

IFC loan to preschool should be put on hold

The Westmoreland Cooperative Preschool raised some eyebrows last week when it submitted a request for a \$400 emergency loan — and two days later requested an additional \$129 — from the University's Incidental Fee Committee.

These requests raise some serious questions as to whether the IFC should even be funding loans for private institutions and why the loan is needed in the first place.

The state notified the preschool late last year that it has owed back taxes since 1982. The current curriculum coordinator and the president of the preschool maintain that they thought the school was exempt from taxation. Although this turned out to be true for 1982, it was not exempt for the years following, hence the reason for its financial troubles now. The fact that the preschool did not know it owed taxes illustrates glaring mismanagement and negligence.

Each year the school elects new officers who help make decisions for the preschool. Westmoreland holds these yearly elections because most of the parents who use the preschool's services are University students, and there is a high turnover rate.

While the yearly elections are good in and of themselves, they are also part of the problem because the preschool lacks any management continuity. We do not doubt the preschool's ability to provide quality day care, and Westmoreland's curriculum coordinator, and its president are not completely to blame for the preschool's current tax woes. But they could have demonstrated greater financial foresight and responsibility.

Our suggestion to Westmoreland is that it establishes a permanent position for someone in charge of the preschool's finances, or at the very least hire a temporary consultant.

Not only is the preschool's management questionable, so too is its request for an IFC loan, and, more importantly, whether the IFC intends to lend the money.

Westmoreland was to receive \$959 from the IFC for the current fiscal year, but the preschool is not an accredited day-care institution recognized by the state, so serious liability questions must be answered before Westmoreland ever receives that money.

The IFC was correct in holding that money up, for the University may be partly liable in the unfortunate event of an injury, or something of a similar nature, while a child is at the preschool.

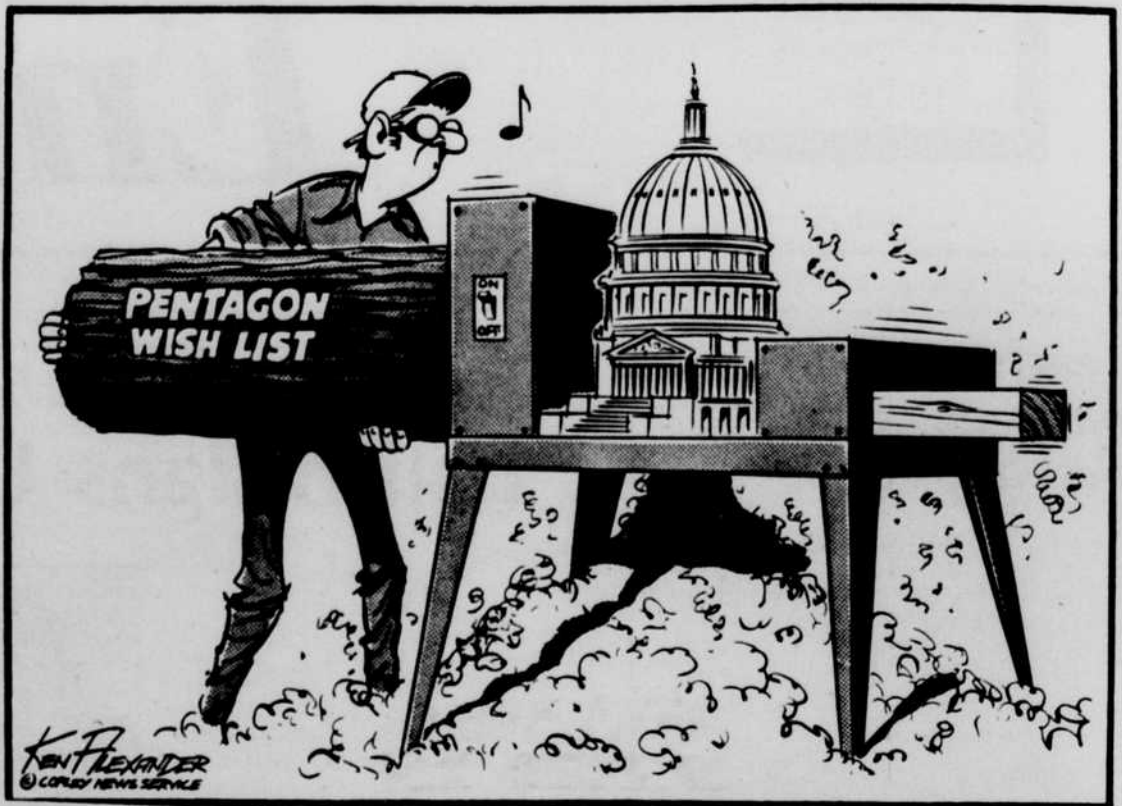
While the question of liability still remains unresolved, the preschool's request for the \$529 emergency loan should also be put on hold.

Moreover, "emergency loan" may be somewhat of a loaded term. The preschool has already paid \$150 of its overdue taxes, and all indications show that the preschool is capable of paying off the remainder.

University students would in effect be subsidizing Westmoreland's tax payments if the IFC were to fund this loan.

We believe this totally falls outside the IFC's jurisdiction. The fact remains that the Westmoreland Cooperative Preschool is a private organization whose only ties to the University are the preschool's 20 pupils whose parents are University students.

The IFC would do better to expand and improve day-care facilities and faculty here on campus, rather than put itself in the business of funding private child-care centers.



