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The debate over some form of mandatory student health insurance is reaching new levels — Phil Nebergall has launched 'an attack' on ASUO President Andy Clark's proposals.

Insurance uproar comes to a head

By Denise Clifton
Emerald Associate Editor

The matter of student health insurance probably could be named the headache of the 1989-90 academic year.

First, students faced drastically increased premium rates in the plan offered by The Prudential Co. and ASUO at the beginning of fall term.

Then, in early December, the Student Health Insurance Committee recommended to the administration that students be required to participate in a 100 percent mandatory insurance program.

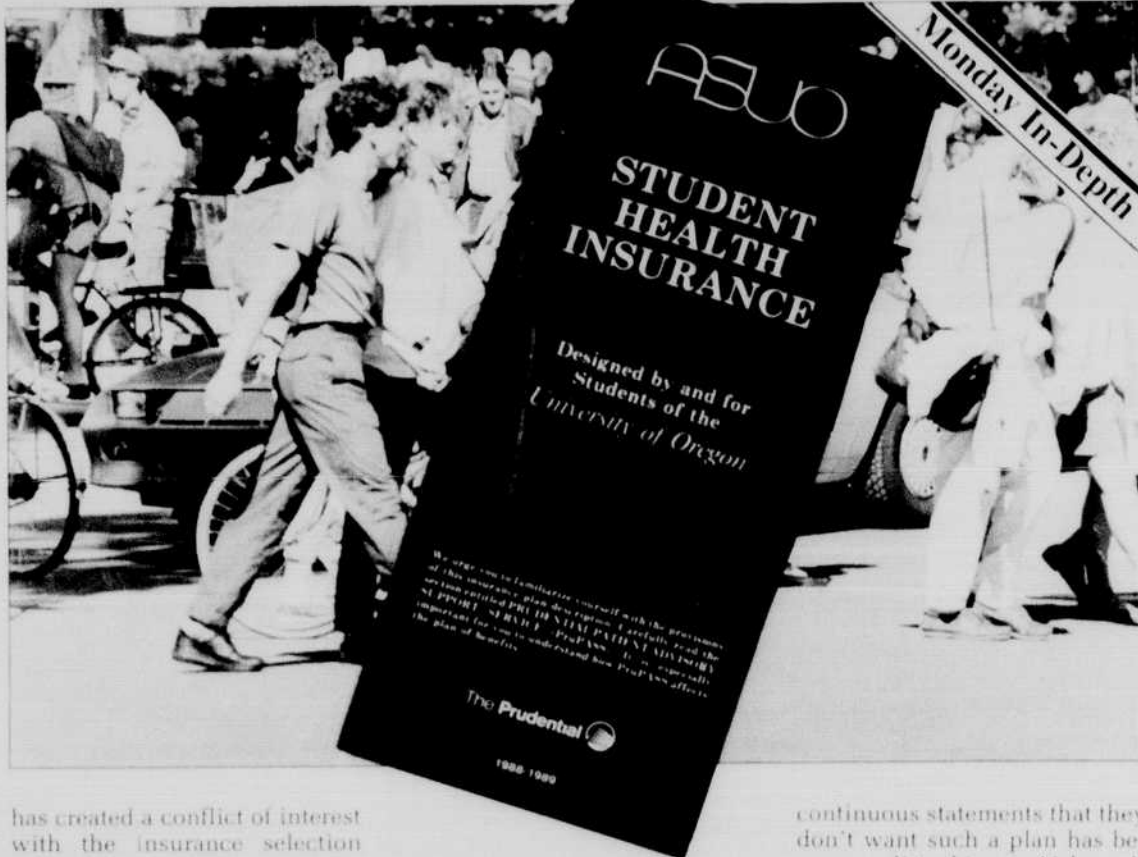
The administration recently rejected this controversial proposal, but SHIC now is suggesting a plan that would make in-

ing the student plan without a carrier.

But the least-known wrinkle in the insurance issue came 10 days ago when a group of students circulated — and then withdrew — a letter calling for the recall election of ASUO President Andy Clark.

