

Student funds spent on women's retreat

The Incidental Fee Committee recently granted \$3,500 dollars of student funds to the ASUO Women's Center. Keep in mind this is above and beyond its normal operating budget.

The money was allocated in order to fund food, advertising and child care for committee meetings, a facilitator to help organize committee meetings, and a retreat.

If money is being distributed adequately, then so be it. But \$1,000 for a retreat seems like an impressive retreat. It seems there would have to have been some pretty intense persuasion on the part of the Women's Center toward the IFC. Especially if the procedures below were followed accordingly.

1. Write a short, half- to one-page explanation of your request. The explanation should include the amount requested, what the money will be spent on and the reason for the request.

2. Make eight copies of the explanation. Give seven to the IFC, and one to the ASUO Coordinator of Finance. This paper must be received at least 48 hours before the meeting at which the IFC will hear the request.

3. Meet with the ASUO Coordinator of Finance to discuss your request. The ASUO Executive will then develop an Executive Recommendation. This meeting must occur at least 24 hours before your IFC hearing.

4. The IFC will place you on the agenda and notify you of the date of the hearing. At the hearing, you will be given a chance to expound upon your written request and then answer questions before the IFC votes on the request.

These procedures for special requests are used in order to fairly distribute funds, and, when used in that fashion, the process has the potential to be fair and respectable. However, in the case mentioned above, it was not.

It is clearly stated in the procedures that the organization must submit its request and meet with the ASUO Coordinator of Finance. He then gives his advice to develop an Executive Recommendation. Unfortunately, as the finance coordinator said, these proceedings were not followed.

Somehow the IFC in this case felt free to abolish their own procedures and avoid the meetings and advice of the ASUO Coordinator of Finance.

If \$3,500 dollars seems like a large amount, especially when at the beginning of the year there was only \$7,000 dollars available in special request funds, maybe it was. The ASUO Coordinator of Finance never even knew of the request let alone the grant of the request until it had already been finalized.

These procedures have been created for the best interest of University students and must be followed. We are talking about a great deal of money. Though \$3,500 dollars may only be a small sliver, this is merely one example.



LETTERS

Ed the editor

Your recent article regarding the multicultural center (*ODE*, Oct. 11) left out important facts. As a result, a reader with no previous knowledge of the subject would probably assume there was no opposition to the center.

The article implies that the only parties involved in providing funding for the multicultural center were ASUO President Eric Bowen and Vice President Diana Collins Puente, and the University administration. This is false.

During their election campaign, Bowen and Collins Puente sponsored an ASUO ballot measure that would have taken \$125,000 from the students for the multicultural center. The students voted down the measure. Then the proposal was brought to the Incidental Fee Committee, of which I was a member. Despite the students' wishes, the IFC saw fit to allocate \$50,000, in dollar-for-dollar, matching funds with the administration.

The writer went on to suggest that "many people" see a need for a multicultural center and quoted ASUO Multicultural Advocate Eden Aijrian-Omari as evidence of this widespread support. Eden's support for the center is about as surprising as a farmer supporting farms or *Emerald* Editor Jake Berg supporting the campus bars.

The omitted information is a matter of public record and crucial to the readers' understanding. The reporter relied too heavily on the ASUO for his information. *Emerald* writers can't accept one side of the story — particularly the government's side — as the whole story.

Ed Carson
Co-Editor and Publisher
Oregon Commentator

Mideast ignored

In my *Emerald* article of June 23, 1992, I wrote regarding the lack of Middle Eastern representation at administrative, advisory and professional levels at the

University.

Subsequently, the University's Office of International Students hired an Iranian as an adviser. At the administrative and professional levels, the hiring of Middle Easterners unfortunately remains sadly ignored.

The University endeavors to be international, hence the addition of an international studies department and formation of the International College. While these might be steps in the international direction, the glaring absence of Middle Eastern staff and courses belies legitimate international status.

There are no courses on the Middle East offered in the curriculum, thus making it possible for students to complete a baccalaureate degree without any exposure to the literature, languages, societies, politics or religions of the Middle East.

Given the prominence of the Middle East in world politics, this omission is particularly significant. In the absence of the Middle East perspective, students are fed stereotypical analysis of the region's politics and people that is reported by the Western media and reinforced by Western intellectuals. If the University is to transcend parochialism, it must open up its curriculum to other cultures and hire faculty from those cultures to bring new vistas to the marketplace of ideas.

M. Reza Behnam, Ph.D
Eugene

Not 10 percent

This letter is in response to the advertisement in the *Emerald* of Oct. 11, which pictured 10 students and a slogan that said, "One in Ten: That's What the Experts Say." Well, that may

have been what the experts thought 30 years ago, but the figures today are quite different.

In fact, the last survey done in the U.S. found that 1.2 percent of men and women had same-gender sex within the year preceding the survey. However, there has been much disagreement from the gay community, who believe that the survey of 1,537 adults was inaccurate and too small a sampling. This is a legitimate concern, but there are more surveys beside the latest U.S. one.

According to the March 31 edition of the *Wall Street Journal*, the one-in-10 figure has been refuted in other countries as well. A 1990-91 British survey of close to 19,000 adults aged 16 to 59 found that 1.4 percent of men had had same-gender sex within the last five years of the survey. In 1991-92 the Mitterrand government of France surveyed over 20,000 adults and found that 1.4 percent of men and 0.4 percent of women had had same-sex intercourse within the five years preceding the survey.

While I do not believe that homosexuals should be persecuted, I do believe it is inappropriate that the *Emerald* and other media present out-dated research in order to help homosexuals feel more comfortable. There is nothing wrong with a strength-in-numbers mentality but only if the numbers are correct. And the 10 percent number is incorrect. If homosexuals want mainstream society to face the possibility that there is a gay gene, then homosexuals should also face the possibility of the number of people that it actually affects.

Chris Stringer
Russian

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

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.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style

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