

Editorial

Insurance problems cannot be ignored

The administration of ASUO President Steve Nelson has stalled, issued denials and claimed innocence in the large and unresolved problems surrounding Lone Star Life Insurance Co. of Dallas, the ASUO's health insurance carrier for the 1985-86 academic school year.

He should have been moving aggressively to resolve any problems and put as much heat on Lone Star as possible; that is the burden the ASUO accepted when it took over student health insurance.

Willy Bils, who since last spring has been raving at the ASUO to confront the issue, now stands vindicated, because the state Insurance Commission has taken on the problem and will be working to see that all the students who have money coming to them will receive it.

Bils' proposed remedy to the situation seems ridiculously simple: Run ads in the paper telling students that they may have money coming, send letters to all insureds' last known address and stick Lone Star with the bill.

However, Nelson announced only Monday that he and the ASUO Insurance Committee may be sending out letters to 50 students within a week. Now he is not even sure if that is the best way to approach the issue; the letters may never get sent.

Fifty students, by the way, was a guess on Nelson's part; the ASUO does not know how many students might have money coming, although the state insurance commissioner puts the number closer to 500. Although 400 of these may be owed less than \$1, this is a large number of students and remains a concern.

The insurance commission believes these students deserve their money; does the ASUO?

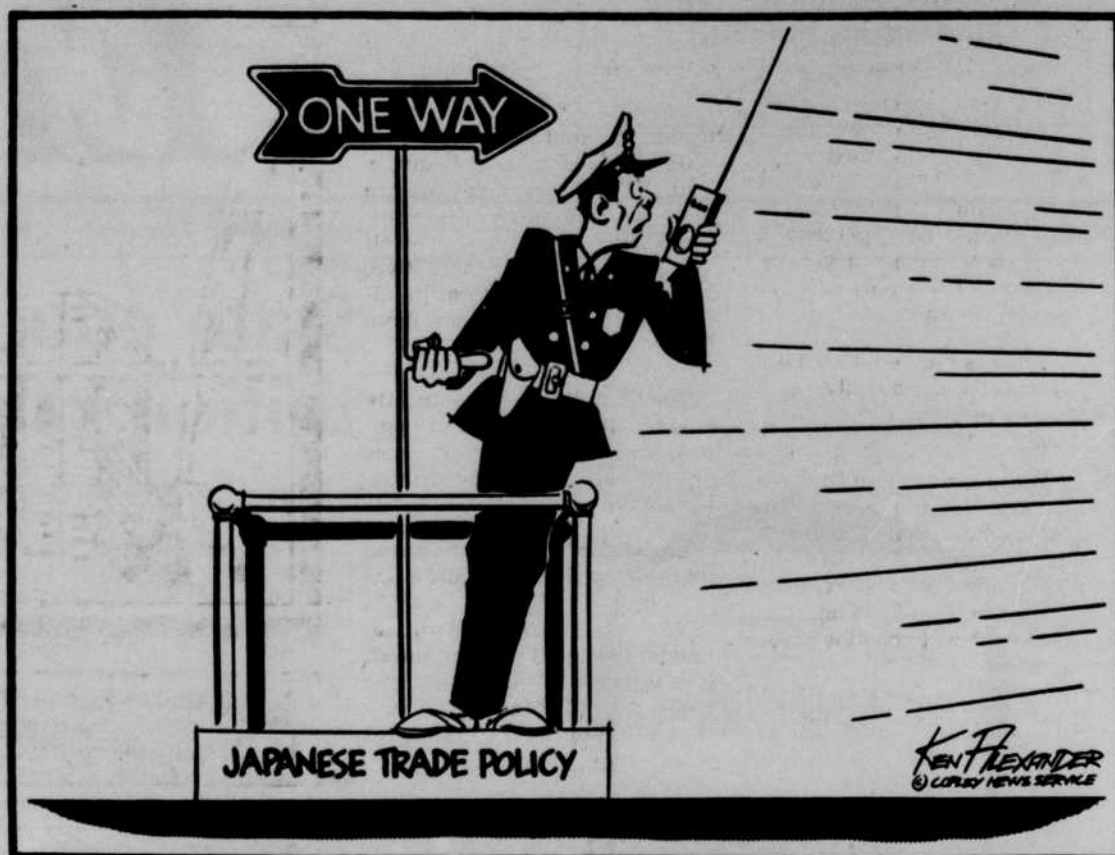
Moreover, when Bils ran two ads last spring telling students they may have money coming, 14 students approached the ASUO within a week. The insurance commission stresses that any students who believe they may have money outstanding should call the commission in Salem at 378-4271.

