

# ASUO fought battle for student money.

The case of the mysterious \$337,000 seems to be rising out of the fog it had been mired in since the money was first discovered this summer.

For several months, the ASUO and the administration have been squabbling about possession of the money. ASUO and Incidental Fee Committee members claimed the money was interest earned on student fees and should be returned to student control. Administration officials claimed that little, if any, of the money was from student fees, but rather belonged to the University.

The administration was set at the end of fall term to hand the money over to the EMU and athletic department.

Fortunately for students, the ASUO jumped in and launched its own independent investigation of the funds. The administration now has announced that as much as \$259,759 of the windfall is indeed interest from incidental fees.

Students can thank the ASUO for picking up the ball on this who-dunnit, how-dunnit, why-dunnit budget mystery. ASUO President Bobby Lee made sure the case received plenty of publicity, bringing the issue into the open and ensuring accountability. Launching an independent investigation also pressured the administration to be forthcoming about its own findings.

Had the issue not been diligently pursued by the ASUO, there likely may have been a much different outcome.

Although the responsibility for fighting for student-fee money should fall into the hands of the IFC, the committee has done little if anything to determine and prove this money belongs to students.

IFC Chairman Steve Masat told *Emerald* reporters and editors that he has sent numerous memorandums to University Vice Provost Gerard Mosely concerning the money. Masat said he sent written correspondence because he prefers a written record.

Masat, however, was unable to produce copies of even one document sent to Mosley on this issue. Mosley denies ever receiving correspondence from the IFC chairman.

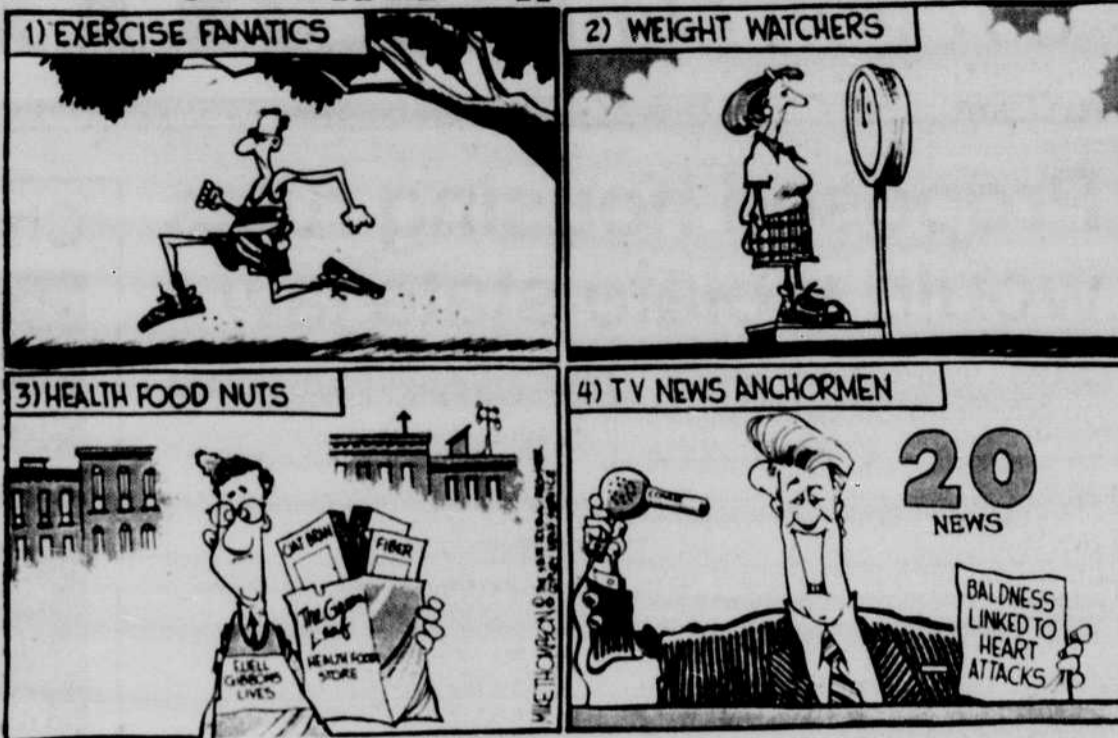
Fortunately, the ASUO wasn't complacent to let the administration make another of its pre- or during-break announcements that the money was being shelled out as it saw fit.

Now that it has been established that the money is and has been students', the IFC is showing a greater interest in the windfall's future. It's a little late to jump in the game, but it is encouraging that the committee is willing to play a part.

The question "what has the ASUO ever done for students" is often unanswerable, until now.

