gay eroticism on the sidewalks Pro Life supporters seemed to brush off the counter protests by reciting the Catholic Rosary.

## Sen. Joe Bidan Makes Racist Remark

January 31st, 2007 Senator Joe Bidan of Delaware, a Democratic Presidential Candidate, commented of Senator Barack Obama, “I mean, you got the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy,” he said. Joe Bidan who soon thereafter announced he was running for president quickly apologized. The comment has implications for African American Presidential Candidates Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, and Carol Mosely Braun who all ran years before Obama. Senator Bidan has also criticized fellow Democratic contender Sen. Hillary Clinton calling her proposal to cap the number of U.S. troops in Iraq a resulting disaster. He also stated that former Senator John Edwards doesn’t “know what the heck he’s talking about,” when it came to withdrawing some troops from Iraq. He went on to say that Obama, Clinton, and Edwards didn’t being debating Iraq “until they announced for President.”

## John Edwards’ Bloggers Bash Christians

February 8th, 2007 Former Senator and Presidential Candidate John Edwards refused to fire two bloggers after they made personal blog entries criticizing the Pope and Christians. The blog from Amanda Marcotte stated, “The Pope’s gotta tell women who give birth to stillborns that their babies are cast into Satan’s maw. . . . The Catholic Church is not about to let something like compassion for girls get in the way of using the state as an instrument to force women to bear more tithing Catholics.” She went on to say, “Q: What if Mary had taken Plan B after the Lord filled her with his hot, white, sticky Holy Spirit? A: You’d have to justify your misogyny with another ancient mythology.” Blogger Melissa McEwan called social conservatives, “wingnut Christofacists base.” Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, requested that Edwards fire Amanda Marcotte and Melissa McEwan. “John Edwards is a decent man who has had his campaign tarnished by two anti-Catholic, vulgar, trash-talking bigots,” Donohue wrote in a statement. “He has no choice but to fire them immediately,” he added. John Edwards, the former Democratic Vice Presidential candidate, told the press that he had a talk with the bloggers but will not fire the two individuals. It is believe by some that Edwards didn’t want to cave in to conservative pressure.

## German Christian Democrats putting Christianity Back into EU Constitution

January 22, 2006 German Chancellor Angela Merkel has renewed her criticism of the draft EU constitution for not referring to the importance of Christianity in Europe.

“I would have preferred clearer acknowledgement of (Europe’s) Christian roots,” Merkel said in an interview with Germany’s Focus magazine.

Merkel and her conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) have argued for a stronger reference in EU Constitution for the Christian roots of Europe. Germany’s constitution also refers to “responsibility to God and people”.

Merkel is leading Germany’s six-month EU presidency, and has announced a new road map last week in order to agree on a new revised EU constitution for the 27-nation bloc.

The draft EU constitution was rejected in referendums in France and the Netherlands eighteen months ago.

## Australian Prime Minister Bashes Obama

February 11, 2007 Australian PM John Howard spoke out against American Democratic Presidential Candidate Barack Obama stating that terrorist will, “be praying as many times as possible for a victory, not only for Obama but also for the Democrats.” Howard said of Obama that leaving Iraq next year, “will just encourage those who want to completely destabilize and destroy Iraq, and create chaos and a victory for the terrorists to hang on and hope for an Obama victory”.

Australian PM Howard was criticized by opposition parties in Australia. Labor leader Kevin Rudd said Howard’s comments called the Democrats “the terrorists’ party of choice” and could damage Australia’s future with a possible Democratic U.S. administration. But Howard was also supported by members of his own party. “They are saying it’s time to just abandon the Middle East to al-Qaeda,” legislator Wilson Tuckey told reporters in Canberra. “We’ve got to be very careful about this cut-and-run mentality that seems to operate in the left-wing citadels of governments or would-be governments around the world,” legislator Don Randall said. Obama answered the Prime Minister challenging him to send more troops to Iraq.

