

# USSA spending habits audited

By Edward Klopfenstein  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The United States Student Association has been cleared of financial wrongdoing but not of questionable leadership, according to an audit on the group expected to be released Monday.

The local branch of USSA, a national student advocacy organization, seemed to follow USSA guidelines and not those set by the ASUO even though USSA received almost \$20,000 in student funds, said Francis Neo, finance coordinator for the ASUO, Thursday.

"Once they received funds, they don't see that they should be working within the ASUO Constitution," Neo said. "They feel they are different from traditional programs."

No other organization with only 12 members receives that much money for its programs, Neo said.

Neo recommended in the audit that USSA set up an actual organizational structure with one officer that would be responsible for USSA funds. The organization has recently modified its structure and appointed members to positions, but this only started in the middle of winter term, Neo said.

Neo is also asking EMU Director Charles Miller, who oversees the EMU accounting department, to double check the student status of each person who receives an ASUO stipend.

This became a concern when member Michelle Parks spent USSA money last fall even though she wasn't a student.

Final action taken against USSA, if any, is to be taken by ASUO President Eric Bowen.

USSA's spending habits were a concern for Neo, he said. USSA members Parks, Eden Ajrian-Omari, Troy Shields and Diana Collins-Puente, as well as

former member Bowen, all made USSA phone calls on their ASUO accounts.

Some of those calls were personal, though Neo said he was not able to determine exactly how many were personal.

Neo said only Bowen paid back personal calls placed on his ASUO account while Shields said he paid \$19 for his to Collins Puente. Neo couldn't find Shields' payment registered against the USSA account. Bowen repaid about \$50.

The Incidental Fee Committee established a long-distance account for USSA last November with about \$750 coming from the IFC's surplus account. With that money, USSA reimbursed the ASUO for the \$500 in phone calls made.

Collins Puente spent the most in phone calls, totaling nearly \$250.

Concerning the audit's financial findings, Neo said several entries were questionable but were not labeled as examples of misuse because they were later voided.

For example, USSA spent \$437 on registration for the recent student lobbying conference in Washington, D.C., but listed it under the budget heading "Campus Related Outreach."

ASUO regulations prohibit expenses not previously approved by the IFC. The only way for USSA to legally spend funds designated for "Outreach" is to ask the IFC to switch that money over to the group's "Lodging and Registration" budget.

USSA's 1994-95 budget will be up to voters to approve, Neo said, adding that next year's Program's Committee can give the group money from the student fee surplus account.

Neo said he was going to advise next year's group to be careful in considering appropriations.

## GRANT

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research and instruction like Keith does, have helped the University progress from a small frontier college to a major center of learning.

The donation will not take the place of state funds that were reduced because of Measure 5, the tax limitation bill passed by Oregon voters in 1990.

"These funds are dedicated to building excellence and quality in physics, chemistry and biology," Brand said. "They do things we could not do otherwise. The state will never be able to fund this type of excel-

lence."

Keith, 62, was a professor at the University of California at Berkeley and Pennsylvania State University. His drug-delivery system company, Zetachron, Inc., was founded in 1982.

After Brand announced the gift Thursday, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences presented Keith with a 1920s-era microscope. Risa Palm read to the gathered faculty the microscope's inscription praising Keith as friend of the sciences.

The Keiths' son Evan attends the University and is preparing to defend his Ph.D. thesis on theoretical physics.

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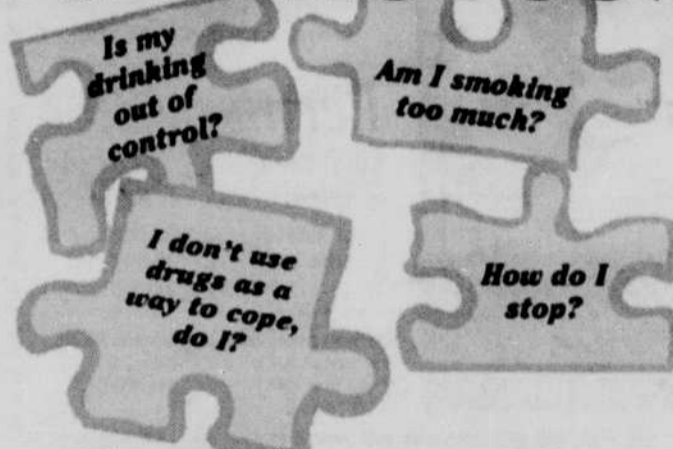
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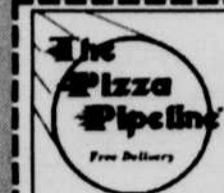
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