

Food-Op seeks solvency

By Richard Burr
Of the Emerald

Food-Op, the student-run food store, is attempting to overcome numerous problems plaguing its operation.

The food store had a deficit of more than \$4,000 last year, says David Gibson, ASUO vice president of administration and finance.

"We manage to barely keep above water," says Pat McGurk, Food-Op Outreach director.

The Food-Op repaid most of the deficit, which was originally absorbed through the ASUO's payroll service, Gibson says. The ASUO is working on a new system to provide accounting for the store's work-study pay but would not absorb the store's deficit, he says.

The ASUO, which created the non-profit corporation in 1975, stopped funding the store but allocates money for an outreach program that educates students on food-related topics.

McGurk says the outreach program is working to improve the store's visibility. Only dormitory residents seem to know the location of Food-Op, tucked away in an alley off Agate Street, he adds.

McGurk wants to move the store into an Agate Street building controlled by the architecture department to increase its accessibility and visibility. The architecture department would take over the Food-Op's space.

If approved, the store would move during the summer,



Photo by Bob Baker

Food-Op director Pat McGurk wants the store to become more visible.

McGurk says.

The store's name also confuses some students. They often think Food-Op is a cooperative store, but the store is open to all students, he says.

"I'd like something snappier," McGurk says. "It's a dull name."

A name such as Food Options would be more accurate, he says.

The outreach program has held several seminars on such topics as winemaking and herbal healing to teach low-cost methods of preparing foods and staying healthy.

The outreach program also will sponsor a food fair later this year with free food samples and

nutrition information. The program has printed a 38-cent recipe book to promote nutritional education.

"Some people in ASUO have a feeling that the outreach program is nothing more than a marketing extension of the store itself," he says. "In fact, the store is an extension of the outreach program for being something practical to use."

Bill outlaws hazing

A bill to make "hazing" illegal has been introduced in the Legislature at the request of Delta Tau Delta fraternity's Willamette University chapter.

HB 2551 would establish a statewide law against hazing, making organizations liable for up to \$1,000 and individuals liable for up to \$250. Hazing policy is currently set at each university or college.

The bill would outlaw hazing as a condition of membership in an organization. Hazing is defined as being ridiculed, embarrassed, subjected to offensive physical contact or risking injury.

"Hazing isn't worth it anymore," says Steve Nappi, president of Willamette's Delta Tau Delta. "There are better ways to promote brotherhood."

Nappi says the act, if the bill is approved, will act as a deterrent to fraternities or sororities and help universities enforce their hazing policies.

Alan Searce, president of the University Interfraternity Council, says he personally supports the bill, but the council has not taken an official stand.

Searce doubts the effectiveness of the bill however. "I do not know if it will help a lot," he says.

"We feel there is a need for statewide awareness that there is hazing and that it is a problem," Nappi says. He says he does not know of any specific instances of violations at Willamette or other universities.

Nappi says the recent lawsuit filed by a former pledge against the University chapter of Kappa Sigma "reinforces" the need for the law.

The suit, filed earlier this year by Mark Rosier of Eugene, seeks some \$1.9 million in damages and medical expenses from the fraternity and several other defendants. According to the suit, Rosier and eight other pledges were left at Shotgun Creek Park on Marcola Road at about midnight. Rosier and another pledge were reportedly struck by a car while asking a Marcola Rural Fire Protection District truck driver for a ride.

ASUO freezes budgets

The ASUO Office of Program Development froze the budgets of 17 ASUO-funded programs Wednesday because their directors failed to sign contracts.

The programs did not sign Basic Program Contracts, which acknowledge funded organizations have obligations to the ASUO Executive office that must be met. The frozen programs were supposed to submit the contracts by Feb. 1 and were given two warning notices.

The budgets will remain frozen until the programs sign contracts.

The programs that had their budgets frozen are: Amazon Child Care, American Institute of Architects, Asian American Student Union, American Society of Interior Design, Model United Nations, NCAA Volunteers for Youth, Philosophy Club, Physically Limited Union of Students, Psychology Club, Recreational Folk Dance, Student Bar Association, Switchboard (community information service), Teacher Education Graduate Student Organization, Theatre 4:30, YMCA and YWCA.

This marks the second time the PLUS budget has been frozen this year. The program's budget was unfrozen by Vincson Green, ASUO vice president for program development, two weeks ago.

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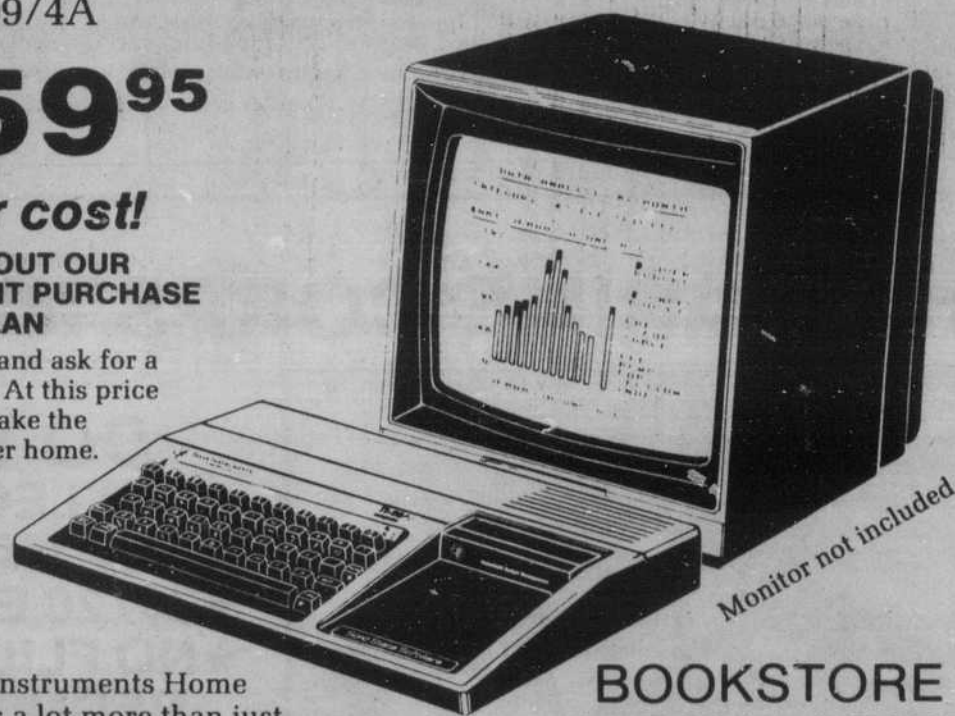
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