

Decaturian

April 15, 1998

Vol. 98, No. 14

Millikin University

Eleven Millikin students run up 94 floors in Chicago's John Hancock Center to raise money for the American Lung Association.

Millikin student challenges society's ideas on homosexuality.

Student salaries under fire from University

by Traci Jensen
production editor

Two dollars and three cents per hour is paltry pay for someone who oversees the operations of a group that gave the students the ATM machine outside the Business Office, more blue phones, soon-to-come displays of students' art work campus-wide and an opportunity to sell used textbooks to fellow students.

But someone has got to do it.

"I'm doing this not because I'm getting paid, but because I want to," Student Senate President Emily Oshita said. She said that Senate is first a service, but is a job as well.

Oshita said that if she

were not being paid, she would work elsewhere because she needs money to help cover school expenses.

With the occurrence of the allocation of funds to the "Big Five" groups—Student Senate, the *Decaturian*, WJMU, the *Millidek* and *College*, there is a debate arising over whether student leaders should be paid.

The Student Activity Fee Committee (SAFC) does not support the paying of student leaders, Associate Dean of Students Rich Dunsworth said. Dunsworth is the chair of SAFC.

This is part of a current debate in colleges and universities across the nation—should student government (SG) leaders be

paid for their work, or should it be done on a volunteer basis and considered educational experience?

Oshita argues for the former. SAFC prefers the latter.

"Some students may wonder why SG leaders are getting paid, but the truth is that most campus leaders deserve financial remuneration," Butch Oxendine, editor-in-chief for *Student Leader* magazine, said. "For many, it's a full-time job. Without pay, lots of quality leaders couldn't serve because they'd have to get jobs off-campus. A salary or scholarship allows all types of students, not just wealthy

“Most campus leaders deserve financial remuneration. For many, it's a full-time job.”

ones, to get involved on campus.”

According to the Fall 1997 *Student Leader*, 88 percent of state universities and 48 percent of private schools compensate their SG officers.

"When leaders are performing their duties responsibly, plus going to class, there's not much time for anything else," the article continued. "That fact alone warrants some compensa-

tion," Heather Jackson, a SGA chair at Amarillo College in Texas, said. "These leaders sacrifice 99 percent of their free time."

Oshita said that while she works approximately 40 hours per month, she is paid to work 16 hours per month.

"There is a higher standard of accountability because of my role," she said. "I don't stop when I get my (see "Paychecks," pg. 3)

McCray sends letter to student body

(continued from pg. 1)

ducting a drug and alcohol survey to examine the degree of the problem.

"This survey not only assesses students' use of alcohol and other drugs, it also assesses and evaluates such things as campus life, community standards and values relating to the use of alcohol and other drugs, effects of students' use of alcohol and other drugs on themselves and on their fellow students, and identifies the impacts alcohol and other drugs have on students," Sherilyn Poole, Dean of Student Life and Academic Development, explained.

Although rumors about

a possible change to a "dry" campus have been prevalent, President McCray asserts that any information gathered will be used only to make modifications to the alcohol policy adopted in January.

Dean Poole said she hopes that the data "will help us identify where we should focus our efforts on education and awareness programs."

McCray said he is encouraged by the generally positive reaction to the contents of his letter.

"A number of students were relieved that the University has taken such a strong stance regarding the use and abuse of alcohol

and were appreciative Millikin was concerned with their physical well-being, as well as academic development," he said.

Dean Poole said a wide range of alcohol attitudes exist on this campus, but she stresses the positive role the drug- and alcohol-free students can have in shaping student beliefs.

McCray also said it is important to have "each member of the MU community accept responsibility for the safety and well-being of the other community members, even if that means taking an unpopular stand or voicing an unpopular opinion."

Paychecks purpose pursued

(continued from pg. 1)

hours in." However, Oshita agrees with Senate Secretary Kristin Fuller, who feels payment should be reflective of the amount of hours worked.

Student Leader reported that the SG president at Washington State University is paid \$15,463 annually.

"I hope he has major accountability," Oshita said. "Fifteen thousand dollars is more than what I'm being offered for my first [post-graduate] job."

Opponents of pay for SG leaders argue that "we are changing what has been an educational experience

into just another student job."

Part of the educational process entails learning what it means to volunteer for leadership roles," College of Wooster (Ohio) Dean of Students Kenneth Plusquellet argued in the April 28, 1997, *U.S. News & World Report*.

Dunsworth said, "Why should they be compensated for volunteer, leadership positions?"

"It says to me there inherently is not enough educational value of the experience they are receiving to volunteer their time," he added.

Both Dunsworth and Oshita explained how Student Senate's Executive Board salaries are funded.

When the SAFC allocates the money to the Student Senate, a small portion of it is set aside for the salaries.

Dunsworth said, "If a group generates revenue, our current position is that they may use that money for salaries."

The SAFC publicly and within the budget allocation hearings believe that student activity fees should not pay for salaries.

They have yet to formally refuse to allocate money for salary."

While the national debate focuses on student government leaders, at Millikin it is also applicable to other student groups funded directly by SAFC, which includes the *Decaturian*.

Dana Williams, the *Decaturian* editor, said, "If I had not been paid, I would not have been an editor of the *Decaturian*, and perhaps there would be no *Dec Online*, no awards, no new cool re-design squiggle, no April Fool's issue."

"I would instead be making \$9 per hour being a writing consultant part-time locally, instead of a full-time \$1.17 per hour investigative reporter," Williams continued.

"Most students think we give ourselves money. That is not true. Any group can [get paid]. UCB should—they work their butts off," Fuller said.

The other members of SAFC did not respond to the *Decaturian's* attempts to contact them.

Here's Proof That A College Degree Can Really Pay Off.

Right Now Recent College Graduates Get **\$400 Off** Every New Dodge. In Addition To Most Other Current Offers.*

Dodge Neon Coupe starts as low as

\$9,955 after \$400 college grad and \$1,500 national cash back.**

(or get low 1.9% APR for up to 60 months)†



Cab-forward design, dual airbags, 16-valve, 132-horsepower engine. More horsepower and interior room than Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla, or Saturn Coupe.

Dodge Dakota Sport

\$13,990 after \$400 college grad cash back.**

Magnum® V-6 at no extra charge††

