

Committee talks about changing Honor Court testimony policies

BY LEAH HANEY
STAFF WRITER

The Committee on Student Conduct discussed implementing a policy to keep complainants who testify in Honor Court hearings on call throughout the hearing at their Tuesday meeting.

According to the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance, Honor Court cases are closed, which means the complainant is not allowed to remain in the room after giving testimony.

The proposed policy would allow complainants to counter testimony that comes up later in the trial.

Meg Bennett, associate attorney general of the Student Judicial System, said the defendant in a case could undercut the complainant's testimony and the complainant, often a professor, could not respond to the information.

"(Informing the complainant) is really necessary and worth delaying the hearing to ensure it is fair, and all accurate information is brought up," Bennett said.

A subcommittee that reported on the proposal suggested keeping the professor or complainant "on call" by having a number at which they could be reached during the hearing. If the complainant wished to present another testimony, the court would delay and reconvene.

Margaret Barrett, judicial programs officer, said the complainant call-back policy would apply to complainants who have technical knowledge or useful information that applies to the defendant's testimony.

Complainants are currently allowed to refute a defendant's testimony, but they are rarely informed of the content of the testimony. Therefore, they do not always include everything they know

about a situation that could be necessary to convict a student.

"I think we all have a tendency to give people a minimum amount of information, but I think we need to make sure faculty get all the information they need," Barrett said.

Bennett said faculty do not always present technical knowledge in their testimony because they think that knowledge is not necessary to get a conviction. When the student is acquitted, faculty sometimes become angry.

Stephen Weiss, chairman of the Department of Computer Science, said being informed of a defendant's testimony would make him feel less adversarial in cases where the outcome surprised him. Barrett said it was important to encourage communication between the participants and the facilitators of the judicial process.

Tobacco heiress' butler found dead

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
LOS ANGELES — Bernard Lafferty, the pony-tailed butler whose control over tobacco heiress Doris Duke's billion dollar estate led to accusations that he killed her, was found dead in his bed.

Friends staying at the Bel-Air Estates mansion he bought recently discovered his body early Monday.

A cause of death was not immediately clear, but there was no sign of foul play, said Scott Carrier, spokesman for the Los Angeles County coroner's office. Lafferty suffered from very high blood pressure, said his spokeswoman, Judy Miller.

Lafferty, originally from Ireland, was 51, Carrier said. But Miller said he may have been 52, adding that he has no surviving relatives.

Lafferty was named the executor of an estate now valued at \$1.5 billion when Duke, the only child of American Tobacco Co. founder James Buchanan Duke, died in 1993 at age 80. Her will also gave him a central role in the charitable foundation formed to dispense most of the fortune.

The estate was thrown into turmoil when Duke's deathbed nurse, Tammy Payette, charged that Lafferty and a doctor killed the heiress with an overdose of morphine and Demerol at her home above Beverly Hills.

In July, the county district attorney's office said there was "no credible evidence" Duke was killed.

"Those who have attempted to reduce Miss Duke's life to sordid events have

not prevailed," Lafferty said at the time. "It is time to honor her memory by continuing her good works."

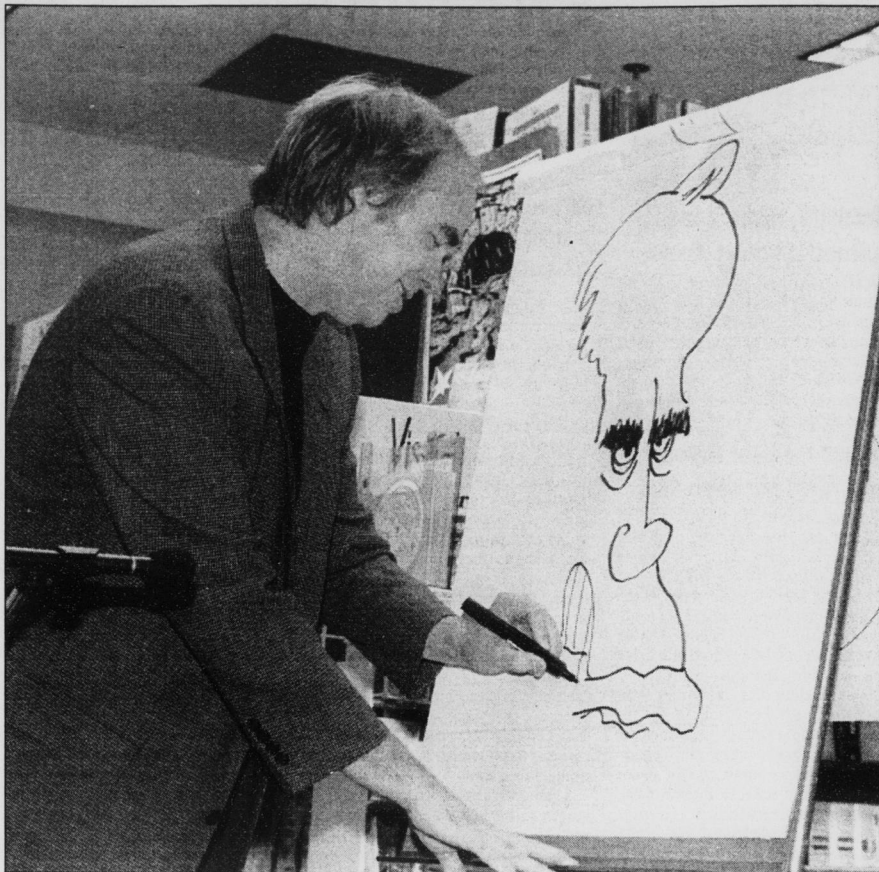
Payette was later sentenced to eight years in prison for stealing jewelry and other valuables from homes of her wealthy patients, including Duke.

