

IFC does its homework despite biases

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

Editors note: This is the third in a four-part series evaluating the ASUO executive, issues, the Incidental Fee Committee and the EMU Board.

Although most students don't know or care about the Incidental Fee Committee (IFC), the group works long and hard at spending approximately \$1.4 million contributed by students each year.

This is not to say that money is always spent equitably, or in the interests of the majority of the student body. IFC members are human, and each have a set of individual biases that may or may not surface as they allocate money to various ASUO programs.

The IFC has a list of criteria to aid their decisions about what money should go where. Some of the criteria are the volunteer support a program has before seeking IFC funds, limiting funding during the summer, keeping salaries the same for most programs, putting fundraisers on a pay-back plan to the IFC and limiting the overall program growth to five percent.

Even though the committee uses those guidelines, their decisions are still highly subjective. IFC member Janet Eggleston agrees "that of all the ASUO agencies, we have the most opportunity to abuse our powers."

However, she says she "truly believe we do not. We have a sense of responsibility larger than to ourselves and our values. There is a lot of talk among the committee about who elected us. It keeps us aware there's more to this process than what we want."

From an observer standpoint, committee actions this year have shown they've made decisions both from a thorough knowledge of a program and arbitrary positions.

For example, during last term's hearings to decide what program goals they would fund, Mary Gilmore voted against the Gay People's Alliance, not because it didn't meet criteria, but because she could not philosophically agree with the group.

Also, there has been much committee discussion of the five percent growth limitation for next year's programs. At first, some members tried to keep individual program growth to the five percent mark.

Lately, however, the group has decided that the whole ASUO budget should be limited to the five percent figure.

Much of the time, the group's effort to research programs before they come up to request funds is evident. Each program is assigned an IFC "tag person" to investigate the budget request prior to the hearing.

"We're hard workers and we do our homework," says IFC member Scott Bassett. He continues that "its showing up in our allocations." We haven't been able to be bowled over because we've done our homework."

Another member, Dave Tyler, agrees. "People have done research and understand the programs. They're not going into the hearings blind."

Most IFC members say the new budgeting system implemented this year has eased their job considerably. This year each ASUO program had to decide what its goals were, what they wanted to accomplish.

After the programs decided their goals, the IFC then chose the goals they thought appropriate to fund. IFC members say the new process has been effective because it makes the programs

look at what they want to do rather than just ask for a certain percentage increase from the previous year's budget.

ESCAPE director Susannah Malarkey says she thinks "the IFC has a difficult job to do and it's hard for them to do it well. There's so little time to make really important decisions."

She continues that "a lot of responsibility falls back on to program directors. The IFC is busy enough not to seek you out" many times. To make sure the committee is well enough informed about a program to make budgetary decision, directors sometimes "have to put energy out on their own," says Malarkey.

Malarkey says her "tag person" spent a good deal of time with her, but to inform other IFC members of the intricacies of her program, she had to contact them.

IFC members have about two weeks of budget hearings left and then will resume hearing supplemental requests from programs for money in IFC unallocated reserves.

Overall, it seems the group has done a good job of finding out what programs need and why, but there have been some instances where quite subjective judgments were made.

Group offers counsel for youth of alcoholics

By RICHARD SEVEN
Of the Emerald

Children of alcoholics "never had a childhood" and are handicapped by their past, according to Judith Coffey, faculty adviser to ESCAPE.

Coffey organized "Second Generation", a discussion group for students with alcoholic parents in 1976. The program is unique, she said, because, while alcoholics themselves usually get a great deal of attention, "the children of alcoholics are our primary concern."

"Second Generation" members met this week, as they do every week, at the home of Dan Martin and his sister, Chris. Both of the Martins' parents are alcoholics, which earns them the dubious title of "two stars" within the group.

The meeting began with mem-

bers describing their commitment to Second Generation, and what they hope to achieve by participating in it.

"I don't want to be known as the son of an alcoholic," said Dan Martin, a sophomore business student. "I want to be known as Dan Martin, an individual. Back in John Day, everyone in town would look at us seven kids and say 'Oh, there they are.' People used to come up to us after church and say, 'Anytime you need a place to stay, call us up.' We didn't know what the hell it meant."

"Second Generation is a resting place for me," said Kathy Kern, a graduate student in education. "I relax with people I trust and deal with personal things without expecting to lose anything. I expect to gain."

"This is the only place I don't

play a role," Chris Martin, a graduate student in German, said. "I'm not a teacher or student or anything. I'm just here."

Coffey, who serves as counselor for the group, has a similar opinion. "I don't feel like I can really make mistakes in this group," she said.

Coffey, child of an alcoholic herself, is assisted by Marilyn Krueger, a graduate student in counseling.

At every Second Generation meeting, discussion naturally turns to parents.

"We don't try to show them how to cure their parents," Coffey said before the meeting. "One of the big problems is feeling guilty for failing to do that."

"Once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic," Chris Martin said. "I really can't play the child anymore. Second Generation has helped me realize I can be happy where I am right now. I shouldn't feel upset that my parents will never really be parents I can look up to for advice. I should accept them as my equals, which is what they really are."

"That really touched me," responded Kern. "I can still remember hoping my parents would be people I could turn to."

"My father did just exactly what he wanted to do — he left," said Layne Lohkamp, a senior in education. "He always had his act together, but he never stuck around."

Coffey, who kept the discussion rolling with thought-provoking questions, asked Dan Martin if he ever "went through a hope period."

"I think I did, a long time ago,"

he replied. I remember being home with my parents and thinking, 'I wonder what it would be like if they weren't drinking.' A lot of times I would think God was punishing us."

Coffey asked the members if their grandparents were also alcoholics. Most nodded their heads.

Ultimately, Second Generation is a "primary prevention program," Coffey said. "It's a matter of keeping these people from going on and repeating the cycle. A huge amount of research shows that the child of an alcoholic tends to become one or marry one."

"The first person I felt committed to was just like my Dad," said Kern.

"Same here!" exclaimed Chris Martin.

Children of alcoholics often make quick, premature commitments to others because of a "lack of faith in themselves," said Krueger. "When someone shows you affection you think 'Oh my God, I've got to grab it before it goes.'"



Today is Earth Week's Energy Day and the major event is a regional energy policy-maker's panel discussion at the Eugene City Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Before joining Second Generation Kern said he "felt uncomfortable and really lost. I was searching for some answers to why I am the person I am. Some answers have come out, but I've also gotten stronger and more accepting of myself. Second Generation always used to give me headaches because I couldn't deal with my past."

"A year ago," Dan Martin said, "I couldn't call up a strange girl and ask her out without losing two pounds of sweat. I can do it very easily now. I just feel more comfortable in the present."

Second Generation is "exciting because it works," Coffey said. "We've had 75 people go through the program. People's lives have changed significantly, and I'm one of them."

"Most students will never admit it because they don't want to be labeled 'deviant.' So many more could benefit from the program if they understood that there is no risk."

Those wanting more information about the group can contact the ESCAPE office, 686-4351.

Earthy Subjects

Mike Katz from the Northwest Energy Policy Project, Jim Blumquist, Northwest energy coordinator for the Sierra Club, Hugh Smith of the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee and Peter Sage from Congressman Jim Weaver's office will participate in a discussion of the region's energy problems.

Displays featuring alternative energy sources appropriate for use in Lane County will be set up in the EMU all day.

At 1:30 p.m., John Bartels, Eugene Water and Electric Board candidate, will conduct a nuclear power education seminar in the downstairs lobby of the EMU, outside the Survival Center office in Suite One.

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