Despite his claims that it's not his administration's problem, Nelson has been very aware of the problem since the start of his term; moreover, former ASUO President Lynn Pinckney, who was intimately involved with the controversy with Lone Star, still works closely with the Nelson administration, and many people involved in the conflict are still on campus and continually have been telling the administration there is a problem.

More shocking is Nelson's attempt to reduce his responsibility by claiming that the original contract was "ambiguous," and that the intent was unclear and further that the people who could clear the issue up are no longer available to talk to.

Part of the responsibility of administering health insurance is to resolve these ambiguities, preferably on the side of students. Further, the ASUO is responsible for problems surrounding insurance regardless of whether those responsible are still on campus.

The irony of the situation is that Nelson could have been a hero; he could have proved himself to be an advocate of the students by taking an open and vigorous stance on their behalf from the start. Instead he has opted to play down the issue and keep it out of the public eye, allowing Bils to grandstand and Lone Star to sleep easy.



"CHIEF, REMEMBER THAT GRUMBLING I REPORTED? NOW IT'S UP TO A ROAR"

Letters

Overlooked

The film, "The Mission," hasn't received its due in your pages (ODE, Jan. 22). The reviewer's primary complaint is that the film represents the "western" point of view and "stereotypes" the natives.

"The question," declares the review, "is when do the native Indians tell their story?" It seems to this viewer that question is answered in the film by their loving adoption of the high religion and culture opened to them.

That is, they are given participation in the best of the world's culture, a gift to any person, of whatever skin and background. Their own declaration at the time of crisis is that they had been brought out of the jungle and didn't want to go back.

The review, however, presumes that their previous condition allowed them to be authentic human beings and thus equal to the Europeans, a point of view that faults their breadth of soul and love of evolution.

So too it overlooks the tension of spiritual aspiration in the lives of the priests, a depiction

of a higher call which is rare and precious when found in a popular medium.

Without disagreeing with the reviewer's social analysis, it might be seen that the most equitable system will in the end be judged by its attainment.

Daniel Papish
Eugene

Approach

While I see many possible responses to Josh King's attack on political activists, I feel that the only issue in his letter worth dignifying is that of approach. His attempt to solve the very real problem of inadequate social awareness is one that actually threatens a critical mode of political expression.

By calling his political opponents "stupid," by accusing them of being faddish (always an effective rhetorical ploy) and by then giving quick and easy judgments on complex socio-political issues of the day, King seems to believe that the only political technique or outlook that is legitimate is that which either resembles his own or which falls under his criteria of "not-stupid."

My personal opinions of King's political views notwithstanding, I am surprised that a fellow student can be so confident about matters so profound and involved. I trust that this is only a case of a deeper ignorance and that there is still some chance that he can learn from a very significant source: groups of politically interested people actively promoting the realization of their beliefs.

Surely King can see that the indifferent and passive intellectualism we safely attain in the classroom is far more potentially dangerous than the activism being tested in the real world daily.

Please... let us educate each other by positive and creative dialogue. It is my belief that we

will find that there is a common cause that we all promote.

Michael J. Walker
Anthropology

Oppressive

After reading Blake Sliter's letter concerning Lambda Chi and the Greek System, we at the Women's Referral and Resource Center would like to make a few statements in favor of the women who are involved in the Greek System.

The first is that women in the Greek System are not categorically "sluts," as Sliter's letter implies. Apparently, Sliter's letter was an attempt to satirize the morals and values of the Greek System; however, his protest was with the men of Lambda Chi, and it is unfortunate that in his protest, he has perpetuated the stereotype that "sorority girls are easy."

This stereotype is extremely oppressive in that it objectifies these women; they become sex toys to be played with and discarded on a whim and makes them seem brainless and morally warped.

In this case, labeling adult women as "girls" implies that these women are immature...morally, mentally and emotionally. It implies that they need someone else to take care of them and to tell them how to live their lives.

The second point is that calling these women "sorority girls" is very belittling. The language we choose to describe groups of people can have powerful side effects, which may or may not be intentional.

So, although the language does not appear to be all that important, it can and does have underlying implications that are crippling and unnecessary.

Kari Rothi
Becky Bilyeu
Co-directors, Women's
Resource and Referral Service
Wednesday, February 4, 1987

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