

Finance: Chances of magazine losing student dollars slim

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"The idea that we're a sexist organization is funny and amusing," she said.

But it is the bigger issues, simply evidenced by these articles, that has students calling for the *Commentator's* complete defunding.

Susan Anderson, PFC chairwoman, said that option has almost been completely ruled out, however. While many people have called for it on a purely emotional standpoint, they have not looked at the law, she said.

"I was given several court cases about student publications not enjoyed by the students and it was always found it is illegal to stop any publication because of content," she said.

The *Commentator* seems to have as much evidence, if not more, Schoenborn says.

"If [the PFC] starts talking about it, it's censorship," he said. "We've got a lot of legal precedents. We're going to defend everybody's right to do

what they want to do to the death."

Some people, however, are calling for different options. ASUO vice-president Zach Kelton has already stated his intent to take the *Commentator* budget before the students on a ballot in an recent *Emerald* commentary.

The proposal has made many people angry, including many PFC members. Anderson said Kelton's claims seem to imply that the board's decision will not be a wise or an educated one.

"This is such a volatile issue. Whatever decision we make will be what we're comfortable with," she said.

Kelton said he doesn't want to place the *Commentator's* budget on the ballot but will recommend that option if he feels student's interests have not been served with the PFC's decision.

"It would be an ideal world where you wouldn't have to worry about a fair and thorough process," he said. "I just want

INCIDENTAL FEE GUIDELINES

Selected regulations that will affect the funding of the Oregon *Commentator*:

■ Clark Document (Revised 5/23/94):

...the responsibility for allocating student incidental fees is an essential interest of a recognized student government and...incidental fee allocation decisions must comply with legal obligations and must not substantially interfere with the University's ability to carry out its educational mission.

■ Attorney General Dave Frohnmeyer Opinion (on student incidental fees, June 10, 1985):

Incidental fees must be paid by all students as a condition of attending a state university or college. As a result, all students are compelled to contribute financial support to the advancement of certain political and ideological viewpoints irrespective of whether they agree or disagree with those viewpoints.

In general, on-campus activities that contribute to open debate and exchange of opinion among students are likely to satisfy the constitutional inquiry.

DENNIS BOLT/*Emerald*

the process to be thorough, appropriate and in the best

interests of the student body," he said.

Kelton said if the decision is not adequate, he will veto the budget and send his proposal back to the PFC. Anderson says no matter what decision the ASUO makes, the authority lies ultimately in the finance board.

"It's still up to the [Student] Senate and PFC to give them a budget or not," she said.

That question will be argued with many different viewpoints, two of the most likely being stated in an University document and a 1985 analysis of the 14th amendment. Whether the *Commentator* "substantially interferes" with the University's mission or contributes to "open debate and exchange of opinion" on campus has already been heavily debated.

Schoenborn and Bostic say both claims are ludicrous, citing the "debate" generated in the last week's *Emerald* editorial pages as well as their news stories on various issues around campus.

"It's hard for us to interfere

with the University," Bostic said. "That's something I wouldn't even begin to know how to do."

Besides their satire, Bostic said the *Commentator* has always been a part of campus debate, chronicling issues like OSPRIG funding, residency status and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

"This is journalism. It needs to be controversial, it needs to be relevant and I think we've always stood by that," she said.

Kelton, however, says that much of the *Commentator's* content has put students at risk.

"Students have come to me saying their safety has been infringed upon [by some of the *Commentator's* content] or has negatively impacted their organization," he said. "Whenever you have an impact on student safety, that's when I have an issue with the incidental fees going towards that group."

Anderson says the PFC is ready to make that decision. After dealing with varying opinions, the board came to the consensus in a recent meeting that there is a need for a conservative publication at the University.

"We've got a publication that in theory, could be a very good publication for campus," she said.

What still needs to be established is whether the *Commentator* is holding up its end of the bargain, both financially and in its goal statement, she said. The magazine is asking for a 28.3 percent increase and most likely will not receive the full amount, Anderson said.

As far as the *Commentator* is concerned, it's ready for whatever amount the board gives it, as long as it's for the right reasons.

"If they censor us for the way we run our magazine or the way we use our money, that's fine," Schoenborn said. "If they do it because we're hurting people's feelings, we'll slap them with a law suit."

Labor: Group fights for higher wages, benefits

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tomers. Financial support is also harmed, they argue.

John J. Sweeney took control of the federation in November of last year. The AFL-CIO may have brought in a new general, but this leader pushes a familiar message: American workers need higher pay and a louder voice in business.

"Americans need a raise," Sweeney told media representatives at the National Press Club recently, arguing that wages have not kept up with the recent U.S. economic expansion. "Profits are up, productivity is up, executive compensation is up, and the stock market is up. Worker wages, health benefits and pensions are down."

