

IFC looks at student apathy

The silent majority is a problem not only for federal and local governments, but also for the ASUO. An average turnout for ASUO presidential elections is less than 10 per cent and the voter turnout is even less for IFC and Student University Affairs Board (SUAB) positions.

The IFC is attempting to combat the apparent apathy of students by placing a computer print-out card explaining the incidental fees to be included in the registration packets of students. It's a good idea, since students all too often seem to be ignorant of what the incidental fees are spent for and in some cases they don't seem to know how much of their money goes to the programs supported by fees.

The print-out card probably won't be able to contain a detailed analysis of the fee usage. But getting the total figure of the incidental fees in front of the students may encourage more interest in the way the money is spent, which in turn should create more student participation in student government.

Each student pays \$31 per term in incidental fees. That money is distributed among seven major categories: The EMU, intercollegiate athletics, the (number of) ASUO programs, ASUO governance, the Daily Emerald, the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group and the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL).

The total IFC budget for 1977-78 is \$1,436,452. Here is a breakdown of where you \$31 goes:

•--\$16.74 (54 percent) goes to the EMU. Most of that money is allocated to the EMU administration, food services, EMU program (such as child care, the outdoor program, club sports and the cultural forum) and maintenance.

•--\$4.77 (15.4 percent) goes to intercollegiate athletics. The bulk of that is a subsidy for student tickets to football, basketball and other admission-charging sports events. Another large segment goes to women's athletics, mostly to aid in University compliance with Title IX regulations, calling for the equality of men's and women's athletics.

•--ASUO programs bite \$4.65 (15 percent) out of the total. The ASUO funds

more than 50 programs, including minority programs, the crisis center, the food-op, the Interfraternity council, the Panhellenic organization, the student bar association and the Office of Student Advocacy, to name a few.

•--\$1.90 is funneled into the ASUO government. That 6.3 percent is used for salaries and expenses, administrative expenses and special programs of the ASUO executive, the IFC, and SUAB, the EMU Board and for miscellaneous expenses, such as elections.

•--The Daily Emerald gets \$1.39, or 4.5 percent. This is a subsidy for student subscription rates.

•--OSPIRG receives 80 cents, which is used for research and lobbying on behalf on the students.

•--The Oregon Student Lobby pockets 30 cents, which is used for research and lobbying efforts on issues such as tuition. The lobbying is done primarily at the state legislature.

For the entire year, each of the major areas receive the following amounts:

EMU	\$784,037
Athletics	\$221,979
ASUO programs	\$215,587
ASUO government	\$784,037
Emerald	\$65,785
OSPIRG	\$43,000
OSL	\$14,000

That's where the money flows now, but in the near future, the IFC will have to contend with declining student enrollments, which means it will receive fewer dollars. Faced with this situation, the IFC will apparently have to contend with two alternatives: to streamline the budget by cutting EMU losses and by streamlining programs or to raise the total number of dollars each student pays per term. In either case, the programs will probably not expand in the future and decreases in some areas may be in order to prevent fee increases.

With these alternatives, student input into IFC actions is perhaps more important now than any time in recent student government history. It is essential for the IFC to spur more student interest in these vital decisions.

Rust could be a county stabilizer

The beginning of a new year and the simultaneous beginning of a new chairman of the board of County Commissioners brings a tone of optimism for the next year of county government. Jerry Rust, who served as the board vice-chairman for 1977, has been named chairman for this year, with Bob Wood serving as vice-chairman.

Now that the feisty Archie Weinstein no longer holds the board chairmanship, we hope the county commissioners' meetings become more orderly and less pathetic. Too often, it seems the commissioners spend more time chastising each other than they do working on substantial issues.

Rust, however, should assert himself more than he has in the past. Rust has been the greatest disappointment, partly because he sounded so excellent in campaigning for the board position in 1976 but has so far failed to carry his fresh ideas to the board. Some of his plans are fine, but too often he seems to act on measures that he hasn't fully investigated.

