

## Democracy in action at IFC gatherings

The Incidental Fee Committee meets every Monday and Thursday to discuss the allocation of student money to campus organizations. The committee has about \$4.5 million this year to distribute among such groups as the ASUO, the EMU, various student unions, the marching band, campus magazines and newspapers, the athletic department and OSPIRG.

The meetings can be spirited and intense. Money is a volatile issue, and most student groups believe they don't get enough. If one group seems to be favored over another, tempers flare. If one group believes it's not being treated fairly, confrontations can result.

Surprisingly, the meetings generally are not well attended, despite the fact that student money is on the line. Typically, the only students who show up are members of organiza-

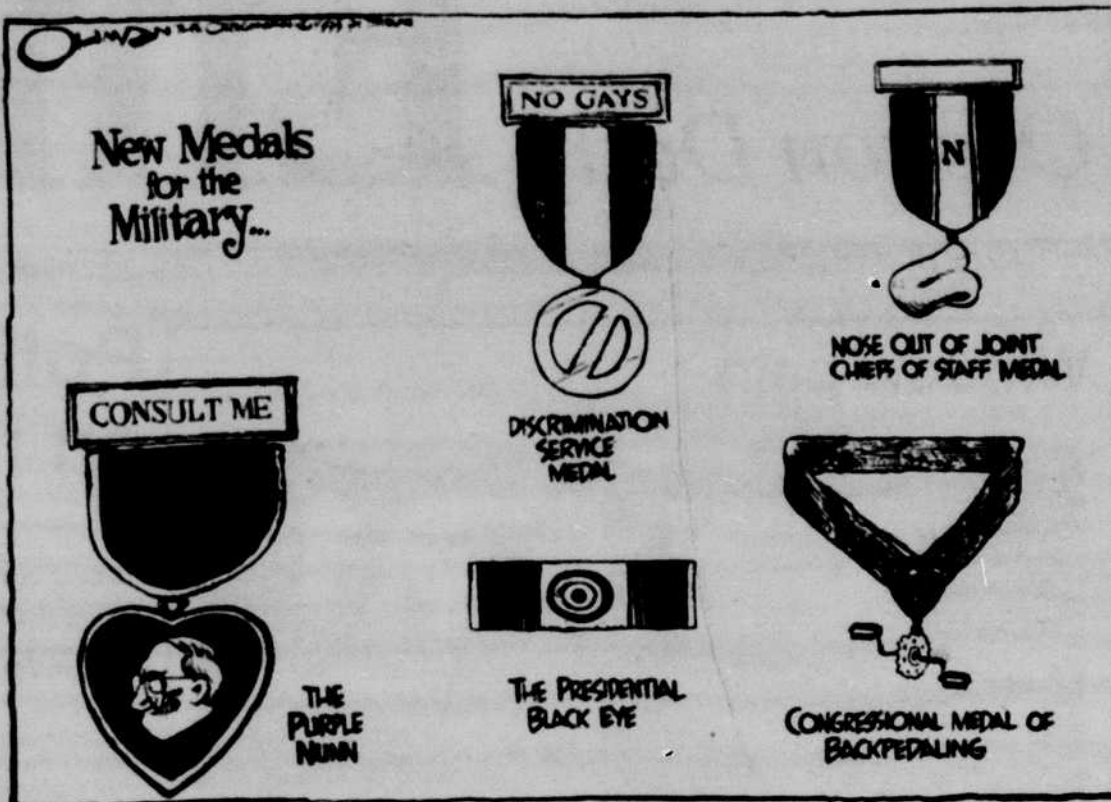
tions asking for IFC money. The IFC usually invites a few such groups to each meeting, where members then present their case. Students on campus need to attend an IFC meeting at some point in their college careers to gain perspective on campus politics. The IFC is a perfect opportunity to watch democracy in action. IFC members are students themselves who were elected by the student body. They allocate student money for student interests. Anybody attending the University should not only know of the group, but have an interest in its operations.

Out of a \$907 tuition bill, students pay \$106 per term to the IFC. Just as Oregon taxpayers want to know where their money is going, students should know the same.

If athletics are frivolous to particular students, they should want to know why the athletic department gets significantly more money than OSPIRG. If a campus magazine or newspaper isn't worth reading, students should hear that group's presentation to develop an informed opinion.

Beyond the obvious news value of an IFC meeting, it's worth it to attend simply to watch the personalities involved. In this instance, IFC members are in control, and student organizations are asking for their share of the money pie. Observers can watch the personal dynamics of the IFC members and the decision-making process. Other campus meetings are worth attending as well. The Student Senate and EMU Board meet on a regular basis and decide issues that concern the entire campus. Every student should want to know more about the processes that govern these decisions.

