

Student groups need to be held accountable

Is there no end to the fiscal fiascos?

Every year, the Incidental Fee Committee goes through budget hearings for the various student groups on campus. And every year, it seems, something goes awry.

The current round of budget talks, University style, has been joined by yet another semi-scandal from the ASUO. The IFC has been brought into the furor caused by complaints of financial hanky-panky among some ASUO executives — specifically, complaints of self-overpayment.

IFC Resolution 8 states no one paid a salary through student fees can be paid "a higher rate than that authorized by the IFC." The complaint against the ASUO charges that JoSonja Watson, ASUO vice president; Bobby Lee, affirmative action coordinator; and Therese DuBravac, programs coordinator, were paid more money than they were supposed to be.

The IFC has responded, saying the ASUO was given a sum for stipends, but the "higher rate" clause of Resolution 8 has been interpreted as meaning the student group cannot overspend its total stipend allocation. The ASUO did not go red on its stipend allocation, but simply moved some of the money in the line-item around. Therefore, according to the way the IFC understands its own rules, the ASUO did nothing wrong.

Got all that?

It's confusing, to say the least. Words like "fiscal responsibility," "irresponsible complaint" and "accountability" have been bandied about by the two sides. While it looks as though the ASUO was within its rights, the complaint does bring up an important point.

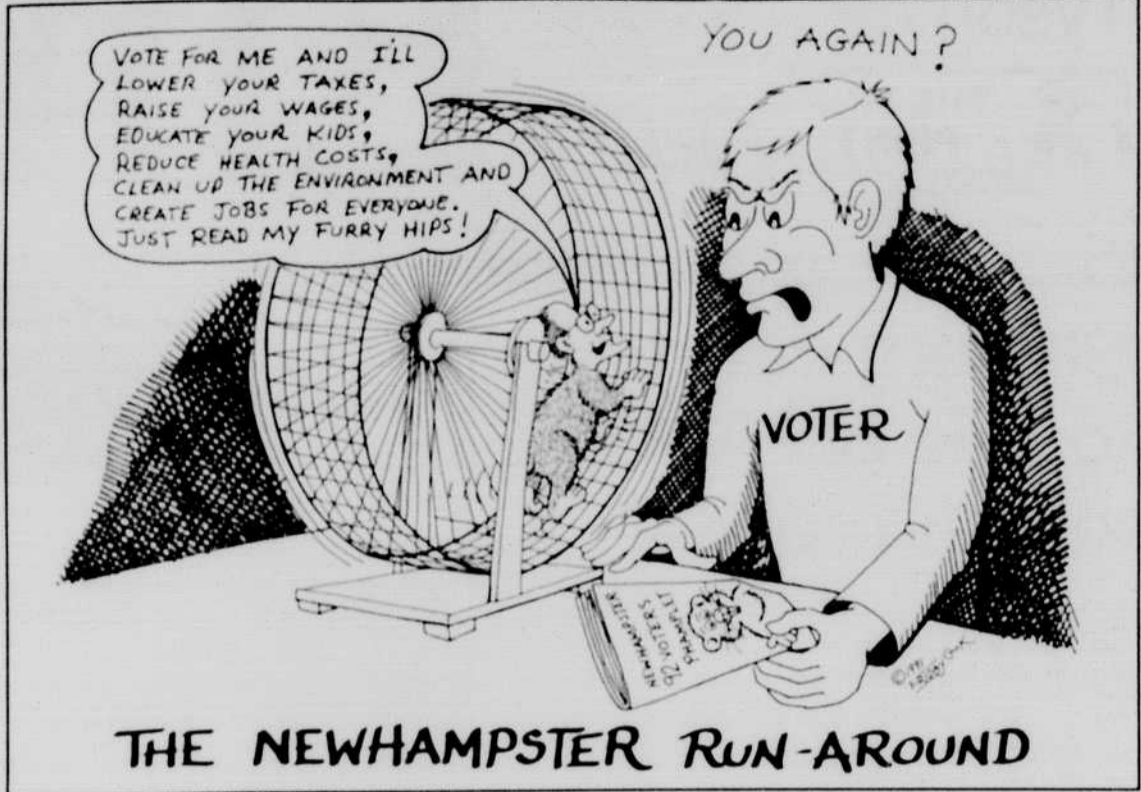
Where is the accountability? Why aren't groups held to their budgets?

The problems don't stop there. Some groups have been nailed in the budget process because of — yes, you guessed it — fiscal irresponsibility. In other words, last year's group members didn't pay close attention to their budget. Now, current members, often a totally new cast, are paying for past mistakes they didn't make.

