

EDITORIAL

Leaders can't afford sloppiness like this

Leadership.

There's a lot more to it than showing up to meetings, banging gavels, and drawing up "agendas." Being a leader means having integrity and common sense; it means being trustworthy and responsible, especially when it comes to other people's money.

Two groups on campus this year have failed to display most, if not all, of these characteristics. In doing so, they have been a disappointment to their constituents... and between the two of them, that's a lot of constituents. In fact, that's every student on campus.

They are the United States Student Association and the International Students Association.

The ASUO finance coordinator announced on Monday that he would freeze all accounts for the University's branch of the USSA, to allow for an investigation into charges of financial mismanagement. Among the allegations leveled against the USSA are claims that the organization overspent thousands of dollars to pay for conventions, and that members of the USSA's "leadership" used USSA funds to make hundreds of dollars' worth of personal long-distance phone calls.

The ISA's funds have been frozen since Jan. 24, when the finance coordinator decided that there was no clear leadership in the organization that could be held accountable for the group's \$28,000 budget. One of the ISA's two co-directors, Douffy Youm, who had been most knowledgeable about the organization's finances, stepped down on Jan. 18. The resignation came amid allegations that the other co-director, Chia-Wei Shing, was abusing his position with ISA for personal advantage.

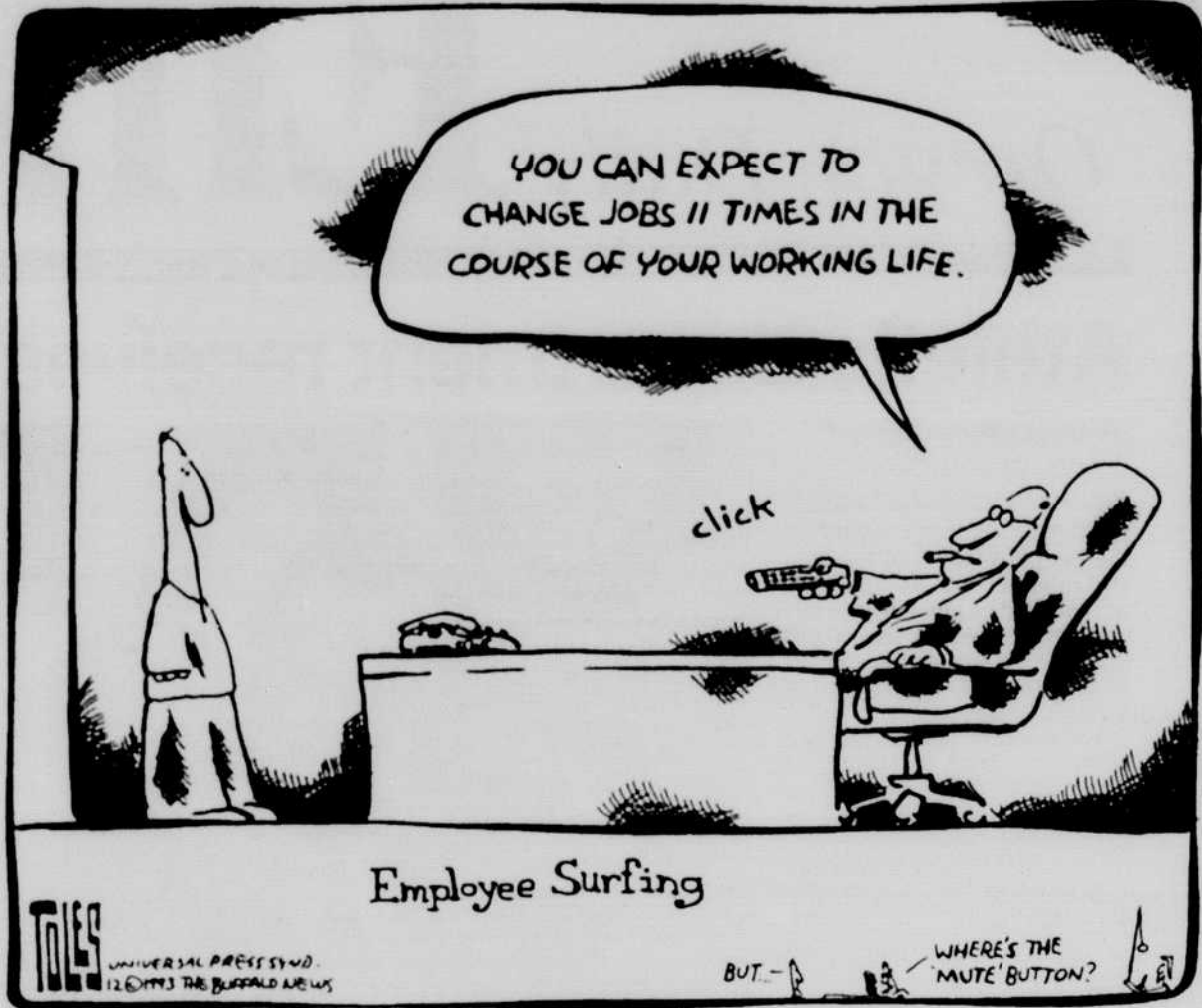
It would be highly premature, and possibly inaccurate, to claim that something willfully underhanded has been going on. The investigation of the USSA has just begun; the examination of the ISA has cleared Shing of any wrong-doing. No evidence has surfaced in either case which can prove any out-and-out stealing. But that hardly means that the leaders of these organizations are free from guilt.