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## LETTERS

### Negligent

This letter is in response to the article on Otis Scarborough's sexual harassment of Jean Chiappisi, which was published in the *Emerald* on Jan. 26.

We believe the lack of action shown by the University Office of Public Safety and Director Carey Drayton specifically, at the onset of the incident, was extremely negligent.

Scarborough was clearly in violation of the University's harassment policy, yet he continues to be employed as an OPS officer. Aside from his proven guilt in this instance, there is adequate reason to believe this type of behavior has occurred previously.

We find the manner in which this case has been handled by Drayton to be most reprehensible. Drayton has failed to take proper measures to ensure a comfortable working environment for women.

It is disturbing that Drayton appears willing, if not eager, to try and bury the issue. Drayton states, "It was better for our department that (Chiappisi) moved on because if that talk would've continued, it would've gotten worse."

Drayton's obvious ineffectiveness in dealing with a major issue like sexual harassment is truly disheartening. If Drayton is still unwilling to address this issue in his department, we believe he has no business working for the University and call for his resignation as well as the immediate termination of Scarborough.

We would like to say to Chiappisi, whom we have known for years, you are not a "bitch" because you protected yourself. Thank you for having the strength and courage to step forward and assert your rights.

**Phil Donovan  
Political Science  
Steve Thoenes  
Geology**

### Shed myths

With a great deal of sadness and frustration I read the *Emerald*, Wednesday, Jan. 27.

The front page contained articles concerning the protests held in response to Sen. Bob Packwood's visit to Eugene. The

Senator refuses to resign even though 10 separate women have brought sexual misconduct allegations against him.

Packwood seems to believe that simply because of his position, he is above the law. This attitude of being above reproach is not uncommon among other groups of men, be they politicians, athletes or fraternity members.

As I continued to read this paper, I reached the sports section. The sports page was devoted entirely to the Portland Trail Blazers' recent "sex scandal."

It seems as if some members of the team had sex with two sixteen-year-old girls. One of the girls said she "sort of" consented "because I was afraid and didn't know what to do." It sounds dangerously close to gang rape to me.

Men who rape come from all walks of life. It is time to shed the myths that men who rape are people we don't know.

Unfortunately, we come face to face with these men daily. By the way, this is one woman who won't be holding any Blazer parties this year.

**Rondine Niki Rouch  
Undeclared**

### Get trained

This is an open letter to the University in response to issues raised in "Harassment network offers help" (*ODE*, Jan. 27).

How can you seriously be trying to "prevent liability to the University" (let alone address the complaints themselves), when the two male vice presidents making decisions on sexual harassment cases have no training in that area, and probably don't even have personal experience of what it's like to be on the receiving end to draw upon?

If personnel aren't even trained, then the University is not taking the issue seriously. The number of sexual harassment lawsuits is increasing, and the publicity can do enormous harm to peoples' careers.

If you want us to believe you, take this issue seriously, then train everyone involved in the investigation and decision-making processes so that they'll at least know what constitutes harassment and what doesn't, and what the legal ramifications

are. That's the bare minimum action required to prove you're not just talking the talk.

Soothing words, belittlement, veiled threats and indirect punishment of the complainant don't work anymore. If you don't put valid procedures into effect, someone will decide to prove that to you. This is not a threat — it's simply stating the inevitable.

**Debra Day  
Psychology**

### Good jobs

Martin Fisher's opinion column (*ODE*, Jan. 26) is filled with numerous examples of poor thinking.

First off, he claims people who are politically active risk not being able to get good jobs. The eyes of the state and big business are on you, he claims, so you better watch your step.

I believe it is wrong for Fisher to try to scare students from social activism in this way. A democracy is made so individuals can protest against and try to change its institutions.

In this way our society adapts and improves. Outdated notions such as racial discrimination are slowly, with much effort, discarded this way. Students can take part in this and contribute to all our betterment.

If there are businesses that don't like this, I imagine the students with the sense of social responsibility that brings them to protest wouldn't like working for those businesses.

Students don't have a need to worry though. There are many good jobs that don't require you to be a lock-step corporate puppet, to destroy the environment or to discriminate against people based on their race, sexual preference or gender — jobs you can feel good doing.

Secondly, he ends his column mentioning the University has classes designed to make students "politically correct." What classes is he talking about? Native American Literature? Chinese History? Evolutionary Biology? Environmental Planning and Policy?

Yes, accurate information about other people and the world can be a very dangerous to the status quo. Beware.

**Ben Iglauer  
Eugenon**

Oregon Daily

# Emerald

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