

DUCKS DO IT at



13th + Patterson • 342-1727



NORTH BANK
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

RIVERSIDE
DINING

FRESH SEAFOOD
STEAKS
PRIME RIB
PASTA
CHICKEN

SUNDAY DINNER
NOW SERVED
FROM 4:00 P.M.

22 CLUB ROAD
EUGENE
343-5622

Battle over Muslim group name ends; financial mess remains to be resolved

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

An ongoing dispute between two groups of Muslim students that has resulted in a day in court and the reorganization of the Muslim Student Association took a new turn recently when one group removed itself from the fray.

After numerous legal threats and a court appearance, the former leaders of the MSA formed a separate organization and gave way to new leaders of the MSA and Islamic Society of Eugene, the community mosque.

The year-long controversy is one that many Muslims in the Eugene would like to put in the past. Although some problems remain, they are trying to do that.

The conflict surfaced in October 1990 when several students filed a complaint with the ASUO claiming that MSA leadership had unfairly excluded some people from voting in group elections and from full participation at the ISE, which is closely tied to the MSA.

An ASUO investigation substantiated the voting charges. In addition, the group's bylaws were found to be unconstitutional because only Sunni Muslims were given membership. The religion includes two major sects, Shi'i and Sunni.

Rather than conform to the ASUO policy that all Muslims should be included, many members left to form an off-campus group. But they claimed exclusive right to the names MSA-UO and MSA-Eugene, and hired attorney Charles Porter in an effort to retain them.

The students who assumed leadership of the campus organization believed they had a right to the names.

A court date in mid-June resulted. It ended quickly, however, when Lane County Circuit Court Judge Maurice Merton dismissed Porter's complaint.

Porter stated at the time that he would refile on behalf of his clients, but never did.

The latest twist in the story revolves

around the sudden decision by Porter's clients to cease involvement in the mosque and drop the pursuit of exclusive right to the names.

Fida Mohammad and Ali Atoui, the new director and assistant director of the MSA, think they know why.

They claim Porter's clients used ISE funds to pay his legal fees and that the budget is now nearly depleted. In addition, because Porter was essentially representing the ISE at the time, the court costs have come back to the ISE, they said, not to the individuals who were involved.

'Since we've gotten over some of the legal battles, some of the difficulties of the past, we need to look ahead and think of the future and what we can do positively for the community, rather than dwell on what happened in the past.'

— Ali Atoui
MSA asst. director

The budget books were left in the mosque, and when the new committee took over, they found that nearly \$14,000 of ISE funds had been used to pay Porter, Mohammad said.

The former directors could not be reached for comment. Porter said he has no knowledge of where the money came from to pay his fees, but added that "my clients have nothing to hide."

The ISE is funded mainly through donations and membership fees, Atoui said.

Mohammad and Atoui, along with many others, have now formed the Muslim Reconciliation Committee to create a

more harmonious atmosphere among Muslims in the community and to deal with the financial bind.

The group is working to raise money, some of which will be used to pay Eugene attorney Harold Daughters, whom they have hired to look into the possibility of recovering money from Porter's clients.

Daughters said he will review books and ledgers from the ISE and then decide how to proceed.

What remains to be determined is whether the former leadership of the ISE was within its rights if group funds were used to finance Porter.

"If the then-executive committee operated beyond the scope of their (authority), then there are methods of obtaining that money," Daughters said.

Several of the former MSA leaders have now formed their own organization and have rented a place to hold their worship services, Mohammad said.

Porter said his clients were simply tired of the ordeal.

"They changed their minds, and decided to let some others" run the mosque, he said. The court proceedings and legal actions are complex, Porter said, "and they have other things to do. It took a lot of time."

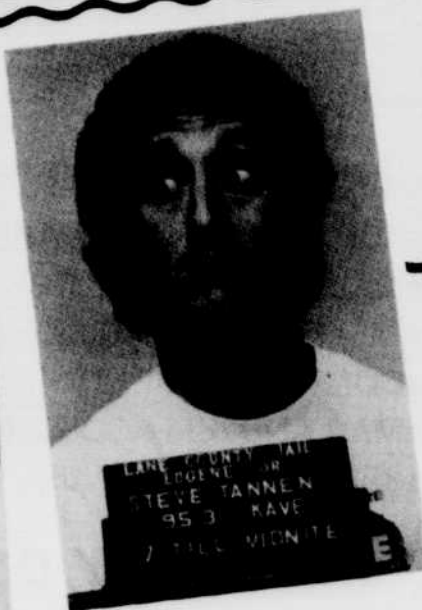
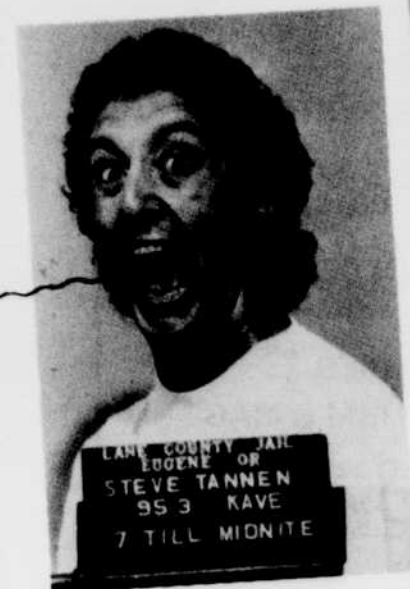
Meanwhile, Atoui, Mohammad and the rest of the current leadership at the MSA and ISE are trying to move those groups in a new direction.

"We are telling everyone in this community, from whichever school of thought he or she might be, that they are welcome," Atoui said.

"Since we've gotten over some of the legal battles, some of the difficulties of the past, we need to look ahead and think of the future and what we can do positively for the community, rather than dwell on what happened in the past," he said.

"Right now the legal issue that is taking place is a side issue," he said. "We would like to resolve it, but this is not where our energies are being focused."

Hey, Steve Tannen!



I want a Pizza Party!

U of O STUDENTS ONLY *

If it's Thursday and you see this man on your bus you may win a pizza party for you and your friends.

If you see Steve, just go up to him (no touching) and say, "Hey, Steve Tannen, I want a pizza party!" The first person to spot Tannen will be treated to five pizzas and soft drinks delivered to their door courtesy of LTD, Pappa's Pizza and 95.3 the KAVE. Then listen that night and hear Steve re-play the winning moment on the KAVE.

*Must show U of O student I.D. to win.

95.3 **the KAVE**

PAPA'S PIZZA PARLOR
A Slice of Family Fun!



LETTER PERFECT
Graphics

CONVENIENT,
FAST &
AFFORDABLE

We typeset resumes, event posters, ads, booklets, business cards, and brochures. We can help you with design, typefaces and point sizes.

We shoot PMTs, half-tones, transparencies, and reversals. We can help you select the technique you need to complete your projects.

We are able to complete most jobs in only 2 working days. For a rush fee, we offer 24-hour turnaround. At LETTER PERFECT Graphics you'll find our prices were designed with the student budget in mind.

Our convenient EMU location makes us easy to use.

346-4381
SUITE 300 EMU 9:00-5:00 M-F



Don't miss a great catch...

Oregon Daily Emerald football editions—
on the newsstands every Friday before home games.

