

Your money: the IFC budget

By Randy Shilts

A million dollar budget to be decided between five people of extraordinarily diverse backgrounds and philosophies cannot be a blue-print for Utopia, a paragon of perfection. It can only be what those five people can argue, compromise and decide among themselves with a resolution that can only be judged in terms of what's fair for the entire student population affected.

The Incidental Fee Committee was given an Executive recommendation that lacked social conscience, fiscal responsibility and a fair evaluation of what was best for all students. It recommended Day-care being cut off entirely and increases in the Athletic Department and EMU which were to be made at the expense of ASUO services and programs. After scores of hours of hearings, debates and research the Incidental Fee Committee has whittled the \$1,234,104 in requests from 57 agencies into a proposed incidental fee budget of approximately \$980,000 with a projected fee increase of about \$2.50 a term. We have cut all ASUO salaries that were not essential to the running of the programs and have funded only organizations that we felt best served the needs of the students. However it is impossible, in my view, to increase the student union by 50 per cent without having a fee increase to pay for it. This is what the increase essentially boils down to. I consider this to be a fair budget. With the exception of the A.D., EMU and Day-care, it generally represents a consensus decision by the committee.

As an IFC member and IFC Chairer I do not feel I can propose this budget without making an effort to explain its rationale to the students. Please read on and see what your money is going to:

I see day-care as the most important issue that faced the Committee. I was elected with day-care as one of my top priorities. \$15,000 was allocated to the day-center. ASUO will also be working with the Day-care center and the Administration so that in the future the

University will pay for day-care and it will be made available to the maximum number of students.

The IFC voted to fund the Athletic Department at \$135,000 by a 3-2 vote. This is the lowest possible figure we can fund the AD—without President's approval and a \$15,000 decrease from the Executive recommendation. I support the decrease not out of hostility towards athletics but out of the feeling that the \$15,000 could better be spent elsewhere in this tight fiscal year. Negotiations will be carried out on this contract to try to get student concerts in Mac Court.

The decision that caused the greatest controversy in the Committee concerned the EMU budget. The new EMU facility, being opened this December, will increase the student union floor space by over 50 per cent and offer many new services to students. EMU Director Dick Reynolds requested an additional \$114,494 to pay for the new equipment, personnel and expenses of the new addition as well as an 11 per cent operating payroll expense increase, a 6 per cent increase in classified wages and a possible 6 per cent increase in academic salaries. Mano Hernandez, after reviewing the budget, thought that over \$100,000 could be cut from his request and that Mr. Reynolds was not being honest with the Committee. Mr. Reynolds insisted that only \$15,000 could be cut and this only with shorter union hours. The IFC spent three hours with Mr. Reynolds with Mano's estimations of possible budget errors being showed (in my opinion) as inaccurate.

A five hour debate raged between committee members with Mano and Gloria Gonzalez supporting drastic cuts (which in my estimation could not be justified), Jeff Jefferson supporting giving the whole EMU budget request (less the \$15,000 off-housing) and all three threatening to walk out of the committee hearings if their points of view did not prevail. With this deadlock, Gail Hoffnagle and I worked towards a compromise solution in

which the budget was reviewed by line-items and cut where cuts were deemed responsible by the majority of the committee. I feel that the massive cuts would have had a disastrous effect on the credibility of the entire budget and that this compromise was the only resolution to the drawn-out conflict. The IFC allocation for the EMU is about \$488,000, a cut of approximately \$23,000 from the original request. Mr. Hernandez has presented his side of the story; he believes he is right—I believe this compromise was right. In any event the increase in the Incidental Fee reflects, almost exclusively, the EMU budget.

In response to Mano's personal attack upon me, I can only say that he was mistaken if he thought I had a "date" waiting. The comment he referred to was one made after the solution had been reached and we were nearing the end of our deliberations. It was made in an effort to lighten the mood of a committee that was tense after seven hours of heated debate.

The IFC has called for an investigation of all levels of the EMU. A committee will be appointed to work on increasing student control over the EMU as well as stipulations that the EMU buy only UFW or local lettuce and a stipulation I will propose prohibiting discrimination in the EMU employment on the basis of sexual orientation.