# Tijuana House Project Compromise

ASUCD Senate Bill #33 was authored by Steven Ostrowski and co-authored by Jessica Armanderez, Ben Gallagher, Peter Markevich (SF), Nicholas Spada, Joseph Bleckman (SF), and Bihn Ta. The bill was introduced by Senator Michael Molnar. The bill requested \$1000 from Senate Reserves to help fund the Newman Center's Tijuana House Project. Every year 25-30 students go to Tijuana Mexico during Christmas break to build houses for impoverished families. However, the materials and other expenses can reach up to \$15,000. With a budget shortfall of \$1,500 Tijuana House Project Coordinators came to ASUCD.

The bill later received high praise by the Ethnic and Cultural Affairs Commission and was passed 6-0-3. The ECAC also granted an additional \$285 towards the project. The following day the Bill failed 0-9-1 by the Business and Finance Commission. The project was criticized for not going through the Club Finance Council, for being overly religious, and for being a charity project. During the discussion no amendments were made as to lowering the price of the bill. Vice Presidential Candidate Julie Hooper (L) voted against the bill. On December 7th, the authors and co-authors of the Bill attempted to make

Senate Bill #33 come up as urgent. The first attempt failed but the second was successful with a 7-5-0 vote. The debate lasted over two hours as an evenly divided Senate considered the Bill. Former Senator Spencer Higgins (SF), a presidential candidate, voiced support for the bill, and stated that he had worked in Tijuana five times in a row on a similar project. Senator Friedman (SF) who had gone on a similar project with the Hillel House last summer voiced support. Senator Rosas-Romero (L) stressed the significance of the project

towards those in poverty. Opposition was largely led by Senator Andrew Peake (L) frustrated that Club Finance Council was not used. TJ Coordinators stated that the deadline for CFC funds had already passed before coming to Senate. As debate continued Peter Markevich (SF) and Michael Molnar (I) made amendments to grant the TJ Project a \$500 loan to be paid back April 15th, 2007 along with a \$500 grant. Senator Zamora (L) polled the Senate members as to whether this was acceptable. Seeing a lack of opposition to the changes the bill was called to question. Senate Bill #33 passed 12-0-0. The TJ Project was also assisted by the ASUCD President's and VP's Budget (L).

## Outreach Assembly May Cause Corruption

The Outreach Assembly Constitutional Amendment to be decided by ASUCD voters would create the hiring of a Speaker, and twelve subordinate employees. Each employee would be charged with outreaching to various campus organizations. The funding of the Assembly would come from the Campus Outreach Office Budget. The Assembly members are selected by a hiring committee composed of the ASUCD President, ASUCD Vice President, ASUCD Senate President Pro Tempore, Director of the Campus Outreach and Organizing Office, and the Chair of Internal Affairs Commission. All of the above positions are currently control by LEAD officials. In theory the Speaker and all 12 outreach employees could be appointed by one dominating slate. In the event the Outreach Assembly is under the control of one dominating slate the

Assembly could be used for campaigning and endorsement purposes during elections. With each position paid by ASUCD a slate could use those employees to secure votes thus dominating the elections year after year. If this occurs opposition slates will not be able to compete with the slate in power essentially creating a one slate dictatorship. The Outreach Assembly was designed over the the summer of 2006 with several radical ideas. Assembly employees were to represent student groups without being elected and they would proceed to pass resolutions. The Assembly was also going to need a fee hike in order for it to give grants to campus organizations. The dissolving of the Club Finance Council in order to fund the Assembly was also considered. These characteristics of the earlier version of the Assembly were removed by commissions and the Senate. The Amendment will only need majority approval.