Dated Jan. 26, the letter was signed by 15 students who claimed to be frustrated with Clark's approach to the insurance issue.

The letter, addressed to Clark, read in part: "Based on our understanding of the ASUO Constitution, we feel you have violated your mandate as an advocate of the Students at the University of Oregon. Your handling of the ASUO Student Health Insurance Committee's



has created a conflict of interest with the insurance selection process.

"This, along with your advocacy of a mandatory insurance plan without a vote of the students you are supposed to be representing, leave us no other recourse but to work for your removal from office," the letter concluded.

Clark has since entered into the ASUO mediation program with the letter-writers' spokesman, graduate student Phil Nebergall.

"This recall is not a reflection of the ASUO as a whole or the work that the executive has done in other areas this year," Nebergall said in an interview last week. "It's an attack on Andy's policies on student insurance."

Although the recall initiative was withdrawn Jan. 31, the

continuous statements that they don't want such a plan has become disturbing, Nebergall said.

"As we saw it, Andy Clark,

'Those students who choose not to have insurance because they are too low-income to afford it are going to be priced out of school'

— Phil Nebergall

insurance mandatory while giving students a limited right of waiver, the conditions of which have not been determined.

Moreover, last week The Prudential Co. announced it was pulling out of the student health insurance market, leav-

responsibilities and decisions have made a mockery of prudent student action."

The letter added that students have not had adequate input in the insurance process and that Clark's 1989 internship with State Farm Insurance

'I don't like that thrown out: 'Well, I'm a poor student and I can't afford it.' The only reason it should be debated is on principle alone and not on affordability'

— Andy Clark

concerns that sparked it are still very much a part of the student health insurance issue.

Inaccurate representation

Clark's persistent advocacy for a mandatory health insurance plan despite students'

acting as ASUO president, was advocating mandatory insurance ... and we felt that was a conflict of his mandate as ASUO president because (students) don't want a mandatory

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Frog (right) finds another customer for the "world's greatest joke books" that he sells on 13th Avenue.

Frog uses humor to send a message Local figure finds humor in unlikely places

By Sam Silverstein
Emerald Contributor

Frog's brown and white wool cap has a blue enamel pin shaped like Saturn on the brim. His long hair and beard surround a pair of thick glasses; his jeans, suspenders and puffy down coat suggest some counter-culture court jester.

And as he walks down 13th Avenue selling what he calls "the world's greatest joke book," it's clear that humor is his trade.

But Frog (a.k.a. David Henry Miller — the nickname first appeared in high school and he guesses it has to do with his scratchy voice) is out, he insists, not just to make a living, but also to make a point.

"People will listen to humor. It makes you think, and you remember it too. You might even repeat (a joke) a lot of times if you think it is especially funny."

Frog says he is concerned about "the environment, nuclear accidents, the cutting of old growth forests." He also lists the Riverfront research park and the homeless as worries.

At the mention of homelessness, Frog's comic demeanor fades slightly. "I've been homeless before. I have done it for a while so I know what it's like to be. I lived on the streets in Berkeley. It's hard to find a

job."

But he starts to lighten up: "It wasn't like I was living out on the streets all the time. I had friends.

"It's not my first choice of something I want to do," he finishes, returning to a broad grin.

His sense of humor never fails him for long. "It's still easy for me to be humorous," Frog says, who described his father as a born "jokester" and claims to have had a great uncle in vaudeville. "I can joke about my own situation and make it a little better for me."

Frog studied journalism at Ohio University in Athens for two years. In 1968, he said, he got caught up in the spirit of the times and decided "it was time to travel and see the country."

Frog first moved east to New York City, where he was able to pay for an East Village apartment through a succession of odd jobs and "a little panhandling." He then headed west to the San Francisco Bay area before coming to Eugene in 1979.

He now rents a Lawrence Street apartment and earns his keep by selling his joke books and hanging promotional posters for WOW Hall, as well as taking care of the landlord's children occasionally.

Frog published his first joke book in 1986 at the

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