Being responsible for a group's finances involves more than just not stealing those finances. If the finance coordinator has to go to all the trouble to conduct an investigation and freeze funds, then something's not right.

That something may not necessarily be dishonest, but it must be sloppy. The USSA's been given \$16,000 this year; the ISA, \$28,000. That's too much money to be sloppy with.

Perhaps the elected leaders of these and other ASUO groups, along with members of the IFC, should be required to take some basic accounting classes, or a crash course in money management. Maybe the IFC could budget some money to pay a couple of accounting GTFs to oversee the accounts. Something, anything.

Student incidental fees are controlled by students, and it should remain that way... as long as the students in charge can consistently demonstrate that they know what the hell they're doing. If not, then we might as well hand the money over to the administration, and see if it can do a better job.



OPINION

The Universitas is a neat place



JAKE BERG

The Universitas Oregonensis has a lot of neat people who do funny things.

Many of these neat things are when students of the Universitas Oregonensis consume beverages of alcohol products.

I recently witnessed a student of the Universitas Oregonensis exiting a fine drinking establishment who was having difficulty making her feet walk parallel to each other, but it appeared that her many friends were helping her feet stay parallel.

I like friends who help each other because they care for them, but they did not do a very neat job.

The Universitas Oregonensis student's feet met a neat yellow, cement parking bump, causing her to lose her equilibrium and land on her face.

Many people began laughing, including her neat friends, and I did not believe the student would arise from the concrete ground of the street. But she did, and I began to laugh a lot because she was laughing, too.

I thought that was neat. It was very funny. Everybody was laughing and nobody was crying. I like happy people. They are neat.

Another happy student was a gentleman celebrating the 21st anniversary of the day of his birth. He seemed very happy. That made me happy, so I began to sing a song in celebration of the 21st anniversary of the day of his birth.

That made other people happy, too, so they began to sing a song, too. That was neat.

The student of the Universitas Oregonensis celebrating the 21st

anniversary of the day of his birth was feeling quite happy, too, so he began to consume a beverage of alcohol because many people were requesting that he do so.

They did not request that he vomit, but he did anyway. That was pretty neat. I have not had many people sitting next to me vomit inside of fine drinking establishments. Many people did not like it, though, and his friends began to become unhappy and began to leave.

I liked it a lot. It made me laugh, especially when another neat person stepped in the vomit two times, even though I informed him upon two separate occasions that vomit was on the carpeted floor.

Sometimes people aren't so happy after consuming beverages of alcohol, though. I think that is too bad, because I think all people should be happy all of the time.

One student of the Universitas Oregonensis, who was leaving a fine drinking establishment, began to become involved in an altercation because someone told him they did not enjoy his white cotton T-shirt.

The Universitas Oregonensis student of the white cotton T-shirt enjoyed his T-shirt a lot and began to become involved in an altercation over it. I thought that was kind of silly, and the neat person who did not like the white cotton T-shirt used his hand to hit the face of the Universitas Oregonensis student of the white cotton T-shirt.

The Universitas Oregonensis student of the white cotton T-shirt lost his equilibrium and soon was on the concrete ground of the street. Other neat people tried to help the Universitas Oregonensis student of the white cotton T-shirt, but he began yelling that he wanted to be left alone.

Sometimes I think that these silly people are just trying to get into the *Emerald* police beat. A

neat friend of mine who was visiting from the Oregonensis Status Universitas once spent a night in the local facility to hold criminals. He got into the police beat. That was neat.

Most people would probably cry if they got into the police beat. That would not be very nice.

I saw someone else crying recently when something not very nice happened to her. This woman was riding her bicycle down 13th Avenue when someone began to pass her on his bicycle, but she began to turn the front wheel of her bicycle the way he was passing. So, they began to collide.

She fell down, and he rode by on his bicycle. I believe she may have hurt herself, so she began to cry. Many other students of the Universitas Oregonensis were also witnesses, and, like myself, they all began to laugh.

Bicycle wrecks are a neat thing. I like them a lot. They relieve a lot of tension that many students experience at the Universitas Oregonensis because we have our studies to attend to.

Actually, though, enough tensions of Universitas Oregonensis students is not released because there are not as many collisions of students on bicycles this year as there have been.

I believe this may be because the weather has not been as indecent as it has been in years past. I like bad weather a lot. It is neat. Ice and snow and rain cause many neat bicycle collisions that make me laugh and relieve my tensions. It relieves the tensions of other students of the Universitas Oregonensis who witness it, too.

I think that is neat. I like people who laugh. That means people are happy. I like people who are happy. It makes the Universitas Oregonensis a neater place.

Jake Berg is editor-in-chief of the Emerald.

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