As an example, late last month the commissioners approved in concept a proposal to review land-use planning in the county. Proposed by Wood, the proposal calls for the examination of the land-use plans in terms of the spectrum of statewide land-use planning goals.

The commissioners voted to send the proposal to the county administrative aides and the county staff, to develop implementation plans. However, each commissioner had his own idea of what the proposal was intended to do. Weinstein thought the proposal should include the reopening of the county sub-area plans, essentially starting from scratch with the land-use plans already developed or being developed in the county. Wood thought the proposal should be only to review the plans, apparently in an effort to fine-tune them and come up with an analysis of where the county now stands in land-use planning. Rust was somewhere between the two, saying the county shouldn't throw the plans in the wastebasket, but the reviewing the plans would be similar to reopening them.

Shortly before passing the proposal on to the county aides, Rust made a classic statement that shows the essence of what the board is like this year: "Well, let's pass this proposal and worry about the interpretation later."

As board chairman, Rust should be more concerned about getting the interpretation of county measures explicit before passing them. As it is, passing proposals onto county aides gives the aides themselves the ability to compromise on behalf of the commissioners. That is far too much power for the aides, and compromises should be made by the commissioners themselves in view of the public, particularly on an issue as salient as land-use planning.

Rust has his work cut out for him. He will be between the usually feisty Weinstein and the sometimes sardonic Wood. But he should be able to bring more control into the county commissioners' meetings. We hold a lot of optimism for this year, and for the new board chairman.

India shouldn't touch tar baby

President Carter's latest globe-trotting has highlighted a controversy in at least one issue: nuclear weaponry spreading to more and more countries. While in India, a nation which now has nuclear weaponry, although no capability to use them effectively, Carter found sharp disagreement with Indian leader Moraji Desai over India's nuclear capability.

It is understandable that small, underdeveloped nations would like to achieve nuclear capability in order to command more autonomy from the two nuclear giants. But with the proliferation of nuclear arms, at a time when the two superpowers are at least making token efforts at arms controls, presents a danger of creating nuclear fiefdoms throughout the world.

Carter has said that he will send a "cold and blunt" communique to Desai to encourage him to cooperate with halting the spread of nuclear weapons.

In India, where 45 per cent of the population lives in the squalor of poverty and where 50 million people are unemployed, the reaction to India's spending desperately needed revenue on nuclear weaponry is appalling. In perhaps no other country is the government's reckless abandonment of domestic needs to prop up nuclear capability more pitiful.

Desai's argument is that the U.S. should follow its own rhetoric in calling for nuclear disarmament before foisting its views on other nations. Certainly the U.S. should do that, but the spread of nuclear weaponry coinciding with the spread of poverty and hunger is a problem of worldwide significance. The hands of the U.S. are already stuck firmly on the tar baby, and it should indeed warn other nations coldly and bluntly not to get stuck in the same mess.

Letter

Petition drive

Join our Initiative Petition drive to restore Oregon Workers' Compensation benefits (1 out of 11 workers will have job injuries) and also restore your right to be free of lawyers!

Section 26 of our Petition creates the following Oregon Workers' Compensation Law:

"(1) Reference in this chapter (O.R.S. 656) to attorneys or

members of any state bar association shall apply equally to self-representing injured workers, employers, insurers or their non-bar association representatives."

"(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of O.R.S. Chapter 9, all parties to a question or dispute under this chapter shall have the right to self-representation and the choice of non-bar assistance or representation."

"(3) Attorney fees shall be awarded to self-representing injured workers, employers, insurers or their representatives of

choice in the same manner as would be awarded to members of the Oregon State Bar."

Besides providing you an escape from lawyers' control, the foregoing law assures that you will receive additional monies for having to defend your rights to compensation, and thus will cause insurance firms to think twice before unjustly contesting your job accident claim.

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