Someone in student government now has students' interests at heart, and anyone considering running for ASUO office next year should bear in mind the precedent of action the current administration established in this case.

# People who are less likely to suffer a heart attack:



## LETTERS

### Equality

I am writing in response to Greg Jacobs' letter about Students of Color Building Bridges. Perhaps he is ignorant about the entire picture.

First, this University is not diverse.

Second, teachers of color are hard to come by. Why? Because many drop out of college or don't make it to college in the first place.

And why is that? Because right now the idea of equality is just a word, a meaningless expression. Yes, we are all born equal, but we are not all born with equal opportunities.

Rare things are often expensive. The price of equality may just have to be a period of inequality. Soon the minority will be the majority, and if the accepted Americans (white Americans) don't know where people of color are coming from, they will be the ones who are lost.

If these things are not integrated into all of the institutions, in the future white Americans will be saying "Why do you treat me this way?" The new majority will just say "We told you so. Now it's happening to you." Unless of course the new majority is more understanding.

People reap what they sow. I walk on the "color line." I don't stand on either side. I just want everyone to be truly equal, truly happy, truly loving and truly peaceful. If the colors are continually split and ignorant of each other, then tell me, where do I stand?

The phrase should be "equality see no color." Until then, in most cases, love will see color. I was born out of the love of two people who saw past all of this, and for that I am grateful.

**Kevin KJ Chang**  
National Student Exchange

### Restaurant tax

Regarding the March 8 editorial on the restaurant tax, all enlightened Eugene residents realize the plight of the city. Most of that plight, however, is due to the city's policies as much as the institution of

1990's Ballot Measure 5.

A restaurant tax is discriminatory. It compares with a law by the city to assess each University and Lane Community College student a \$100 fine because the city serves them.

The tax, even if collected under the best conditions, will not generate the estimated \$4.25 million. If even half of that is generated it would be a surprise. What's more, once the machinery is instituted, the bureaucracy will swallow most of it. No government has been efficient enough to do otherwise.

In the meantime, the restaurant owners will be footing the added bookkeeping and labor costs that add to the general food prices.

The restaurant owners in this area have another dilemma. The University is in direct competition for food dollars — but it is exempt from the tax because it is a non-profit organization.

Once the 3 percent tax is instituted, the City Council is looking to increase it to 5 percent — and who knows where they will stop.

To forestall all of these cuts and generate new revenues, the city should institute a 5 percent additional income tax — 3 percent earmarked to education and 2 percent to the city.

It would be an equitable tax. The collecting machinery is there, and it is deductible from federal income tax. A sales tax is not.

It seems cutting programs and attempting to pass stupid taxes is easier than listening to solutions. If the academia and the city gets together and proposes a tax like this, the passage might be guaranteed.

**Vahan Assadourian**  
Owner  
The mEating Place

### Danger Otis

Wherefore art thou objectivity, Otis Scarborough?

On March 11, I was given a ticket for riding my bicycle on the sidewalk and another for not having my bike registered. No, I wasn't weaving in and out of the sidewalk on 13th Avenue between Kincaid Street and University Street. In fact, I was rid-

ing from 16th Avenue and Kincaid Street to the bike racks by the education building.

This is a wide open area. I did find space a little cramped, but it wasn't because it was crowded with mass students fleeing their stuffy, underfunded classrooms. No, quite the opposite. I was crowded by Scarborough's vehicle driving in the same space.

This makes me ask, why is it all right for a car to drive in a space where a bicycle cannot? This appears a bit absurd to me. Why couldn't he park on Kincaid and walk to his destination? It wasn't as though he was unloading supplies, as do his University Physical Plant counterparts.

It's a bit hard for our public safety to walk anywhere — they're dressed with enough worthless gear to harass a student to the full extent of the law.

Two females rode by. The first was ignored criminally, but she got a stare from Scarborough. The second was given the stare and a polite excuse me, but it was left at that. I turned to Scarborough and said, "You turn a blind eye to the females?"

**Peter Leineweber**  
English

### Water policies

Of the two articles on water policies in the Middle East in the *Emerald*, M. Reza Behnam's (March 5) was a scholarly one, and Alon Tal's (March 9) was a propaganda tract. I have read Dr. Behnam's award-winning book and his articles in publications such as the *Christian Science Monitor*. He is always thorough and illuminating.

Some questions: Why didn't the Environmental Law Conference publish the panel about the Middle East in its schedule of events? Why didn't the conference organizer invite a Palestinian under Israeli occupation to provide a different perspective? Why do we always hear the Israeli point of view and not other Middle Eastern views on this campus? Does the Israeli lobby influence events on this campus? Does anyone know?

**Esther Harrison**  
Eugene

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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