## The Battle for Gender Neutral Bathrooms

An ASUCD resolution promoting gender neutral bathrooms passed 12-0-0 in the ASUCD Senate. The resolution stated support for a policy change within UC Davis to make current and new single stalled bathrooms into unisex bathrooms. As such those that are Transgendered may be able to access these bathrooms without harrassment. When asked by Steven Ostrowski (CDP) if current UC Davis policy was against California State discrimination laws he was answered by resolution supporter Atkinson. "I think a case could be made for that, I don't know that it would directly impact." Beauchamp also stated, "I think there could be case made that discrimination happens in gendered

restrooms. I don't think it would be in direct conflict, but constructing those helps us to be in compliance." Senator Molnar (I) asked if the policy change would cause greater tuition costs. Proambstal, a supporter of the resolution stated, "Few points I want to address specifically: tuition, I don't know costs but as someone who transitioned I paid for restrooms that you all used that I didn't not feel safe using while transitioning. I had to get out of office, walk three buildings over where no one knows me to use restroom safely." "I was greatly offended when GASC did not pass this unanimously. I hope you can put a face and a name to this resolution, so you know that when you vote no you know that you're voting so people

like me don't have a safe place to pee," he later stated. GASC is the Gender and Sexuality Commission of ASUCD. It passed the resolution with a 6-1-2 vote. Thomas, another supporter stated, "To use transgender using male or female, analogous to 1960's African American seeing 'blacks only' or 'white only', this is how we feel about it. Transgender have highest suicide rate, and highest unreported crimes. I have been victim of three [crimes], [and] only reported last one that put me in hospital [for] three weeks. If you wish to create another Gwen Arujo story, don't vote for this." The resolution was passed unamiously.

## LEAD Senators Want More Condoms Gaps in ASUCD Coverage

Senator Andrew Peake (L) and Molly Fluet (L) desire to instal condom machines in Freshmen dorms. Peake stated "that while Health Education and Promotion, a part of the Cowell Student Health Center, gives away two free condoms to students who request them, it is not enough to keep students protected from sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies." Senator Peake said he and Fluet want to work with Student Housing and other university officials to implement the machines and that they will be scheduling a meeting with Student Housing representatives soon. Senator Peake plans to make the condom machines a profitable ASUCD unit. Student House has yet to agree to the plan. Peake believes he can use ASUCD money or health grants to fund the project.

## Davis College Democrats Block Christine Pham

LEAD Senate Candidate Christine Pham was blocked by Davis College Democrats when she attempted to obtain an endorsement from the organization. The Davis College Democrats have been able to endorse ASUCD candidates after they voted to change their bylaws in Novemver of 2006. In the Fall 2006 ASUCD election Davis College Democrats voted against suspending their bylaws in order to endorse candidates. When asked if Pham would advocate Democratic causes and candidates on the campus she declined to do so. The Davis College Democrat members with the exception of President Max Mikalonis voted not to endorse her.

## LEAD Runs Candidates This Year

LEAD is running candidates for the Winter 2007 ASUCD Election. Their names are Madisyn Coniglio, Usenima Inyang, Michael Lay, Fazila Malik, Christine Pham, and Ivan Carrillo. They are also running Kareem Salem and Julie Hooper for President and Vice President. See the Davis Wiki for more details.

## The ASUCD Court

Chief Justice Kris Fricke retired from the Court after serving four years. In this position he swore in four ASUCD Presidents, presided over about seven cases, and was considered for impeachment three times. His replacement is Tim Coady.

### Court Case #34

The Court decided that Andrew Peake was not a party in the Closed Session of Kai Savaree Ruess despite giving Kai a more than friendly handshake at the Fall 2006 Election Forum. The Court thus ruled the Closed Session illegal and has order ASUCD to make the Closed Session's minutes public.

### Court Case #35

Plaintif Brent Laabs settled with ASUCD President Holloway out of Court. There was an apparent controversy over whether Academic Senate Representatives were to be confirmed by the Senate or not. The President argued successfully that all representatives are the President's designees.

### Court Case #36

Plaintif Steven Ostrowski argued that Senate Recorder Bobby Gray had failed to make public Senate minutes for long periods of time in November and December of 2006. The case was not accepted by the ASUCD Court.

