

Editorial

Investigation needed for PSU's president

April 15 is a day people shudder to think of: Income taxes are due, and one wonders whether an audit will be in order.

If this is the case, then Portland State University President Natale Sicuro should be shaking for months since his stolen tax documents were recently made public.

Last year, Sicuro received \$5,639 in supplemental compensation that went unreported to the Internal Revenue Service, despite advice to the contrary from the PSU Foundation accounting firm.

Foundation officials said they did not declare the payments on a miscellaneous income form because Sicuro told them the payments were reimbursements for business expenses.

The unreported items, or business expenses, include payments for Sicuro's dues to the University Club and Willamette Athletic Club; travel for his wife; season tickets to the Oregon Symphony; automobile insurance and repairs; daily coffee deliveries to his office, and \$5,013 in wine and liquor deliveries to his house.

Apparently, Sicuro mixes business with pleasure.

As well, for an expense to be excluded from income, it must be authorized by someone other than the person reimbursed for the expense. Sicuro and his wife authorized several of the entertainment and travel expenses themselves.

It's understandable that university presidents receive compensation packages as part of their job. But that's no reason to disobey the law.

Since Sicuro's mistakes have been made public, it's time for him to come clean and right his wrongs. A thorough investigation should begin at once.

Sicuro stays, Olum's out; it's what irony's all about

The presidential year in (ironic) review: Paul Olum and Natale Sicuro.

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education asked President Olum to resign earlier than he wished, citing the need for an "orderly transition of management" within the state system.

Students, faculty, administration and the community battled Olum's forced resignation. Olum is recognized as an outspoken, aggressive advocate of the University and academia. He's courageous, and he's appreciated.

In the past academic year, Olum has spoken out in support of the Oregon Public Employees Union (when no other university president would), has supported the Graduate Teaching Fellow's Federation, has split with Chancellor William "Bud" Davis on Davis' twisted emphasis of athletics before academics, and has challenged the state board's funding of a new computer use fee.

Unfortunately, Olum got under the board's skin. So he's out.

On the other hand, Portland State University President Natale Sicuro remains in his presidential seat, despite numerous protests by PSU students and faculty.

In March, PSU history professor David Horowitz presented a historical overview of Sicuro's activities at a forum sponsored by two anti-Sicuro groups.

According to Horowitz, Sicuro ordered purple cabbage planted on campus grounds within three days or "mass firings" would ensue. But by spring landscaping at Sicuro's house depleted campus-ground improvement funds.

Moreover, Sicuro announced he intended to use surplus student fees toward the athletic deficit, demanded the third floor of Cramer hall (where his office is located) be waxed daily — at the cost of \$29,000 per year — and he funded renovation of his office by cutting library allocation by one-fourth.

