

## IFC windfall should benefit all students

If the University administration wants to stay on Santa's "good" list, it had better ensure the IFC receives \$337,000 in its stocking, and the sooner the better.

The money is accumulated interest earned from student fees, but had been lost until this past summer, when the EMU budget office discovered it.

The administration offered to distribute the money to the EMU, ASUO and the athletic department, but it has no authority to do so. The interest was earned with student fees and should be distributed by the IFC.

Who should receive the money and how much they should get is an IFC decision. (How the IFC allocates the funds will be closely watched, however.) The administration based its allocation recommendation on the assumption that it was EMU, ASUO and athletic department accounts that generated the interest.

**The interest came from student fees, not the EMU, and should be treated as such.**

Exact ownership of the money is unclear. The Clark Document, which gives the IFC its authority, does not specify how interest earned on student fees is to be classified.

Presumably, such funds could be considered as carried over from past years. In that case, the money would revert to the IFC, not the groups whose principal may have generated the interest.

The \$337,000 amounts to about 7 percent of the IFC's \$4.6 million budget. The IFC should avoid the temptation to allocate the funds to any specific group or groups. Such an action would only create controversy and raise charges of political favoritism.

The EMU, ASUO and athletic department will likely argue that because their accounts earned the interest, they should get it. EMU Director Dusty Miller said the EMU should receive about 40 percent of the money, citing "the general accounting practice where interest follows principal."

Following the principal, however, leads back to the IFC. The interest came from student fees, not the EMU (or anywhere else), and should be treated as such.

The money could be used to offset next year's budget cuts. It could be put into an emergency fund or every student could receive a \$21 refund. Whatever happens to the money, it should benefit as many students as possible.

This is the IFC's first chance this year to prove it's not the puppet of special interest groups by distributing the money evenly across the board. Let's see if it's up to the task.



## LETTERS

### Forum gap

This is in regards to the column "Write Angles" written by Tammy Batey (ODE, Dec. 7).

It seems Batey doesn't realize she was not the only caucasian at the Asian-American/African-American relations forum. I too attended the same forum as Batey, although I have been wondering if we was at the same forum after reading both her article and column.

Batey and myself were the only caucasians attending the forum, yet no one questioned my presence or asked me to leave. Several people did express that they were very uncomfortable having a member of the press there. They did not say they were uncomfortable with Batey as a person, just the fact that she was a reporter. Considering this, I find the articles Batey wrote in poor taste. She did a great job of making the fears of those who opposed media coverage a reality.

I find it very disturbing that Batey (Emerald Associate Editor) made reference to a woman attending the forum in her opinion column even though this person preferred not to be identified. Furthermore, Batey didn't even mention any of the actual issues that were discussed, and those she did mention were twisted beyond recognition.

How did Batey get the idea that people at the forum thought she was armed and licensed to kill when nothing of the sort was ever mentioned? She should check her notes again.

Finally, why didn't Batey take credit for the article she wrote on the forum (Dec. 3)?

**Julie Jones  
Korean Student Association**

### IFC alone

I don't know why University administrators think they have any right or jurisdiction over the distribution of student fees. The students at the University paid these student fees, and therefore the money belongs to the students. The fees are subject, just like any other student fees, to IFC distribution.

It is the IFC's responsibility to make fee recommendations

to the state Board of Higher Education, and this is set out in the Clark Document (which I would be happy to make available to anyone). The IFC exists to serve the interests of the students at the University, and do so by allocating student fees to the many valuable campus organizations that enrich life here at the University.

Let's stop arguing over something that is obviously under the jurisdiction of the IFC. This money not only belongs to the students, but it can be used to help offset the proposed cuts in levels of funding due to the decrease in enrollment. The University administrators should step back and let the IFC do its job.

**Braden D. Kelley  
Student Senate**

### Closed mind

As an Asian American, I was very disappointed with Tammy Batey's column (ODE, Dec. 7) about the Asian-American and African-American forum on Dec. 2.

She came to the forum with a closed mind to the ideas and issues that were being dealt with. I believe everyone should know forums like this are going on, and I was excited about the coverage by the media.

But the next day, when initially looking for some mention of the forum, I could not find it. I eventually found it, stuck way in the back of the paper amid the classifieds (ODE, Dec. 3). The article was also very short — it would have been impossible for anyone to do justice to the intense and emotional three-hour forum that took place.

I became even angrier when I read her column. She got almost a full page in the front of the paper to "defend" herself. I don't deny her right to be there, but how can anyone who was at the forum now say that her presence was good?

She has no idea as to what the forum was all about, and obviously has not a clue on how racism affects minorities. She never will understand how we feel. If the Emerald is going to send a reporter to the next forum, send someone who can empathize with minorities. Only then can forums, and the

sensitive racial issues contained within them, have a chance to be properly represented in the Emerald, or any other paper for that matter.

**Jan Harada  
Undeclared**

### Wide concern

The current situation in Somalia was uplifted to an new level of international crisis by the United States' announcement that it will send combat forces to the region.

The official purpose is U.N.-sponsored protection of relief shipments to the areas of most need, from rival clans fighting for control of regions of Somalia. At the time of the announcement, the United States already had 1,800 Marines waiting off the coast — with at least that many on standby — ready for operations in the theater, not to mention logistical support. These are all American personnel.

As a U.N. operation, this seems pretty lopsided. But in fact there have been 500 Pakistani troops in Somalia. They have been very ineffective, however, and have been virtually held hostage at their encampment.

The question is, whose responsibility is it to deal with the mess left over? The mentality of President Bush's "New World Order" is to believe the United States is the only available nation with enough firepower to persuade the smaller nations to peace.

This, however, is not the right idea. For any nation to have that much power and influence over the rest of the world is too dangerous. Any force going into an unstable region to end a conflict, or set a truce, should be an actual representative force of world consensus through the United Nations, not the U.S. armed forces with the United Nations rubber-stamping American foreign affairs.

Granted, somebody has to stop the suffering, but shouldn't the relieving force be representative of world concern?

**G. J. Schoenstein  
Undeclared**

## 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.

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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