Huston, S.J., The Badger Herald argues that Finance Committee acted improperly when it went into closed session to discuss an outstanding debt owed by The Daily Cardinal, a student newspaper. The Finance Committee maintains that a closed session was appropriate since they were discussing matters of a contractual/legal nature. We find that the Finance Committee acted appropriately; and, that any and all records of the ASM pertaining to the matter of the Daily Cardinal debt shall be released to the Badger Herald.

I. Factual Background
A reporter for the Badger Herald, an independent student newspaper, was asked to leave a closed session of a Finance Committee (FC) meeting. The FC was discussing the matter of an outstanding debt owed by The Daily Cardinal another student newspaper. Mr. Jorgenson, the Chair of the FC, testified that the FC was discussing the manner in which the Daily Cardinal would repay the outstanding debt and that only members of the FC were allowed to be present. Furthermore, Mr. Conant, an editor of the Badger Herald, has stated that he has received at least one revision of the contract in question since the prompting incident.

II. Standard of Review
The first issue to consider is whether or not matters of a contractual/legal nature are grounds for a closed session. Second, were contractual/legal matters discussed at the meeting in question?

III. Application
ASM Bylaws, Part 1, Art. 2 §3(e) is clear that a committee may move to closed session in order to discuss a contract or legal matter. Obviously, a body will lose bargaining power if their tactics are known to the general public. It is only reasonable that some sort of secrecy be maintained so that students can get the best contracts/legal remedies possible. The Finance Committee was indeed discussing a matter of contractual nature. Mr. Jorgenson testified that the discussion was limited to the contract regarding the outstanding debt of the Daily Cardinal. The FC, therefore, acted correctly in moving to closed session. However, the larger question at hand is not technical. We as students have a right to know the manner in which our monies are allocated. Anything less would fly in the face of our own constitution. The issue is really access to information. To the average student, the task of collecting information on ASM must be daunting. Editors and reporters from the Badger Herald testified that they had an exceedingly difficult time getting the information they wanted. We find that officers of

Section Three: Exemptions. A meeting of an ASM body may be held in closed session for any of the following purposes:
(a) deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial trial or hearing before that ASM body; . . .
(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of property, the investment of funds, or conducting other business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; and
(f) conferring with legal counsel of the ASM body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

the ASM acted poorly, if not negligibly. The only exception is Mr. Jorgenson who went out of his way to help Mr. Conant.
Although it the responsibility of the citizen to inform him/herself, it is the duty of an officer to help a citizen in anyway he or she can. In this, the ASM has failed miserably. If a major news reporting service cannot obtain budgeting information, who can?
Officers are responsible for keeping the citizenry informed. Article III ASM Constitution makes this clear:
(a) to ensure the greatest participation by students in the immediate governance of and policy development for the University at all levels, including the exercise of all rights students by Wisconsin State Statute 36.09[5];
(d) to receive complaints from students, investigate the problems of students, and participate in academic decisions concerning students;
(g) to develop ASM policies in a fair and open manner; and
(h) to inform all students of ASM activities and encourage participation in them.
It is disgusting to suggest that ignorance on the part of the officer even begins to resemble an acceptable excuse.

IV. Conclusion
The FC acted correctly in moving to closed session to discuss a contract. However, it is clear that the Badger Herald was for all intents and purposes denied access to information regarding the Daily Cardinal contract. We therefore order the following remedy. That all open session documents from the past year including any budgets or minutes regarding the Daily Cardinal contract be made available for inspection and copying within five business days of this publication.1 Furthermore, all closed session minutes shall be made available for inspection and copying after the Cardinal contract is signed.
By the Court, it is so ORDERED.
Lisa Bunge C.J. Eric Huston S.J. Nick Kanter S.J.

1 The custodian of the records for the Student Council, Student Services Finance Committee, and Finance Committee are responsible for getting these records as soon as possible.