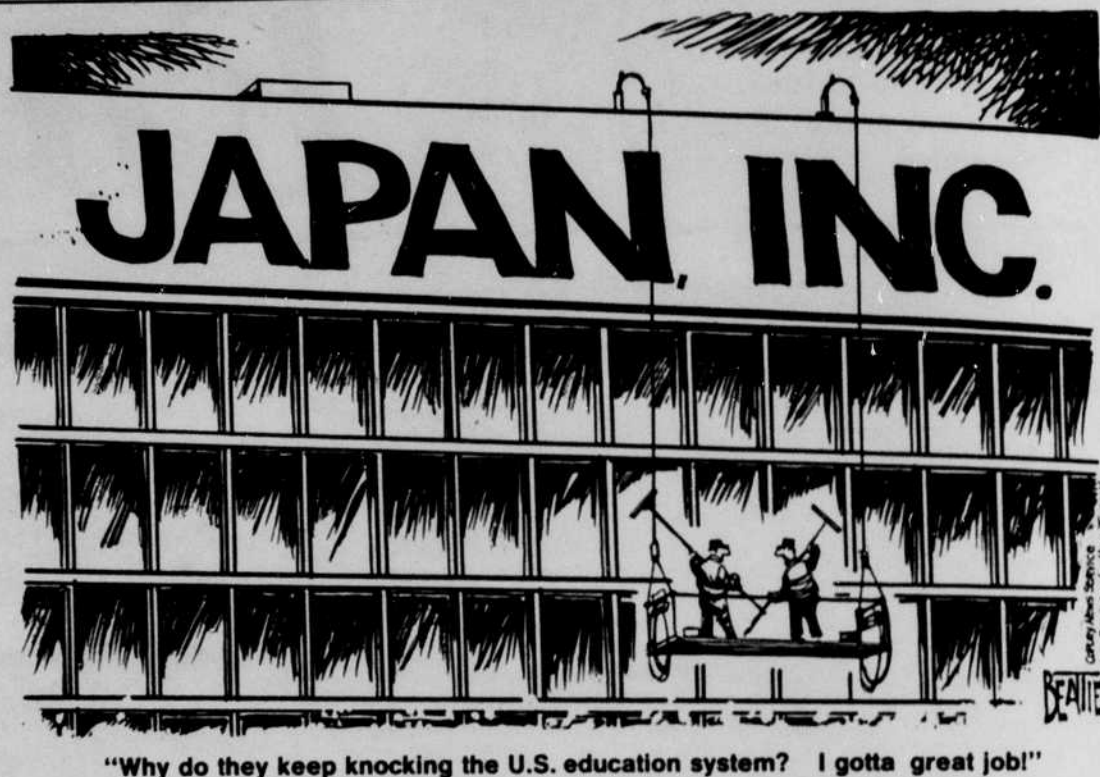
Recently, Sicuro's tax records and "miscellaneous" expenditures have been opened to public scrutiny, and they don't speak well for a leader who should respect education and integrity.

Yet Sicuro stays.

So why is Olum leaving and Sicuro remaining?

According to state board member John Alltucker, "different personalities at different times call for different actions (by the board)."

The crisis in Oregon's educational system speaks for itself.



Letters

Need support

I am writing to express my grave concern about why the majority of the Joint Social Services Fund Budget Committee chose not to allocate any funds for AIDS services in Lane County. The only two dissenters were Jerry Rust and Deborah Ehrman, who voted in favor of allocations.

The committee received our testimony during a May 19 public hearing. At that time they were provided with the harsh reality that AIDS exists in this county and affects not only those individuals in the high risk group but also infants, children, etc.

Was the response of the committee reflective of their hope that AIDS will just disappear, or was it just too much trouble to take a stand on an unpopular health care issue that has already received national prominence?

When SHANTI and Carper House requested funds, they did so because they could no longer survive on volunteer efforts and donations. The population asking for help far exceeded the scope and capabilities of their resources.

SHANTI was organized to respond to the emotional and practical support needs of persons with AIDS/ARC and their

friends and family, who have nowhere else to turn. Last year, SHANTI responded to over 1,800 calls for assistance.

Carper House was established because nursing and foster homes in this community were unwilling to care for terminally ill AIDS patients.

These two agencies, which provide one-of-a-kind, unduplicated services to the community, need your support and intervention in reprogramming funds for their survival.

Yayoe Kuramitsu
Medical social worker

Crossfire

It is a shame that such a fine professor as Jack Sanders of the religious studies department always seems to be getting caught in the crossfire between Christian and atheist extremists. Most outrageous of all was Brian Frary's inane parody of C.S. Lewis' inane "Screw Tape Letters" (ODE, May 27), which insinuated that Sanders is playing into the hands of some demonic conspiracy.

Last year, I took Professor Sanders' entire ancient religions sequence. I was continually impressed not only by his mastery of the subject matter, but also by his strict objec-

tivity and impartiality.

Indeed, at the end of the course I had no more of a clue as to his personal inclinations than I did at the beginning.

It appears that conducting a professional and objective study of Christianity at the University is rather like holding swimming lessons in a tank full of piranhas. Still, the less I envy Professor Sanders' position, the more I admire his courage and dedication.

Peter K. Runey
Classics

Correction

A May 20 Oregon Daily Emerald letter to the editor reported that Steven Mandelker was convicted of harassment on April 6, 1988. Although Mandelker originally was charged with assault IV and harassment in the specified incident, the harassment charges were dismissed.

The Emerald regrets the publication of the inaccurate statement and any confusion that might have occurred as a result.

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