Gay issues committee to finalize Friday

The administration and members of the faculty expect to finalize the details Friday of a committee formed to examine gay issues on campus.

Provost John Dunn, who Chancellor Walter Wendler charged Friday with creating the committee, said he is optimistic about Friday’s meeting.

Dunn met with Paulette Caukin, co-director of the Triangle Coalition, and Bob Cherico, director of Shryock, a couple of times over the last month to finalize the purpose and structure of the committee.

“Our meetings are very productive, and I think that is going well,” Dunn said.

Caukin said she expects the committee members’ names to be announced after Friday’s meeting.

“I’m very pleased,” Caukin said. “I feel that lot of people have stepped forward and express their support and concerns.

Following his July comments relating homosexuality to “unfit behavior,” the chancellor told The Daily Egyptian editorial board that he would create a task force to explore lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. While Wendler called it a task force, Dunn refers to it only as a committee.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

GALLERY PREMIERS ELECTION ART

“The Election Show,” an open submission art exhibition of political pieces, premiered Tuesday in the University Galleries, featuring over 60 artists from Illinois and around the world.

“I guess I hope it garners [the audience] up for the election and the freedom our country stands for,” said Michael Maehl, director of the University Galleries and a senior fine arts major. 

“The show is completely open to submissions, no matter what political stance was taken.”

What I have seen, the show is about two-thirds anti-establishment and one-third neutral,” Barry Blinderman, director of the University Galleries, said. As he explained from his own experience of searching the internet for “pro-Bush art,” not much is to be found.

Maehl said most artists are more left-leaning, which explains the majority of liberal content in the show.

According to Blinderman, the exhibition had success in finding work for the show. The feature artists features from Germany, France, New York, Los Angeles and students from Illinois State.

“Ultimately the show is dedicated to voting,” Maehl said. “I hope people realize that art will always influence our views.”

The show runs through Election Day, when a party is planned.

WTF?

Vibrating duck toy creates buzz in Tennessee

SPRING HILL, Tenn. — Katherine Williams says the yellow ducky sponge she put on sale at a flea market is merely a child's toy. City officials say the vibrating inside makes it a sex toy.

But officials in this Nashville suburb backed off from citing Williams for violating the city's sexually-oriented business ordinance because she had already taken down her display by the time police responded to complaints Saturday. Nearby vendors also refused to be witnesses in the case.

“We’ve declined to prosecute because of a lack of evidence,” City Administrator Ken York said Tuesday.

Williams, whose Passions & Pleasures business sells lotions and adult novelties at in-home parties, described her product line as “PG-13” and said she got only two negative comments at the flea market.

“Nothing we do is nasty, unless you have a nasty mind,” she said, turning a knob on the yellow ducky’s tail to make the sponge vibrate. “My 3-year-old son loves to play with this duck in the bath. He puts it on his neck and on his head.”

Williams said she’ll be back at the flea market next year. “If she does, she’ll be cited into court,” York said. “That duck is a sexual toy, and it was on display. Was that a vibrator on display in public view.”

CADDIES PROTEST OVER BEING TOO FAT

BANGKOK, Thailand — More than 400 caddies from a renowned Thai golf course rallied at the Labor Ministry on Wednesday to protest an alleged threat by their manager to fire them for being “too fat, short and old.”

The manager of the Pinehurst Golf Course — where Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his Cabinet play regularly — ordered overweight caddies to lose at least 11 pounds within two weeks or face dismissal, said one caddy, who identified herself only as Umporn.

The unidentified manager told workers during a meeting last week that the bosses (golfers) do not want old, fat and short caddies anymore, Umporn told reporters.

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