Lafferty was branded a spendthrift and an alcoholic as the battle over Duke's death continued, and he finally agreed in May to resign as executor of the estate and play no role in the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

In return, he received \$4.5 million in executor's fees and a \$500,000 yearly bequest. Lafferty had received about half of the executor's fees; the other half will go to his estate.

But the settlement remains in question while a New York judge determines whether she was misled during negotiations. Lafferty was an only child whose parents died by the time he was 17. He moved from Ireland to Philadelphia, where an aunt lived; and worked at a hotel as a waiter and then maitre d'. Singer Peggy Lee hired him as a butler, and in 1986 he went to work for Duke.

SKETCHY CHARACTER



Nationally syndicated political cartoonist Doug Marlette marks the end of the presidential campaign Tuesday afternoon by satirizing Republican candidate Bob Dole at Bull's Head Bookshop.

DTH/AMY CAFFIELLO

Doctors say Yeltsin's surgery a success

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin's heart bypass surgery was pronounced a success Tuesday and surgeons predicted a full recovery, easing anxiety which has hobbled Russia for months.

Yeltsin could take back his powers about his health, and the government was near paralysis.

Dr. Yevgeny Chazov, head of the Moscow Cardiological Center where the operation was performed, said there were no complications during the surgery. Dr. Michael DeBakey, the American heart surgery pioneer who is a consultant on the case and who trained Akchurin, declared it a success.

Doctors said they couldn't predict when he could leave the hospital.

Dr. Renat Akchurin led the 12-man surgical team that conducted the seven-hour coronary artery bypass operation.

He said the number of bypasses "significantly exceeded" the estimate of three or four that previous doctors had speculated initially might be necessary for his recovery.

Yeltsin's blood circulation had been significantly improved.

Akchurin refused to say how many bypasses were done.

"I'd tell you immediately if I had his

permission," he said. "It's his personal business."

Yeltsin's long illness has left Russia with a part-time leader at best and spawned power struggles among presidential prospects.

Financial markets trembled at rumors about his health, and the government was near paralysis.

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"I would predict the president to be able to return to his office and perform his duty in perfectly normal fashion," said DeBakey, who watched the operation on a monitor outside the operating room with a team of American and German consultants.

It could be a day or two before Yeltsin, 65, is well enough to reclaim the presidential powers, including control over Russia's immense nuclear arsenal, that he handed off to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin before the surgery.

"He is going to decide that for himself," a weary Akchurin told reporters. "Most probably it will happen tomorrow or the day after."

Akchurin said Yeltsin would likely remain on a respirator overnight to minimize the chance of complications. The president's postoperative treatment depends on how soon Yeltsin is breathing on his own, he said.

A presidential spokesman said Yeltsin regained consciousness but was heavily sedated.

Yeltsin was on a heart-lung machine for 68 minutes during surgery, Akchurin said.

The president's illness has tested the frankness of the Kremlin, a hulking fortress which for centuries has hoarded information about Russia's leaders with an implacable zeal.

Yeltsin concealed a heart attack right before he was re-elected in July, then waited until September to tell the nation he needed surgery.

That burst of openness, however, was followed by a paucity of information that proved a breeding ground for ugly rumors and the naked ambition of would-be successors.

unsure who they would choose.

"I'm not even sure who I'm going to vote for yet," Anderson said. "It's hard to choose one person because you have to vote for some things that you don't believe in."

Despite the large voter turnout, not everyone made it to the polls Tuesday. Brooksie Broome, a freshman from Walnut Cove, said she did not feel well-informed on the issues.

"The reason I did not vote was because I didn't pay attention and was unsure who to vote for," Broome said. "I didn't want to vote just to say I voted. I didn't want to make a bad choice, so I didn't vote at all."

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AT THE POLLS
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sues.

"If it was not a presidential election, I would not have voted," Anderson said. "I think local elections are important, but they are less publicized. Nobody really knows about the candidate."

Other voters who were eligible to vote in previous elections but had not voted said they decided to vote Tuesday. Sopho-

more Ryan Jewel of Selma said, "I did not find any pending issue to vote for in the last election."

Most voters said they decided to vote in hopes of improving the government.

"I am concerned and feel that this is something that I need to be a part of," said Kenneth Jones, a sophomore from Roanoke Rapids. "It's almost a choice between the lesser of two evils, not a vote for the better (presidential) candidate."

Some voters waited in line to vote, still

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