### Court Case #37

Plaintif Steven Ostrowski accused Internal Affairs Chairman Mike Rivera of promoting Joseph Bleckman to an IAC term he shouldn't have received in November of 2006. The Court Case was dropped before the scheduled hearing. The Court Case was officially dismissed by the Court on January 31st.

### Court Case #38

Plaintif Steven Ostrowski pointed out in his case that Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mike Rivera did not hire an IAC 2nd alternate for the Fall 2006 quarter. The Court dismissed the case due to the statute of limitations in the Judicial Codes.

### Have a Complaint?

Go to the Student Government Administration Office on the Third Floor of the MU and ask for a Court Case form. Then fill out the form and re-submit it to SGAO. The Court will contact you shortly.

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## Student Focus Brings Commission Experience

The Student Focus team for Senate this February election includes four candidates with ASUCD commission experience. Peter Markevich is the current Chairman of the Academic Affairs Commission, Billy Durham is an External Affairs Commissioner, Molly Sundstrom is a Business and Finance Commissioner, and Joseph Bleckman is an Internal Affairs Commissioner. This is an improvement from the last election where only two candidates had commission experience, that being Alexandra Frick of EAC, and Eric Friedman of AAC. Spencer Higgins, Student Focus' Presidential candidate, has been on the Academic Affairs Commission.

**Peter Markevich:** The current Academic Affairs Commission Chair, Peter was involved in setting up the popular and educational Beer Vs Wine debate. Markevich also lead his commission to successfully pass the Outreach Assembly bill. As a commission chair Markevich has been at the Senate table as an ex-officio member since the beginning of the Fall Quarter of 2006. Markevich was also instrumental in the lobbying, negotiating, and passing of an ASUCD grant to the Catholic Newman Center's Tijuana House Project. Peter was also a member of Lobby Corp and is an ASUCD representative for two UC Davis Academic Senate committees. Markevich was charged with employing over a dozen presidential designees to represent ASUCD at Academic Senate committee meetings.

**Joseph Bleckman:** Now an Internal Affairs Commissioner, Joseph served as an alternate for the commission for the fall quarter of 2006. He would vote frequently, due to absences, supporting the Pledge of Allegiance, an Attorney General, and club endorsement reform. As a full commissioner Bleckman voted for reforming the Police Relations Committee. Bleckman also wrote Senate Bills editing the bylaws of procedural mistakes. As a member of Student Focus this will be his second attempt running for ASUCD Senate.

**Molly Sundstrom:** A Business and Finance Commissioner Sundstrom is responsible for bringing financial sanity to ASUCD. She is the Vice President of public relations for her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. She is also an intern for the City of Davis and Congressman Mike Thompson. She was an intern for the Arnold Schwarzenegger reelection campaign in fall of 2006.

**Billy Durham:** An ASUCD External Affairs Commission member Durham is responsible for the correction and recommending of resolutions. He has previously served on the Student Police Relations Committee. He is currently the Alumni Relations representative of the Delta Chi Fraternity and had held multiple positions in the fraternity dealing with public relations and social situations. He was also the Public Relations Director of the Transfer Student Association as well as a lobbyist for city, state, and national levels with groups such as APAPA and USDR.

## Student Focus Inspire Freshmen

Student Focus is running two freshmen in the Winter 2007 ASUCD election. Lorig Kalfayan was the campaign manager for Mara Harris, a current ASUCD Senator, and was a member of the Youth Advisory Council in her hometown, San Carlos. She was also the captain of her water polo team in high school and is currently in the Davis Honors Challenge (DHC). She is the little sister of former ASUCD Senator Ari Kalfayan.

Gregory Webb is from Santa Maria, California and was president of several high school clubs. In this capacity he co-founded a group to raise money for his high school and is one of the few in his class to reach college. Greg's goal "is to serve as a Senator that is committed to being efficient, accessible and fair."