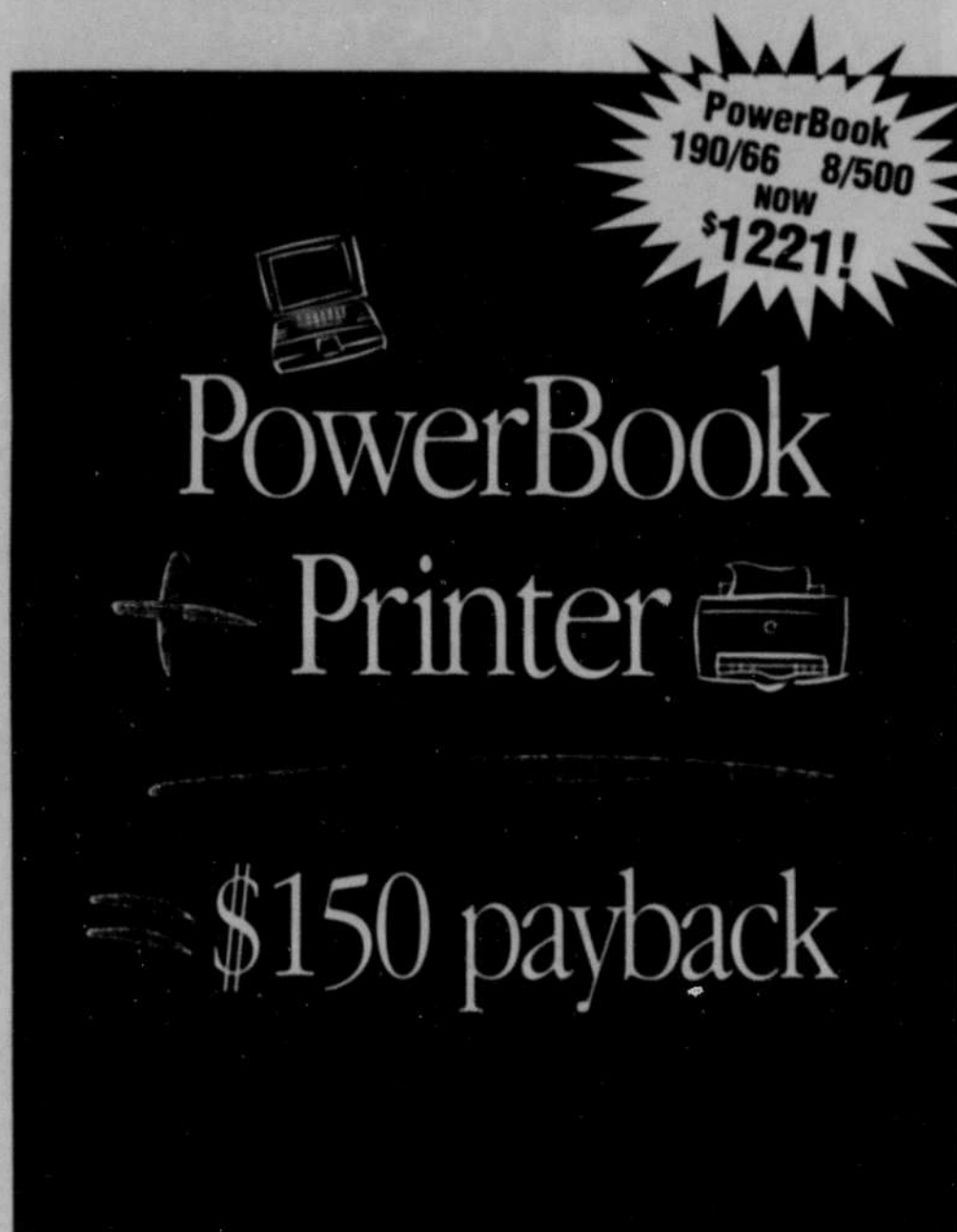
"A few years ago, CEO-to-employee income ratios were 40-to-1; today they are nearly 180-to-1," Brauer said. She added that fighting income inequality ranks high on the list of priorities for Union Summer interns.

"Profits are up, productivity is up, executive compensation is up, and the stock market is up. Worker wages, health benefits and pensions are down."

— John J. Sweeney
AFL-CIO leader

The AFL-CIO will don its battle gear this summer to fight for income equality and workplace dignity, a contest that will challenge the organization.

While the outcome of this battle is hard to predict, one thing is sure — some explosive conflicts between labor activists and business can be expected by June. President Sweeney admits the challenge. "The question now is whether labor, having talked the talk, can walk the walk."



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