While many students seem to think that the Incidental fee principally goes to support minority student unions, I must note that only 4 per cent (\$39,000) of this year's budget has been allocated for this purpose. It has often been claimed that this money is used to further the self-interests of the particular group. I do not agree. The minority unions make all university students aware of the many life-styles and forms of oppression in our society and so work to increase the social awareness of all students. The Handicapped Support Services—funded for the first time this year—will not only serve the handicapped student but

inform all students of the problems handicapped people face in our society. (Did you know 6 per cent of our society is handicapped? Why aren't they in school? Did you know a handicapped university student cannot take a foreign language because Friendly Hall is inaccessible to him?) To make sure that the students would get the most for their money, the IFC increased funding in areas of programs—speakers, films and cultural events to inform students—and cut the less educational funds for salaried positions. The new budget represents a committee that was keenly aware of minority issues—since three of the members are from minority groups—though our allocations were made with the entire student body in mind.

New programs funded by the IFC will give students new services. The University Theater productions will be available to students next year at half the price of general admission due to a \$7,000 ticket subsidy allocated by the IFC. This has long been suggested so that more students—who can't afford the current \$2.50 and \$3.50 tickets—can see these plays.

Other services such as the Legal Services (providing free lawyers to students), the Cultural Forum, ESCAPE, SEARCH, OSPIRG, the Survival Center, Action Now, the Drug Information Center and the ASUO Housing office have been funded to continue the spectrum of services available now.

It would be impossible for me or the Committee to please everyone in the student body with one budget. I have worked to make a budget that would fulfill what I promised the students in my IFC campaign and what my conscience thought would be equitable for the student body as a whole. Overall, I believe the budget allocating your 1973-74 incidental fee money is solid and fair.

Note: Mr. Shilts is Chairer of the Incidental Fee Committee and Oregon's first openly gay public official.