## Campaign Managers Run for Senate

**Ersen Cem Turhall:** is a third year student, a double major in International Relations and Economics. Currently he is working in the Coffee House as an out front employee. He is also a member of International Relations Student Association (IRSA) as well as UCD Boxing Club. He was Mara Harris' campaign manager last quarter. Cem hopes to work with Markevich on an idea to push for more 1-2 unit upper division seminars to help combat issues with minimum progress and allow students to take course loads different than 12 or 16 units.

**James Adams:** is a second year Managerial Economics and Political Science double major he is from the San Francisco Peninsula and went to high School at Saint Ignatius College Prep. He is also a member of the Greek Community as a brother of Theta Xi where he is the current Theta Xi Philanthropy Chair as well as the Rush Chair.

James has been involved in Senate for the past year interning for Senators Spencer Higgins and Mara Harris. He was also involved in the Fall Senate Campaign for both Mara Harris and Jack Shannon.

# AS PAPERS

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## Christian Slate Runs Again!

Ronald Payne:

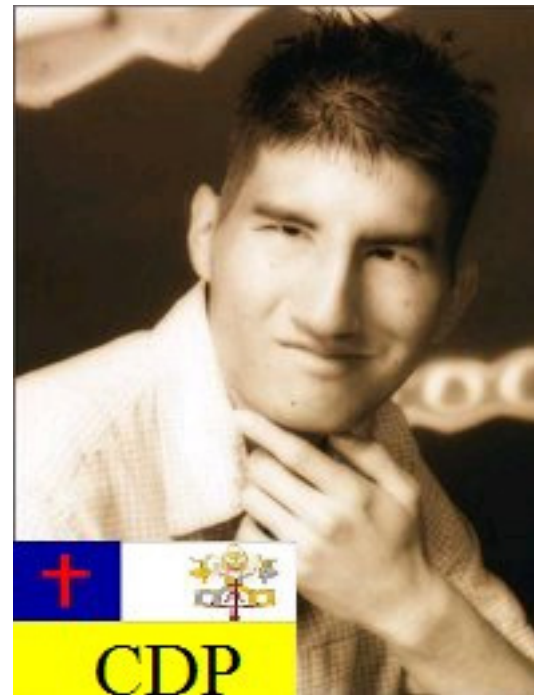
Class: 2008

Major: Political Science and History

ASUCD Positions: Textbook Affordability Committee

Financial Officer of the Christian Democratic Party, AS PAPERS Editor

Political Views: Conservative



Ronald Payne is a member of the College Life Christian Fellowship and is an employee at the UC Davis Shields Library. The Christian Slate has a list of platform agenda items for students to consider:

**ASUCD Congress:** After the successful passage of the Outreach Assembly I will work to create a new ASUCD Congress with representatives from each club on campus to make recommendations to the Senate, commissions, and units. The Congress will have a Speaker (Outreach Assembly Speaker), a Majority Leader to represent the political views of the majority, and a Minority Leader to represent the others. Student presidents of clubs will be able to vote on resolutions, legislation, and all other decision making referred to it by the ASUCD Vice President. I desire to give you, the students, an active role in ASUCD and I am willing to share power among all clubs on the campus.

**Ethics Reform:** I will make ASUCD more open to the public when it comes to weekly meetings and budget hearings. I will make sure Senate minutes are in on time and that they can't be tampered with by others.

**Prevent Fee Increases:** I favor increasing the voter threshold to 67% for raising any non-Unitrans fee on the student body. You already pay way too much in fees and ASUCD should not add to your trouble

**A Resolute Resolution:** I will work to get a Constitutional Amendment passed to require a 2/3rds vote on all resolutions in order to strengthen all resolutions and make sure that the public is on board with what the Senate hopes to achieve.

**Supporting America:** I will make sure that the ROTC are formerly invited back to campus and will not be threatened by the Senate during my term of office. I will also push for the Pledge of Allegiance during Senate meet-

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