

IFC policy changes right for the times

If you've been reading the Et als and Incidental Fee Committee reports in the paper recently, you'll recognize the IFC has been putting in some overtime. Two meetings a week, each lasting several hours, have been necessary for the committee to catch up in the budget process it is several weeks behind on.

To ease its burden, the IFC recently enacted two policy changes. The policy changes were small but necessary, and it's good to see them in place.

The first was the announcement that the IFC would zero-fund groups that fail to show up for their budget hearings. The groups facing zero-funding do get the chance to submit a written notice explaining their absenteeism.

The change has been mostly met with justifiably favorable responses, although some are concerned IFC hasn't worked hard enough to contact groups coming up for review.

All we can say here is that communication is a two-way street. The groups themselves clearly need to take more interest in the budget process, too. Apparently, ASUO received several groups' budget requests long after deadlines had passed. The groups can contact their IFC members to keep abreast of when their hearings are. But to make things easier, the *Oregon Daily Emerald* has started listing in the Et als what groups are up for review, at the request of IFC.

The second IFC policy change was the removal of an internal limit that held the committee from slashing the budget of any student group by more than 10 percent a year.

That policy change was erroneously reported as a 25 percent limit in the Feb. 16 *Emerald* and was the cause of some concern. As it currently stands, state administrative rules (the "Clark Document") already prohibit the IFC from underfunding any student group on campus for more than six years. The new IFC stance is not in violation of the Clark Document.

The 10 percent ceiling was removed because of the current incidental fee budget mess. Right now, because the University is paring enrollment down to a more reasonable level, the IFC must also roll back program funding or face increased incidental fees this spring. In some cases, the committee is trying to cut more than 10 percent.

The IFC internal limit did exist for a reason, and in a future, less chaotic financial situation it should be returned. The policy existed to try and prevent IFC from grinding political axes by removing or crippling student programs they disliked. Last year's hullabaloo over *Oregon Commentator* funding demonstrated that political preferences can enter the IFC arena, where they don't belong.



Skateboarders deserve a real place to roll

You're walking down the street, quietly minding your own business, when suddenly you hear a thunderous noise behind your back. You turn to see a mob of skateboarders barreling straight toward you. Luckily, you are able to avoid a direct hit as the skaters dash past you and proceed to perform some pretty bitchin' moves along the way.

They're just having their fun, you think as you struggle to still your beating heart. But can't they have that fun somewhere else? Well, no, because the city doesn't provide an outlet for skateboarders at the moment.

Tonight at 7:30, the Joint Parks Committee will hold a public hearing at City Hall to discuss the possibility of building legitimate skateboard facilities. A task force was created last August to investigate the need for such structures in Eugene, which has an estimated 800 to 1,000 skateboarders.

The task force has decided that the need is so great that, not one, but 10 of these facilities should be constructed. Eight of the structures would be built near each of Eugene's middle schools, due to the average age of skateboard aficionados. Costs for building the structures is estimated at \$80,000 to \$100,000, which it is hoped could be covered by federal and state grants.

The task force also recommends soliciting volunteers from the Boy Scouts to work at the facilities.

Besides the tire marks and scrapes the skaters leave on public buildings, the risk of serious injury is bound to be much greater than it would be if the skaters had genuine facilities to play on.

Opponents of the skateboard proposal seem to feel the sport is only a passing fad, that we may end up with unused and expensive expanses of pavement in a few years. But evidence runs pretty contrary to such a suspicion. Skateboarders in Eugene have been around for at least 20 years, and they don't seem to be losing interest in the sport.

The suggestion for building skateboard facilities is indeed warranted. But it doesn't exactly stand to reason that we need 10 of these structures. After all, the city has only a couple of roller skating rinks and one ice skating rink; ten skateboarding structures seems a bit excessive.

One of Mayor Jeff Miller's primary issues in his state of the city address was the need for more recreational facilities and opportunities for the city's youth. A few skateboarding structures will help to satisfy this valid goal, and it will also make those deckheads feel pretty rad, dude.

Letters

Clarify

I would like to clarify any misconceptions which may have arisen from the article "Weekend session addresses sexism" (*ODE*, Feb. 20). Women's non-violence workshops do not focus on sexism, although the issue is discussed and integrated into the activities of the workshop.

The women's non-violence workshops were created to provide a comfortable, un-intimidating environment for women to share our unique, personal experiences with each other. They are a way for women to come together, learn from one another, and become empowered in the process.

The purpose of these workshops is to create a forum where people can discuss their ideas of, and experience with, violence and non-violence in their lives. Ways to help spark this thought come through role playing, practicing the consensus decision-making process,

discussing the history of non-violence and much more.

These workshops are by no means only for women, and definitely not just for "activists."

Non-violence, as it applies to protests and civil-disobedience, is discussed, but non-violence as a way of life is the underlying intent of these workshops. They are open to anyone interested; not just activists or women, or even students. For more information, stop by Student Campaign for Disarmament, Suite 1 EMU, or call x64248.

Pam Turla
Student

Bloodshed

The release of Nelson Mandela, coupled with the legalization of the African National Congress, signals a chance for a new beginning in South Africa. The government's willingness to negotiate with responsible black leaders should have been

welcomed by all those who wish to see an end to the policy of separate development.

Instead, the communist-dominated ANC has responded by refusing to renounce its terrorist attacks against civilians, as well as its barbaric practice of "necklacing" — the process in which the victims, after having their hands bound with barbed wire, have a gasoline-soaked automobile tire wrapped around them and are burned alive.

Over 3,000 innocent black Africans, many of them women and children, have been murdered in this way, by the ANC, all in the name of "freedom." And yet, the moral hypocrites in this country, who are always so quick to condemn the actions of pro-Western nations, remain conveniently silent.

The majority of South Africans are looking to the West for a sign of support. We cannot let them down. It is time for the U.S. to welcome South Africa back as a member of Western

nations by repealing sanctions.

In doing so, we will be showing our approval of the reforms that have taken place, and we will be sending a clear message to the communists in the ANC: accept the hand that had been extended to you in the name of peace — or be held accountable for the bloodshed that will ensue.

Steven Weidman
International studies

Bygone era

On the night of Wednesday, Feb. 21, at approximately 10:30 p.m., while skateboarding on the tennis courts, some friends and I were lambasted with a

barrage of negative comments emitting from Parr Tower. Then, upon reacting to Parr Tower's running commentary, they sent a band of thugs over to the courts to resolve the matter.

My friends and I find it pathetically disturbing that a living organization that seems to pride itself on liberal, individualist activity would find pleasure in insulting another group of individuals due to its personal pursuits.

I guess it's true that peace went out with the Sixties.

Joe Keebler
Cheri-Ann Nakamura
Shar Everett
Students

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 when the letter is submitted.