

Students lack info on IFC

By Lori Lieberman
Of the Emerald

The ASUO Program budget for 1981-82 is about \$510,000, yet students have virtually no way of knowing where their dollars go.

This lack of knowledge is due in part to an ASUO decision to discontinue the use of computer cards containing the Incidental Fee Committee's distribution of funds. Instead, the allocations were published in the Program Guide which was not widely distributed, says Alan Contreras, acting ASUO vice-president.

"Few people got the Guide, so we were going to supplement it with an ad in the Emerald containing the IFC allocations. We haven't done it as of yet, but now would be a good time to do it," he says.

In the past, the information was printed on computer cards which were inserted in the registration packets. The problems with this method, according to IFC member David Gibson, were that the cards were expensive, got tossed on the floor and because of holes punched in the cards, were hard to read.

A half page ad in the Emerald, which will appear late next week, is the suggested alternative.

"People will see the ad at a time when they are not in a hurry. There will be no holes and it will be easy to read. The ad will reach more people and people might look at the allocations out of curiosity," Contreras says.

The purpose of the ad, as was

the purpose of the computer cards, is to develop student awareness, he says.

"The problem is awareness. Students are not aware that a big portion of the budgeting process is under their control," Contreras says.

He suggested that concerned students call the IFC, send a letter, run for the IFC or attend the hearings.

"The entire year I was on the IFC, we received no calls, no letters, and the students have a reason to call. The IFC represents them and if they are not pleased, they should call - just as they would call their legislator," he says.

"Students should come to the meetings. Their input is considered - it's the only input we have," Gibson says.

IFC scrutinizes budgets

By Dane Claussen
Of the Emerald

Hearings for six groups will kick off the Incidental Fee Committee's annual series of ASUO program budget hearings Tuesday, with seven following on Wednesday.

Those groups to be heard Tuesday, beginning at 3:30 p.m., are Off-Campus Housing, Political Science Student Union, Survival Center, Mortar Board, Pre-Health Sciences Center and the campus American Civil Liberties Union.

Starting at 4 p.m. Wednesday, hearings will be held for Alpha Kappa Psi, Undergraduate Economics Association, People and the Oregon Coast, Solar Energy Center, Teacher Education Graduate Student Organization, Women in Communication, and AVENU, the newspaper of the Architecture School.

Budget hearings are held each year to determine the budgets of more than 70 ASUO-funded organizations, including the ASUO Executive itself, the Student University Affairs Board, some parts of the EMU budget, and the student body's subscription to

the Emerald.

The budgeting process begins with groups submitting goals. Based on the results of the goal hearings, present activities, and future plans, the organizations were asked to submit itemized budgets by Jan. 18.

The ASUO Executive issued preliminary budget recommendations Monday, with an itemized budget recommendation document being published Wednesday.

The IFC is not bound by the executive office's recommendations, but the recommendations are based on a group's past and present performance, approved goals, and the overall predicted level of incidental fees for the next year.

The IFC budget is subject to vetoes by ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins, but the committee may override his veto with a vote of at least 5-2. The budget, once approved by the IFC and Wilkins, goes to University Pres. Paul Olum for his consent.

Incidental fee income is tied directly to the number of students enrolled, and the estimated enrollment for next fall

- 15,500 - is used as a base enrollment for the year. Fall term enrollment this year was predicted to be 17,400.

Incidental fees are currently \$45 per student per term.


This drop prompted the ASUO Executive to recommend a decrease for two-thirds of the groups requesting funds, with the average cut in funding asked for by the executive being 34-percent.

Budgets are expected to be scrutinized this year because of limited funds.

New IFC policies on new organizations, academic unions, and organizations not definitely controlled by students are seen as possible ways to curb funding.

Even if the IFC does institute a proposed 50 cents per term increase in the fee and limits budgets to the \$461,000 recommended by the executive office, the committee will still need to cut at least \$37,000 off the budget for next year.

The ASUO Executive recommended increased funding for only five organizations, the current level of funding for 11 and no funding for 10 groups.



