

Senate reviews special budget requests

■ **DEBATE:** Election Board requested electronic scanners for the new ID cards to use during student voting

By Autumn De Poe
Student Activities Reporter

The Student Senate met last night to review five budget special requests, confirm a student to the Constitution Court and listen to a presentation concerning the new student identification cards. The meeting ended in strong debates about the student voting process.

Ken Kalvig, a law student, spoke to promote his confirmation to the Constitution Court. Kalvig, who will graduate in the Spring, was unanimously confirmed to the Constitution Court by the senate.

Senator Benjamin Unger reported that there was a motion in the University Senate to increase student representation from five members to nine members.

The Spencer View Co-op approached the senate to ask for a special request of \$3,000 to pay for a new playground. The children do not have a playground because the previous structure was removed and damaged. The senate voted to grant the co-op's special request of \$3,000 out of the surplus fund to pay for a basic cedar structure that will be added onto in the future with co-op fund-raising money and donations.

The Club Sports Hockey team requested money to attend the Pacific-8 hockey playoffs. The hockey team currently pays \$400 in dues, and members pay for their own uniforms and travel expenses. The hockey team raised other money for the playoffs by washing Saferide vehicles, providing security for the Annual Street Fair and performing various cleanup duties. Because the team had worked to raise other money for the playoffs, the senate approved the hockey team's request of \$1,361.

The Club Sports Ski Team requested money to attend the RMC-SA Western Region competition. The ski team will send one male, six women and one coach to the competition. The total costs to attend the competition will be ap-

proximately \$5,550. The senate approved the special request at \$850.

Ryan Ositis and Stacey Harding of the elections board presented an explanation of an automated voting system to the senate. Because the new student identification system no longer uses stickers, verification of a student's enrollment must be completed electronically.

Ositis and Harding said the new equipment may be leased or bought. In order to buy the equipment \$9,000 must be raised or donated. The new ID scanners would verify enrollment and count a

student's vote. The presentation sparked debate about the costs of the equipment, the safety of the equipment in rainy or wet areas, computer fraud and the voting process.

Ositis said there were only 63 days left until the primaries, and the senate needed to decide now. There was also debate concerning some line items that did not seem to be specific, and senate members wanted to know where the money was going to go.

The senate had to be called to order a number of times when considering the election board's presentation while Mediation Program members waited to present their special request.

The senate unanimously voted to approve the Mediation Program's request of a \$23,448 lump sum from the over-realized fund to pay for retiring Director Jackie Gibson's retirement benefits and part of her work program/retirement incentives which will cover a segment of 599 hours.

Elections voting debate continued, and after strong deliberation and a statement from ASUO President Matt Scotten, the senate amended and then approved the election board's request at \$7,400 from the surplus fund. The budget will include a new computer and scanning equipment.



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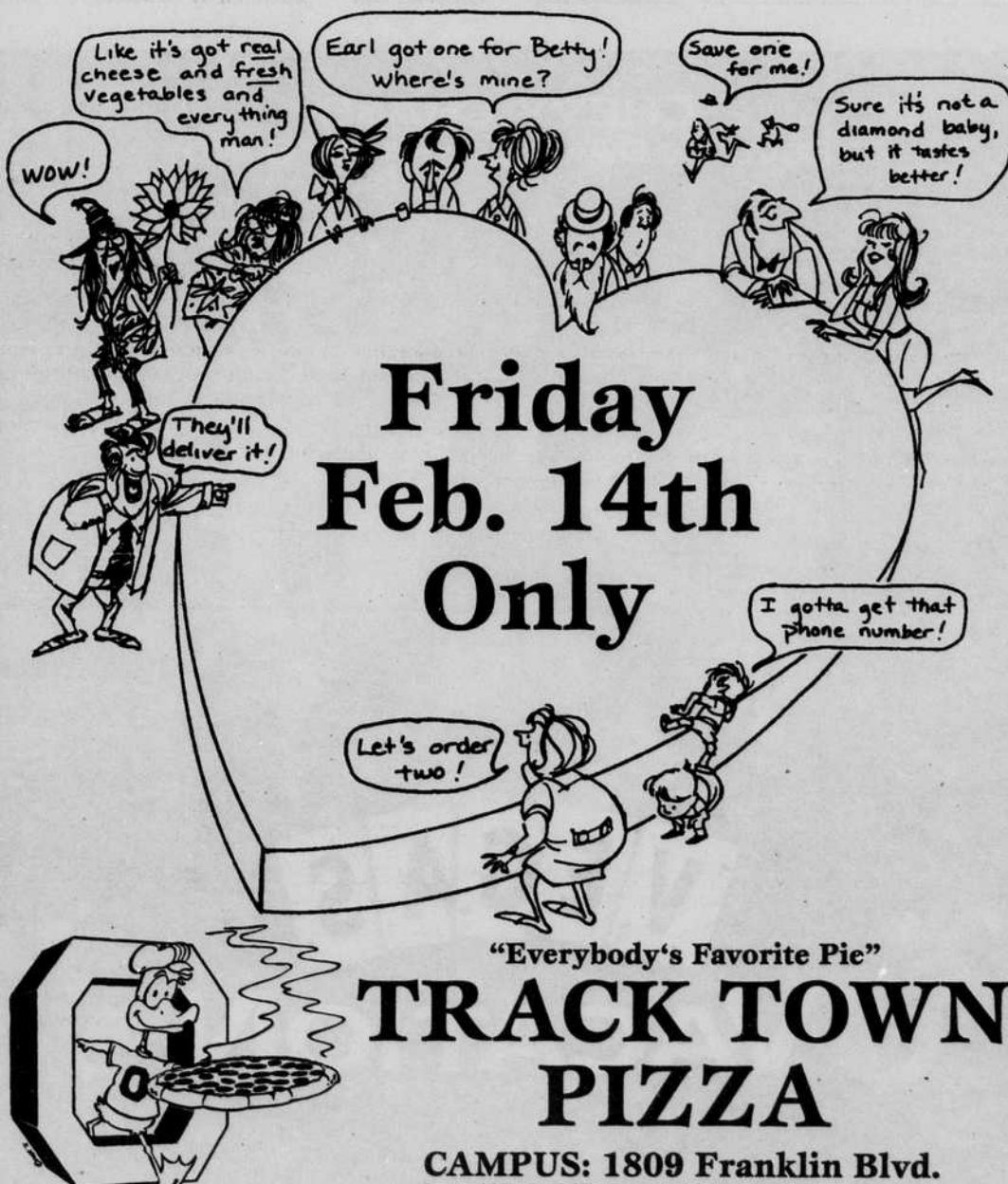
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