

Budgets rejected by Senate politics

Politics is alive and well on the University campus, courtesy of the Student Senate.

The Student Senate rejected the Programs Finance Committee budget Tuesday evening, meaning that budgets for all groups are put on hold while the Senate plays politics with the lives of students.

Technically, any budget can be reconsidered. But why is it necessary for the Student Senate to change any of the budgets? The PFC has been directly involved in the debate of the groups' funding for the term and the Senate has not. Unless obvious injustice has been done to a particular group for spiteful reasons, as does not seem evident, the work of the PFC should be respected.

Two groups in particular prompted the move to stall the budget process. Hawaii Club is seeking funding for the first time this year. Under previous rules set forth by the PFC, groups are limited to seeking \$300 for the first year. The controversy lies with the fact the Hawaii Club, which has been a recognized ASUO group since 1975, has been funded by members up to now.

Senate president pro tempore Martin Fisher stated the \$300 rule doesn't apply to the Hawaii Club because of its long University history. Now senators are disagreeing about whether it was appropriate to send the Hawaii Club to the Senate.

Senators also cited OSPIRG as a reason for bringing all the budgets to a screeching halt, as some, looking for more financial accountability from OSPIRG, objected to the fact that student funds would be disbursed in a lump sum, thereby eliminating any leverage the Senate would have had next year in demanding information.

Politics, politics. Can't the Senate show a little leadership and get down to work?

The fact that the Student Senate vetoed the entire budget for apparently lackluster reasons shows Measure 4, which would give the Student Senate veto power over individual PFC recommendations, is totally unnecessary.

While voters have already made a decision on the matter, it will be irrelevant because the Senate has demonstrated the recommendations of the PFC are of little importance to it. It will just open up the entire budget for review if the PFC does something disagreeable.

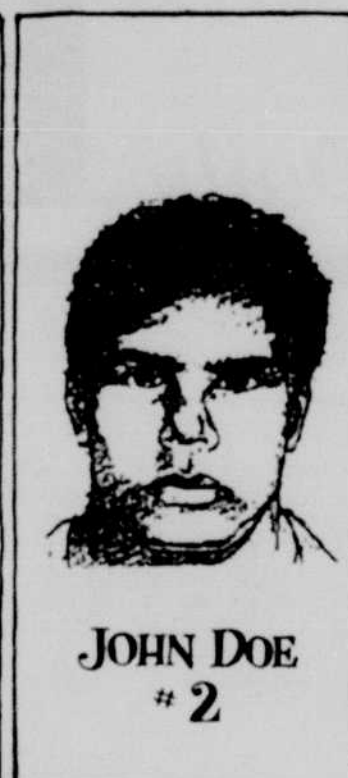
This year has been a tough one for all student groups seeking incidental fee funding, not just a select few. There is a limited amount of money allotted to student programs. Just like state government, student groups are learning they are expected to do more with less. Because most groups did not receive increases in their 1995-96 allocations, it's evident everyone was hurt this time around.

No budget was intentionally maimed by foul play on the part of the PFC. There's no compelling reason for the Senate to open up the process and change the budgets.

Instead, the Senate should pass the package and let student groups have the money they need for next year.



JOHN DOE
#1



JOHN DOE
#2



JOHN DOE
#3

LETTERS

Indecision

This letter is in response to the article entitled "Some minority students are more likely to leave University" (*ODE*, April 17). As a fellow minority student, I am disturbed by the impression that Consuela E. P. Zumwalt and other students have of the University. I understand that everyone's experience is unique, but Ms. Zumwalt's approach to the University may have been as wrong as the University's supposed insensitivity.

I am confused by the criteria that some students are using to select this school. When I left home to attend college, I was already prepared to accept that I would be a minority. I selected the University because the area of study that interested me was one of its strengths. I did not base my decision on whether the professors looked like me or would understand my experience. Instead, I came with the goal of gaining as much knowledge as I could. If I judged my professors on the basis of their skin color rather than their knowledge and teaching skill, I would be guilty of discrimination.

That Ms. Zumwalt wanted to be in classes taught only by "people like her" indicates that perhaps her real area of interest was always Chicano studies, and her reaction to the biology department was simply a manifestation of her indecision.

Joseph Tufa
Biology

Couldn't cut

[To the] *Emerald*, Jen [Williamson] and Zach [Kelton], 94-95 Executive staff: Come a bit closer to the page and read this very carefully. The Programs Finance Committee did not cut the community affairs position. This has been iterated to the *Emerald*, Executive hopefuls Jen Williamson and Zach Kelton and the ASUO Executive, but still I am seeing this in *ODE* print and at presidential debates (most recently in Tuesday's *ODE* spread of the candidates).

Truth: there has never been funding for this position; it is brand new. However, the Executive did request two new positions — community affairs and federal affairs — for next year.

The PFC, under a tight benchmark, was unable to fund both positions. This doesn't mean we cut anything, because there wasn't anything to cut. If the Executive really wanted this position, they should have recommended cutting other ASUO programs or reduced their budget in other areas to find the money.

Joey Lyons
International
Studies/Political Science

Lucky

I feel lucky to be alive. At 3 p.m. on Monday, April 24, I went down the east steps of Condon Hall and stepped onto the sidewalk. A man on rollerblades going about 15 miles per hour zipped between me and another pedestrian only three feet from me. Had I taken one more step forward, there would have been a horrendous collision, putting me in the hospital or the morgue.

When people speed on sidewalks on wheels of any sort, holler at them. "Slow down before you kill somebody!" Enough hollering by enough people might have an effect.

Meanwhile, I'm lucky to be alive.

William Loy
Professor, Geography

Remember war

I have scoured the last two days' *Emeralds* (April 9, 10) for any mention of Robert McNamara's weekend revelations that senior officials in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations knew that the Vietnam War was a mistake at the time they were escalating the war. These revelations add poignancy and anger to some upcoming dates: May 4 will mark the 25th anniversary of the killing of four Kent State students by the Ohio National Guard. May 14 will mark the 25th anniversary of the killings of two Jackson State University

students by the Mississippi police. These students were protesting U.S. involvement in Vietnam and Cambodia.

I realize most University students were not born when these events took place and student activism is at a low ebb, but the Vietnam War and the opposition to it on campuses around the country were very important not long ago. I urge all students to educate themselves about this era and the role student activism played in it.

Douglas Hintz
Instructor, Academic
Learning Services

Deceptive

The lovely sunny weather has brought back the terrible day when Jesse Nash, a University basketball player of great sweetness and promise, drowned while playing in the water under the Autzen footbridge. There have been many sad days for friends and family members of all the other young people who have drowned there. One was 11 years old, and his body wasn't found for days.

The water safety article by Seth Walker (*ODE*, April 17) was very good. The surface of that water seems to run slowly, but just beneath the surface is a fast torrent of water ready to pull even good swimmers under. Very deceptive! And there are people-catching traps such as branches, bicycles and metal beneath the water.

It's hard to expect college students who have such faith in their strength, swimming ability and resourcefulness to think they can't navigate that water. But they can't. More will drown this spring and summer if friends don't help friends to move to a safer spot. Alcohol doesn't mix with that water either.

Barbara Nicholls
Academic Advising
and Student Services

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