Thus creates the quandary. How does the IFC pass judgments on those groups? While it is unfair to the groups when they get their budgets cut because of past members' mistakes, it would be unfair to the students who pay the fees if groups continuously have budget overruns without recourse.

To use a buzzword, there does need to be more accountability. Student groups — including the ASUO — should be responsible for what money goes where. University students pay a lot in incidental fees; they have a right to know exactly where their money is going.

The IFC should seriously think about tightening the rules concerning budget allocation. "Recommendations" for stipends need to be set in concrete. If a student group overpays a stipend or misuses any line-item account, that should be taken into consideration when its next budget hearing rolls around.



LETTERS

Tell me

Could somebody please tell the students of this University why?

Why do the incidental fees cost each student \$103 per term here at the University, while the fees at the University of Washington are \$10 a term, and the University of Michigan's are \$6.77 a term (*Oregon Commentator*, January 1992)?

Why do the incidental fees increase while funding to groups by the Incidental Fee Committee substantially decrease? The allocated budget by the IFC for the 1992-93 year was down \$82,206 this year, just in the six groups listed in the *ODE* (Feb. 7).

Why does the IFC claim to want to help relieve the overburdening cost of education when at the same time they do nothing but increase the IFC fees that the students pay (which is included in the tuition bill), while reducing fees paid to the special-interest groups that they support?

Allen James
Student

Pray

In answer to Sarah Krick's question (*ODE*, Feb. 7), the answer is no — none of you will receive my sympathy if victimized by a violent crime. I know all of you need my sympathy, but I only extend it to people who pay ridiculous prices for black belts.

But don't worry your little heads about learning martial arts, especially learning to defend yourself without earning a black belt. You are right and I am wrong.

It must be my sexism that restricts the talent to fight the male gender. I must try (against all my masculine stupidity) to be compassionate, for there is nothing anyone can do to stop rape.

Please, accept me into the community of men, where we all can take turns crying and realizing that we will never become like those beautiful few who never have to worry about rape, because those people don't exist; all humans are newts of weakness.

Let's all close our eyes, bow

our heads, and pray to the gods of rape.

Bryan Westby
Student

Moore hilarious

Jason Moore (*ODE*, Feb. 7) charges me with name calling. That's funny; in the article I wrote about *Student Insurgent* Jew-bashing, I didn't mention a single name.

Moore charges me with name-calling. That's funny; the first thing he does in his personal attack on me is call me McCarthy.

Moore claims I unjustly attacked his paper. That's funny; the main editor of the *Insurgent*, Brian Hoop, told me I was doing a great job and I should keep it up.

Moore knows what is and what is not anti-Semitic (of course, we at the Jewish Student Union do not). That's funny; does he decide for the Black Student Union what is racist and what is not? Does he decide for the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Alliance what is and is not homophobic?

Moore claims that one-half of all Israelis are not Zionists. Such a non-statistic, such a journalistic blunder, such an absurdity with no support is not funny. It shows Moore's utter ignorance of Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people.

Phil Zuckerman
Student

Defined rules

Discrimination is unacceptable, unless you have a good reason. Let's not mix words. Both camps condone and condemn discrimination as long as there is a good reason.

The administration allows exceptions to the discrimination rules for the military; Jennifer Bills allows exceptions (and funding) for USSA; ASUO allowed exceptions for Saferide, and last but not least, University Housing discriminates against homosexuals be-

cause of good reasons.

If you don't believe me, read Page 2 of the *ODE* (Dec. 9, 1991). Next to a story condemning discrimination is a story condoning it!

Currently, the rules on campus state very clearly that there shall be no tolerance for discrimination. I always thought no discrimination meant no discrimination. But, there are the good reasons.

If we are going to allow exceptions to the rules, we should clearly define what those exceptions would be. Clearly defined rules would make it fair for everybody involved. If it wasn't for "good reasons," we would eliminate the administration, the military, Jennifer Bills, USSA, ASUO, Saferide, University Housing ...

If we don't all live according to the same rules, the only acceptable exceptions to the rules would be the ones "I" believe are justified.

Mike Pritchard
General Science

No consent

In response to Bryan Westby and his dangling pianos/martial arts solution to rape: How hard do women have to fight back before Bryan Westby will call it rape?

Yes, martial arts can help even the confrontation, but how effective is it really when someone twice your size and stronger than you is holding a knife to your throat?

You cannot blame the victim for the lack of martial arts classes — you cannot blame the victim AT ALL. Rape is still rape whether or not the victim screams, fights back, or is completely paralyzed by shock and fear.

There is no judgment call to be made on, Did she scream loud enough or fight back hard enough? Not by you. Not by anyone. If there is no consent it is rape. Martial arts or not.

Leigh Wheeler
Business

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