Letters

thanks to everyone

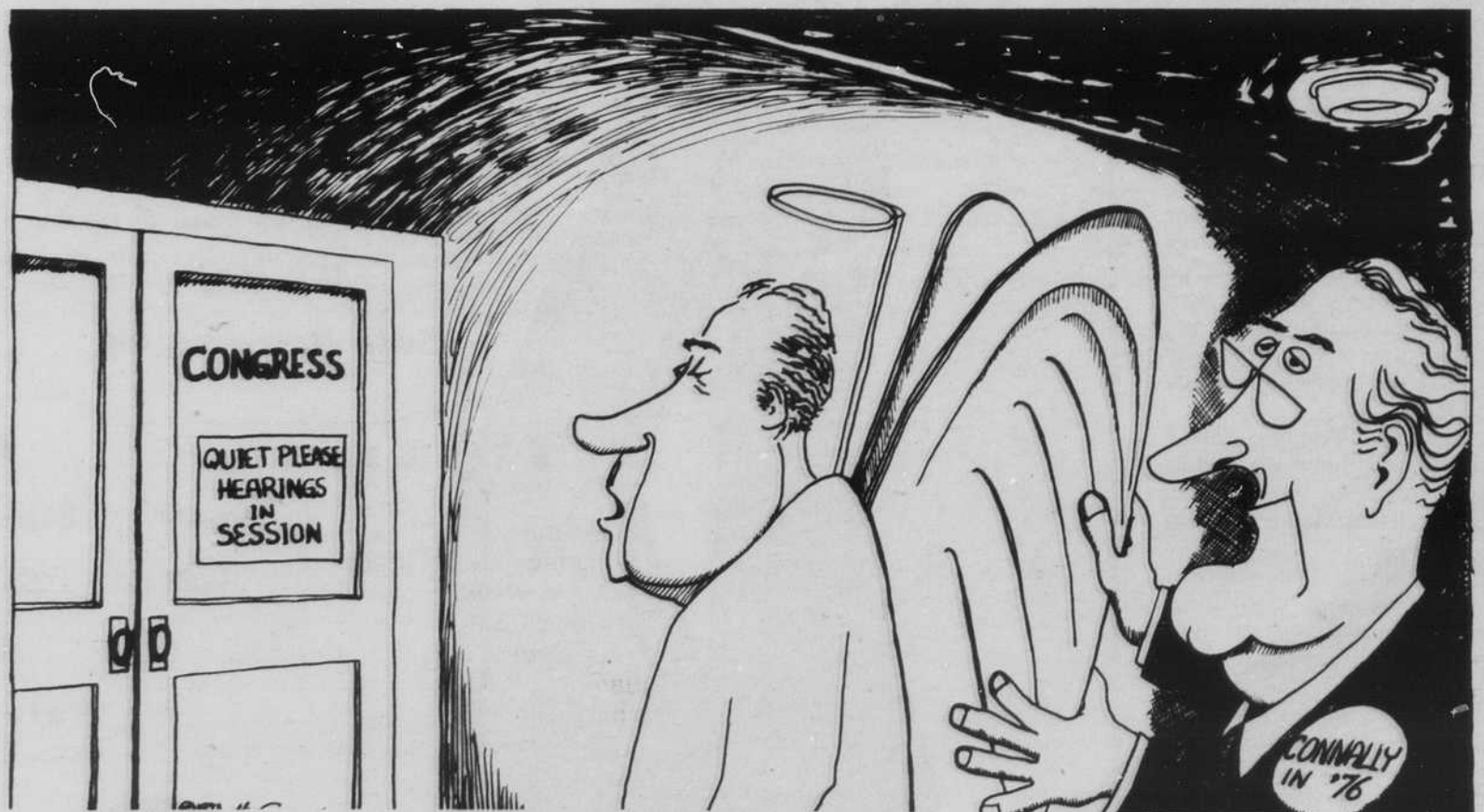
I would like to thank everyone who helped us at the ASUO Child Care and Development Center in our efforts to retain our funding and who believed in us and in the necessity of the Child Care Center. It has been a difficult struggle, but we feel it has been worth it. Next year we will be able to provide quality day care for students who are in great need for the service.

I especially want to thank those people who signed our petitions, who circulated petitions, who wrote letters in support, and who offered their time and energy to our cause. And of course we have deep gratitude for those members of the Incidental Fee Committee who believed in us enough to vote for our funds. But a very special thanks goes to Randy Shilts (chairperson of the Incidental Fee Committee) who never wavered in his confidence in the rightness of our program and who never stopped in his work on our behalf.

Mary E. Keenan
Director

Screw 'em

RIGHT ON to John Andrews! Fuck Daycare and all those other Communist handout programs. The ASUO must get out of this socialist rut it's been in for the last few years. What we need is an aggressive investment program so we can make some real bucks. First of all we advocate giving all of our incidental fees to the Athletic Department. With such a large budget we could drop out of the Pac-8



'JOHN, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY?'

business and into something real big like the NFL. Then we could all be getting big kickbacks and dividends from CBS and NBC. We ask you to consider your priorities. Who in the hell cares about the people who can't go to school because they can't afford babysitters, or those who need extra programs in order for them to get a degree. SCREW 'EM! All of us middle-class kids have the bucks and we didn't knock anybody up so we would have to get married. Besides it's so much more fun to

take off to a good game between the Ducks and the Miami Dolphins.

Besides, the more money we save by cutting the bleeding heart communistic programs, the more bucks we can give to deserving politicians like Greg Leo and his fraternity brothers. We can take that \$20,000 from the Daycare program and split it up among the executive and his cronies in appreciation for the dynamic leadership they have shown so far. God Bless the ASUO and God Bless each and

every one of our overpaid ASUO officials and especially the Athletic Department.

Heil Leo!
Heil Jefferson!
Heil Andrews!

Ross M. Lienhart
self-appointed Dictator and
Director of Heathens for the
Eradications of Stupidity
Keith W. Parrish
chairman of the committee to
recall Leo-Barnett

Wednesday, May 30, 1973