

File should re-open on PSU investigation

The state Department of Justice has closed the investigation concerning the deficit discovered last year in the Portland State University Foundation's books.

According to Assistant Attorney General Ross Laybourn, there is "no reason for further monitoring or scrutiny of the organization." It also has been predicted that the deficit found last year will be eliminated by June 30 of this year.

Wait a minute! That's all?

The deficit was found to be the result of spending by former PSU President Natale Sicuro and other employees without prior approval of the foundation board. Now it looks like Sicuro and his buddies aren't even getting a slap on the hand.

Sicuro, in fact, did more than his share of mixing business with pleasure while PSU president. He got caught passing off 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 as business expenses.

And even more fortunately — not only for us, but for every PSU student, faculty, staff member and administrator who protested Sicuro's actions and called for his resignation — we got what we wanted: Sicuro resigned in disgrace after several months of controversy and criticism about his financial management and leadership style.

Well, we hate to sound bloodthirsty, but Sicuro's resignation is not enough.

Not only should Sicuro be prosecuted for his actions, which have caused irreparable harm to PSU and the Foundation, but the attorney general's office should answer for this long, lame excuse for an investigation.

Apparently, foundation officials have released a report showing the amount of the deficit created by Sicuro and his friends, but, the foundation maintains that the entire unethical mess will clear itself up in a few months.

This is no way to act upon such a breach of professionalism.

Sicuro should be prosecuted, and the attorney general's office should just pry that file right back open and finish the investigation with proficiency and professionalism rather than with ineptitude.

Great! But don't forget about funds for library

In order to provide Oregon colleges and universities with funding that was denied last November, Rep. David Dix has introduced a bill in the legislature to generate approximately \$9 million for intercollegiate athletics.

In order to do this, he wants to create a new lottery game, beginning Jan. 1, 1991. Fortunately, additional lottery games do not reduce lottery revenue in general, but actually bring new dollars into the lottery's Economic Development Fund.

Apparently, Dix is holding to last year's campaign promises to raise money for non-revenue-producing sports.

Dix has noted that Oregon colleges and universities are the only ones on the West Coast whose athletic departments do not receive state funding. This has forced Oregon's teams "to work with a competitive disadvantage in respect to other states due to a lack of funding coupled with a sharply growing cost of competing," Dix has said.

Unfortunately, Dix's bill does not specify how the funds are to be divided among the state's colleges. This omission no doubt will fuel the fires of competition between Oregon State System of Higher Education schools.

The bill does, however, instruct the State Board of Higher Education to allocate money in consideration of the athletic conference to which a school belongs and the level of effort being made by the school to generate funds from private sources.

While we are pleased that Dix is holding to his campaign promise of raising money for intercollegiate athletics, we still have one question: Does Dix intend to make good his promise to build a better library for the University?

True, the athletic programs need support. But we don't know of anyone, athlete or scholar, who doesn't agree that the University is in need of revenue for the library.

We hope Dix's generous nature will continue, and in fact, overflow to the needs of the library.



Letters

Freedom

By way of a reply to Bahar Aziz's letter (ODE, March 2), let me say this: If you, Bahar, want to publish literature about M.L.K., Hitler, God, Buddha, et al, that questions people's beliefs in them, you may. Because of our Constitution, this is your right. But as to whether anyone will read them, I can't say.

Right now, Rushdie's book is selling very well, and is coming under verbal attack for its contents. This too is allowed by our Constitution, because our citizens are allowed to print or say what they want, as long as it is not slanderous or libelous.

Demands from Iran are extremely unlikely to make us change our Constitution because we will fight to preserve our freedoms of press and speech. Freedoms that the people of Iran obviously do not enjoy. Not when it is likely that you will be assassinated for trying.

I have not yet read Rushdie's book, but I plan to. I find it difficult to like the Islamic religion because it is a religion that does not allow for the separation of itself from the state, seems to require blind faith and obedience from its members, and finds the questioning of its authority so blasphemous that its leaders believe they can place bounties on people's heads and dictate to foreign powers.

I question Islam's morality and nationality, and I plan on reading Rushdie's book to see if he is questioning Islam's authority too.

Alan Nott
Theater

Symposium

I applaud Barbara Turrill's commentary (ODE, March 7). However, Ms. Turrill misquoted a statement I made about the ASUO Executive's planning of its "Responding to Racism" Winter Symposium.

Ms. Turrill stated that I responded defensively, asking

whether she expected the ASUO to "contact all the student unions whenever they decided to have a symposium?"

The answer to that question is a resounding yes, which is exactly what we did. As stated in Karen Gaffney's Op-Ed (ODE, February, 23), the ASUO Executive planned the symposium from the beginning with a committee representing all the student unions and the ASUO Executive. The decisions of how to focus issues, allocate money and which groups to include were all made by this committee.

Ms. Turrill has every right to criticize the ASUO Executive and general public for our work (or lack thereof) around racism, and our attendance at events dealing with people of color, such as the panel discussion by the Native American Student Union. The ASUO Executive acknowledges these problems and apologizes to members of NASU and others affected by the low turnout at symposium events. Hopefully, we are all learning as we continue to work on this issue.

Steve Hoyt
ASUO Vice President

Get involved

Campus politics probably bore most students to tears. They did last year. This year looks like it may be different.

Already two tickets are seeing the president and vice president positions. Andy Clark and Scott Wyckoff announced they were in serious contention in early February. Tim Hughes and Maureen Kirk recently announced their candidacies as well.

My point? Congratulations to both of these tickets for providing a choice in this year's elections. Last year was a year of no choices. That will not be the case this year. Such an improvement can only be good for all students. My only hope is that students appreciate this choice and the opportunity for a say in student government that it represents.

Consequently, I urge all stu-

dents to take an active part in the elections. This year you could very well be the difference in a close campaign. Find out the issues, question the candidates, seek answers. It's our school and this is our change to have a say in part of its direction. Don't be left behind, get involved.

Good luck to both
Clark/Wyckoff and
Hughes/Kirk.

Kirk Bailey
Student

Preview quality

I would like to thank the EMU Cultural Forum for providing me with a preview of the movie "Sleeper" right before it actually began. It gave me the special opportunity to appreciate certain scenes for their justly "preview quality" content.

Could you possibly do the same when I see "the most beautiful movie ever made," Bergman's "The Magic Flute" on Friday, which the critics from Playboy and Penthouse raved about?

Jonah Bookstein
Philosophy

Litterbugs

One sunny day last week I was sitting in class dreaming of that bell so I could escape out into the beautiful spring day. Students were littered along 13th Avenue, happily buzzing around, energized by (at last) a sign of spring.

I was happy to see so much joy in the air, high spirits and smiling faces. I was later dismayed by the state of 13th Avenue when a friend pointed out to me the amount of litter left behind, a seemingly inevitable product of a sunny day.

So herein lies a plea to my fellow sunny day zealots: Please put your litter where it belongs, and don't forget to recycle your Emerald. Thanks.

Karin Slabaugh
International Studies
Friday, March 10, 1989

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified.