

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## Insurance controversy plagues ASUO

By Carolyn Lamberson  
and Stan Nelson  
Of the Emerald

Since ASUO President Steve Nelson took office in May 1986, he and his administration have been faced with accusations by U/O Students for Equity in Insurance of mismanagement of the student-run health insurance program.

"Nobody could honestly foresee any problems with Lone Star. What did indeed happen is they tried to expand in the student health insurance business," Nelson said.

Lone Star Life Insurance Co. of Dallas, Texas, was the ASUO's student health insurance carrier for the 1985-86 academic school year.

One of the main complaints against Lone Star has been its refusal to pay a 1.5 percent monthly interest on student claims paid after 14 days unless the claimant has specifically requested that payment, Nelson said. This clause was not printed in the brochure offering the program to students, for reasons Nelson doesn't know.

In a press conference Friday, Willy Bils, spokesperson for U/O Students for Equity in Insurance, said there may be as many as 100 cases of insurance problems still pending. When Governor Goldschmidt was in Springfield last week, he was made aware of Bils' complaint and referred the matter to

newly-installed Insurance Commissioner Ted Kulongoski.

Kulongoski said that figure of 100 complaints may be low. He said that at this point in the insurance commission's investigation, there may be as many as 500 instances of interest non-payment by Lone Star.

"However, let me stress that 400 of those cases may be owed interest of less than \$1," Kulongoski said. "That puts things into perspective, and Lone Star's attorney here in Salem has been very cooperative in helping straighten out the situation."

Nelson said he first became aware of the 1.5 percent interest clause for late payments since summer 1986. Because of the ambiguity of the clause, Nelson said he tried to contact old insurance committee members but was relatively unsuccessful.

The ASUO insurance committee looks into problems after the insurance program coordinator reports recurring problems to the committee, Nelson said. Once a trend is discovered, the ASUO looks at how to begin solving these problems, he said.

"We've been working on all these problems since I originally took office, and I know it's a long time, but it's taken that long to figure it out. Lone Star was saying that they didn't have to do anything about it, and when you get a reaction like that from a company you've got to go back and

figure out yourself what was negotiated," Nelson said.

Lone Star and the ASUO both are guilty of not informing policy holders of the clause, Bils said.

Nelson indicated the insurance committee collected a list of 50 students who may be eligible for some money because of the 1.5 percent interest clause.

The committee will send letters to possibly affected students fairly soon, probably within the week, urging them to contact Lone Star for reimbursement after an independent attorney reviews the letter's wording, he said.

"Karsten (Rasmussen, ASUO Legal Services attorney) took a look at the clause, and while it was really vague, it's probably our responsibility," Nelson said. "We should assume it is our responsibility that we have to notify the students."

Rasmussen said his early discussions entailed other aspects of student complaints, which were the focus of his involvement. He said he could not give an exact time reference when the issue of interest for late payment was discussed.

Rasmussen has since been relieved of any responsibility concerning ASUO insurance matters.

In addition, ASUO Insurance Coordinator Shirley Chase corresponded with Lone Star

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## IFC opens budget hearings

By Ted Fuller  
Of the Emerald

Amidst debates that active student groups shouldn't need to pay people to act as directors, the Incidental Fee Committee opened the year's budget hearings process Monday evening, granting \$25,847 to four programs for the 1987-88 school year.

The University Theatre got the lion's share of the meetings' allocation of student fees, with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, the Westmoreland Tenants Council and the YMCA Big BrotherBig Sister program sharing the rest of the evenings' spoils.

The University Theatre received \$18,921 of the \$19,500 it requested. The

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Photo by Michael Wilhelm

With a little makeup, former school teacher Stephen Jones becomes Stephe the Clown.

## Clowning blends mime, magic into entertaining form of art

By Tonnie Dakin  
Of the Emerald

All the world loves a clown.

And anyone who earns a living working as a clown is more than someone who dresses up and makes people laugh, said Stephen Jones, a former elementary special education teacher.

Instead, "clowning is art form," he said.

In 1980, Jones took a basic clownology class and found the following year that he had great success with his class, he said.

Jones now works full time as a clown through Clown Alley, working at restaurants, birthday parties, commercial promotions, on television and at weddings.

Dan Fite has been in the clown business since 1979, when a friend persuaded him to take a clown class, and his interest grew until he decided to go into business for himself, he said.

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## Local activists fight Air Force tower plan

By Jolayne Houtz  
Of the Emerald

Local activists fighting the U.S. Air Force's plan to build GWEN communications towers in Oregon will go before the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Seattle Wednesday in a move they hope will set a national precedent against the towers.

The No-GWEN Alliance of Lane County lost its bid in U.S. District Court last August to keep the Air Force from building the Ground Wave Emergency Network tower four miles north of Eugene.

Shortly afterward, Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., announced that the Air Force had dropped its plans because of negotiations with Hatfield and would not build the tower in Eugene.

The alliance decided to continue its appeal of the decision to set a precedent and to force the Air Force to complete an environmental impact statement that includes the effects of nuclear war on the community where the tower is located.

The lawsuit asks for an injunction against building the tower until the statement is completed.

"Our overall concern was what the system means to the nation as a whole," said Barbara Keller, legal coordinator for the No-GWEN Alliance of Lane County. "Most of the U.S. doesn't know what GWEN is, but many communities will have them in their backyards before the Air Force is through."

GWEN is a system of communications towers that would allow the military to continue relaying messages after conventional communications methods are knocked out because of a nuclear attack.

"The Air Force says there is no causal relationship between GWEN and a nuclear war," Keller said. "The fact of the matter is that the only use for GWEN is during a nuclear war."

A similar lawsuit filed in December against the Air Force by the No-GWEN Alliance of Klamath County also seeks to put an injunction on the building of a GWEN tower in Klamath Falls until the Air Force files an environmental impact statement.

U.S. District Judge James Burns told the No-GWEN Alliance's attorney, Ralph Bradley, that he will dismiss the case because of its similarities to the Lane County lawsuit, which he already ruled against.

This would allow the two suits to be joined in the appeals process, Bradley said. A decision in the case is expected this week.

Originally, the Klamath County Board of Commissioners joined the suit against the Air Force, but the November election brought in a new board member who has not yet made up his mind about the suit, and the board's involvement in the lawsuit was rescinded.

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