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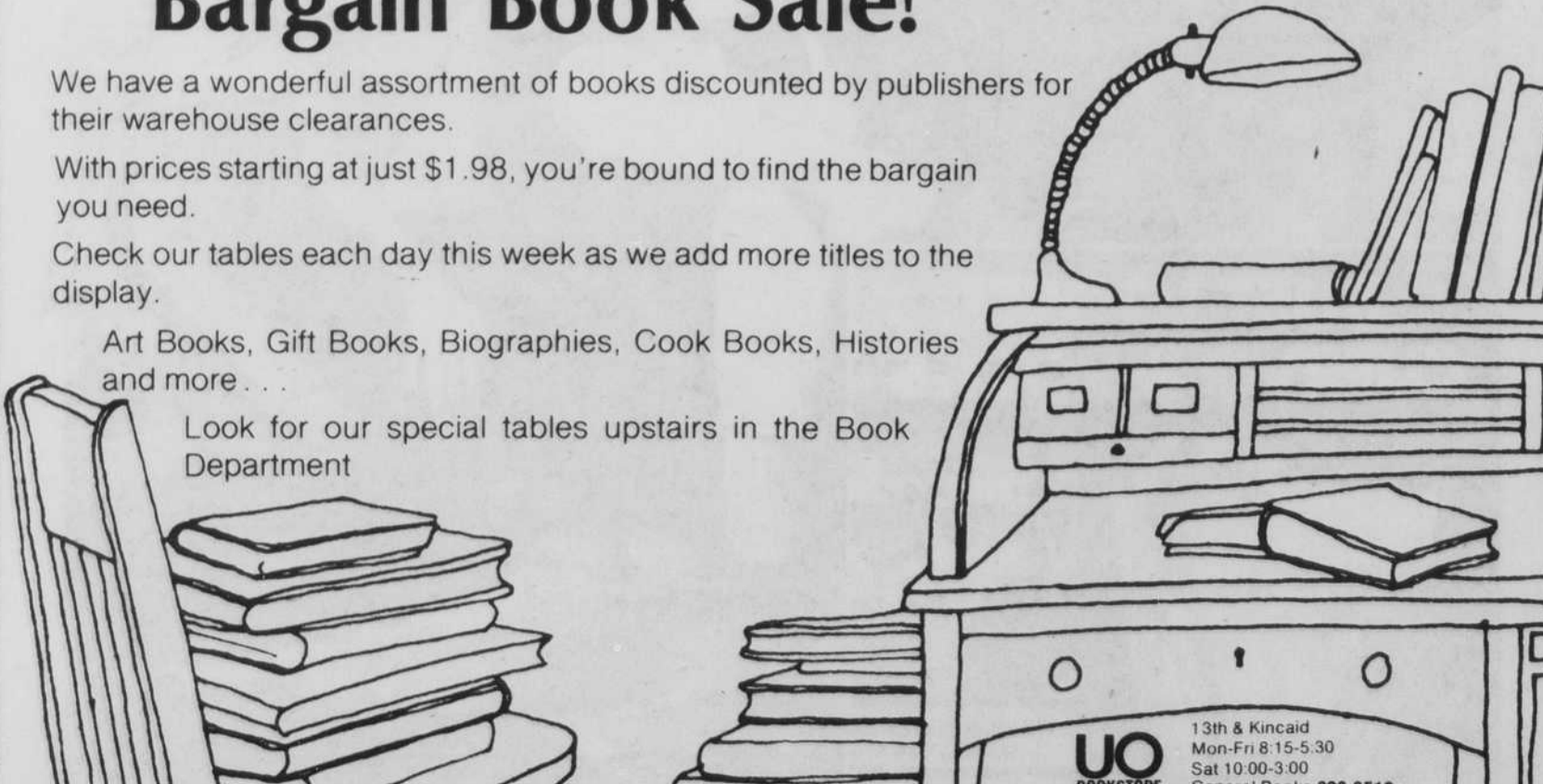
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