Letters

New group

The staff of the Oregon Daily Emerald should be very proud of their newspaper. The articles are very well-written, non-biased and extremely professionally presented.

When I was interviewed on behalf of the Westmoreland Cooperative Preschool, I was very pleased. However, when I read the results of that interview in print (ODE, Jan. 15), I was very distressed.

In December 1986, the preschool was notified by the State of Oregon regarding taxes in arrears. This situation was unknown to the present organization, and I feel that the word "we" was used carelessly throughout the entire article.

The organization at the time the errors were made is the responsible party, not the present. The Westmoreland Cooperative Preschool parent council is currently trying to resolve this situation to the best of its ability, which by the way has not been an easy task!

Also, when contacting the Incidental Fee Committee regarding help and resources on our 1986-87 school year funds, it was never once mentioned to the present organization regarding the budget "note" which has frozen funds allocated for

the 1986-87 school year!

Furthermore, as head teacher and curriculum coordinator for the preschool, I am hired to teach young children, not to assume any financial responsibilities to the school or for the school. I was asked by a former parent council member to research the problem and come up with a solution, which is exactly what I did.

It saddens me that in a time of need, an innocent group of people trying to make up for an error made years ago under another group and organization (a group of people not even available for comment), should be exploited in such an inappropriate way.

Julie McFarland
Head teacher,
Curriculum coordinator

Pay raises

The faculty at Oregon's higher education institutions are asking the Legislature for a significant salary increase in order to bring them in line with faculty at other similar institutions.

Classified employees also need an increase in pay for the same reason and also because certain jobs within the current wage structure are not compensated equally with other jobs demanding comparable skill and experience.

We also need to consider that the state, which includes our system of higher education, is one of Oregon's largest employers. Therefore, it follows that a healthy wage scale for state employees will contribute directly to a healthy economy for the state.

In order to accomplish the objective of pay equity, we need to put our case before the Legislature as they begin to decide where to allocate available funding. A rally in support of pay equity is set for Saturday, Jan. 24 at 11 a.m. on the steps of the State Capitol Building. All classified employees are urged to attend.

A bus will be leaving Eugene at 9 a.m.. People will also be forming car pools for the rally. If you would like to attend or

would like more information, you may contact Lisa Sieracki at 686-3056 or 343-8242.

Susan E. Cook
Staff

Victims

Jan. 22 is the 14th anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling that gave women the right to abort their children at any time during pregnancy. The effects of that decision have been felt by us all. While 20 million innocent victims have paid the ultimate price with their lives, society as a whole has paid as well.

With talk of "unwanted children" and how they should be disposed of, we have seen the rise of a new generation of young people. Children who have been taught that the shedding of innocent blood should not stand in the way of self-gratification. Avoiding responsibility for one's actions has gone from being reprehensible to respectable in little over a decade.

We heard talk of eliminating child abuse by "making every child a wanted child." What we got was a ballooning child-abuse rate, hardly a surprising by-product of a policy of violence towards our young.

Life, once sacred in itself, now gains worth only through the assessment of others. Unwanted equals worthless. We have become faced with the inevitable as each year many handicapped infants are legally "allowed" to die by withholding medical treatment.

The American Medical Association has taken the next step by ruling that food and water are now considered "medical treatments." A chilling message is sent to the handicapped among us. The elderly are surely next.

It is time to change the violent path we have taken. While it is too late for 20 million, our society can still be saved.

Jeff Hoyt
Junior, accounting

Thursday, January 22, 1987

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

General Staff
Advertising Director: Susan Thelen
Production Manager: Wayne Michael Lottinville
Classified Advertising: Alyson Simmons
Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey

Advertising Sales: Peter LaFleur / Sales Manager
Teresa Acosta, Brent Collins, Beryl Israel, Janelle Heitmann, Laura Goldstein, Catherine Lijja, Rick Martz, Joseph Menzel, Peter Miller, Joan Wildermuth.

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
Spectrum Editor
Spectrum Assistant Editor
Editorial Page Editor
Editorial Page Assistant Editor
Sports Editor
Photo Editor
Assistant Photo Editor
Graphic Design Editor
Night Editor

Associate Editors
Community
Politics
Higher Education / Administration
University Affairs
Student Government
Student Activities
General Assignment

Reporters: Sean Axmaker, Mary Courtis, Karen Creighton, Gary Henley, Carolyn Lamberson, Scott Maben, Janet Paulson, B.J. Thomsen.

Photographers: Sherlyn Bjorkgren, Shu-Shing Chen, Maria Corvallis, Derrel Hewitt, Bobbie Lo, Dan Wheeler.

Production: Michele Ross / Ad Coordinator
Kelly Alexandre, Elizabeth Asher, Ronwin Nicole Ashton, Virginia Baniaga, Sandra Bevans, Sara Briscoe, Shu-Shing Chen, Janet Emery, Lisa Haggerty, Donna Leslie, Curtis Lott, Kelli Mason, Mike McGraw, Rob Miles, Angelina Muniz, Julie Paul, Ingrid White, X. Kang Xie.

Michelle Brenc
Lucinda Dillon
Michael Rivers
Curtis Condon
Stephen Maher
James Young
Michael Drummond
Capi Lynn
Michael Wilhelm
John Giustina
Lorraine Rath
Stan Nelson

Jolayne Houtz
Shawn Wirtz
Chris Norred
Stan Nelson
Sarah Kitchen
Tonnies Dakin
Dennis Fernandes