

# Iraq protests UN decision to spend oil-for-food funds

Revenue originally slated for humanitarian goods in Iraq is now funding an investigation into corruption

BY EDITH M. LEDERER  
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UNITED NATIONS — Iraq has protested a U.N. decision to use \$30 million in revenue from the U.N. oil-for-food program for Iraq to help pay for the investigation of alleged corruption in the humanitarian effort.

In a letter obtained Tuesday, Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Samir Sumaidaie argued that Security Council resolutions don't support the use of oil-for-food money "for an investigation into the internal practices of the United Nations in carrying out its duties."

"My government believes that the use of such funds has no legal basis," he said in a letter dated Nov. 19 to U.S. Ambassador John Danforth, the current Security Council president.

Last month, Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the council that money for the probe headed by former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker would come from an account earmarked to pay U.N. administrative and operational costs for the embattled humanitarian program.

The oil-for-food program was

launched by the Security Council to help Iraqis cope with U.N. sanctions after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein's regime could sell unlimited quantities of oil provided the money went primarily to buy humanitarian goods and pay reparations to victims of the 1991 Gulf War. Under the program.

U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said Annan considered two ways to pay for the investigation: going to the U.N. General Assembly for a special assessment which would be shared by the 191 U.N. member states or tapping the 2.2 percent fund.

Sumaidaie argued in his letter that using money in the oil-for-food account "potentially victimizes the people of Iraq twice."

First, if the allegations of abuse prove to be true, Iraqis were deprived of needed financial resources to cope with sanctions, Sumaidaie said. And second, by requiring the people of Iraq to pay for an investigation, money is being diverted from rebuilding Iraq's shattered infrastructure and economy.

# Alcohol: Binge drinking not a social norm

Continued from page 1

treated for alcohol issues.

"It's not a quick fix," she said. "If you had that on a regular basis, it's very hard to give up."

Uncontrolled drinking harms individuals in other ways.

Nationwide, at least 70,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault each year, according to a National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism study. About 400,000 have unprotected sex under the influence of alcohol.

"It's hard to talk about alcohol without talking about sexual assault," Dochnahl said. People may take advantage of an incapacitated drinker or a person may not remember having given consent, she said.

In fact, because of alcohol's impact on one's mental faculties, the University Student Conduct Code states that a person who is drunk cannot give consent because of "mental incapacitation," due the "influence of a controlled or other intoxicating substance."

"The consent is huge and that's why alcohol with sex is really murky," Dochnahl said.

## Drinking can put students on the wrong side of the law

Students who drink excessively might also find themselves at odds with the law.

Criminal mischief related to alcohol costs the school and the city a substantial amount of money each year. After students were involved in several riots stemming from parties that got out of hand, the University and the Eugene Police Department have invested extra time and resources to curb future problems.

Each weekend, the Eugene Police Department sends out a party patrol unit to the West University neighborhood, which is heavily inhabited by students.

"A typical weekend with this extra focus patrol runs about \$4,400 in overtime costs," EPD spokeswoman Kerry Delf said. She said riot prevention is a high priority.

In 2003, there were 567 citations for liquor violations in the West University Neighborhood, 117 on the University Campus and 92 in the South Neighborhood, which is also adjacent to campus, Delf said.

Violations include minor in possession, open containers and attempting to buy alcohol with false identification.

Citation for these violations are not cheap. A minor in possession ticket could cost a student as much as \$311 in fines. And possession of a fake ID is a Class C felony with a hefty tag of up to \$100,000 in fines or jail time.

Hicks said DPS also makes a concerted effort to prevent alcohol-related crimes on campus, and it is worth having extra officers out.

"Just having a visible presence

puts a damper on it," he said.

DPS issued citations for 99 liquor-related violations in 2003. In addition, 1,124 violations were handled through the Office of Student Judicial Affairs, Hicks said.

The University's Student Conduct Code prohibits underage drinking or furnishing alcohol to minors on University owned property or at University sponsored or supervised activities.

Students with alleged Student Conduct Code violations are summoned to a hearing by the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. If the charges are substantiated, various sanctions could be meted out, Student Judicial Affairs Director Chris Loschiavo said. Students may be required to take a 10-hour class called BUSTED — Beginning Underage Success Through Educational Diversion — perform community service, or meet with a substance abuse counselor. Some students might be required to attend an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

"The overall philosophy of the code is to be educational," Loschiavo said. "Generally the idea is to get (students) to see that they're heading down a path they may not want to."

Loschiavo said part of the reason some students drink is because they aren't ready for school and are trying to "figure out what they are doing here." Part of the judicial affairs process is to link these students to resources that will help them achieve their goals.

Barnhart and Riley Complex Director Stephen Jenkins, who also oversees the Student Conduct Code process in the halls, also emphasized the educational nature of the sanctions.

"We can't force behavior change," he said. "Students have to make that decision themselves."

Students with repeat offenses may have to take an additional 20-hour class, BUSTED II, and might eventually be evicted from the residence halls, Jenkins said.

Repeat offenders are very rare though, administrators say.

"We have a marked decrease from the first violation to the second violation," Jenkins said.

Even if they don't cross paths with law enforcement, drunk students still affect other students around them.

Drunk students in the residence halls are loud, disruptive and at times destructive, Jenkins said.

"It definitely has a negative impact on the quality of life in the residence halls," he said.

Director of Resident Life Sandy Schoonover agrees.

"We see a lot of vomiting," she said. "They come back to their rooms and they are loud and it wakes up the entire floor."

While other students may initially find it funny, they soon get tired of the distraction because they cannot sleep or study, Schoonover said.

## Campus organizations address alcohol issues

Several campus departments, including the Office of Student Life, Housing, Department of Public Safety and the Health Center, collaborate in outreach, education and enforcement efforts to address alcohol related issues on campus. The University has a Substance Abuse Prevention taskforce made up not only of campus representatives but people from the community as well.

Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Office of Student Life Laura Blake Jones said the administration recognizes that students will drink, therefore the focus is on "harm-reduction" rather than abstinence.

Blake Jones said the administration employs social norm theory in its outreach efforts — the concept involves showing students that others actually drink less than they perceive, so excessive drinking is actually not a social norm.

Most students assume others drink more than they do: In a 2002 University Health Center study, when students were asked how much they thought their peers drink when they go out, 30.4 percent estimated it was three to four drinks, while 65.2 approximated that it was more than five drinks. In reality, results from the same survey show 31.4 percent of students said they had three to four drinks at a time, while 23 percent had more than five drinks.

If these misperceptions are addressed, then high-risk drinkers might drink less.

The University uses multiple approaches, Eyster said, because "there's not (just) one thing you can do to reduce high-risk drinking."

Many of the University's outreach campaigns are conducted by other students or peer health educators who visit classes and residence halls or go door to door before holidays like Halloween giving out information on responsible drinking, how to keep parties in control and alternative non-alcoholic events, Blake Jones and Eyster said.

"It's much more effective when it's student driven," Eyster said.

She added that if students drink they should be aware of their rights and responsibilities.

"We all have rights, but in a community we all have responsibilities too," Eyster said.

In the resident halls, the administration addresses alcohol as soon as students move in, Schoonover said.

Overall, administrators said it's important for students to understand the impact of their drinking and how to stay safe.

"We acknowledge that students have the choice to drink or not, and if you do choose to, here are the consequences of drinking at different levels," Dochnahl said.

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