Obi Gets Budget on Second Try

Editor’s Note:

NOBI’s budget was cut some $11,500 at the regularly scheduled meeting, but passed in full at a special meeting called the next day.

The following story begins its coverage with the regular meeting and leads into the special meeting.

By John McCarthy

The ASB meeting Thursday, Oct. 10, was well attended with blacks sitting and standing on the right and whites gathered on the left.

“Next we vote on the OBI budget.” There were two budgets before ASB officers for consideration; one recommended by the OBI Society for $5,800, the other one recommended by the student government’s audit committee for $4,500.

President Kuleger turned the floor over to Charles Canada, sophomore president, for debate.

Canada, a member of OBI, objected to the audit committee’s budget because it eliminated the entertainment fund which would make money for OBI projects.

Kuleger asked if there was any more debate. Canada replied no, and then the voting on the audit committee’s budget started. Canada, because of his position with OBI, abstained. Ross Briggs abstained because he didn’t like the cut budget. Jim Brewer voted against it. Dave Murphy, Kathy Williams and Gail Bucinni voted for the budget and the audit committee’s budget passed.

After the meeting OBI officers complained that they didn’t have a chance to debate the budget. Charles Canada hadn’t opened the floor to debate and the budget was passed without hearing arguments for or against the budget.

In an interview with Jim Walton, chairman of OBI, after the Thursday meeting, Walton said:

“They can’t say that there wasn’t enough money because student government just discovered $11,500 that they didn’t know they had. They are taking our only means to make money,” said Walton.

Walton said the entertainment fund was to be used to hire big name black entertainers, “OBI can get these people at a reduced rate and we can make money with them.”

The money they planned to make would be used to match federal funds from EOG (Economic Opportunity Grant). In order for students to get any money from EOG there must be matching funds from non-federal sources.

“The money for OBI is a worthwhile investment for the whole community,” Walton said. “OBI has been invited to a number of high schools and we have been instilling pride in our people.”

In other student government action:

Ross Briggs complained about security guards harassing students and suggested that committee be set up to look into the “powers” of the security guards. Briggs was elected to do the job.

Pep Club election was set for Oct. 25.

Artists and Lectures will have a slide show on Russia.

A special meeting called the day after the regular ASB meeting was poorly attended.

The meeting was called to allow further debate. Canada turned the floor over to Jim Walton who told the student government officers that with the entertainment fund the OBI Society could attract top performers and that OBI was already negotiating for the Supremes and Uresta Franklin. Walton went on to say that OBI was reaching into all elements of the community with the hope of educating and improving communications between whites and blacks to the problems of the ghetto dwellers.

The budget was then voted on and the OBI’s budget for $5,800 was approved.

This action drew criticism from some students. Some students said OBI could draw money from the speakers fund ($3,500—Audit Committee) to use for dances. The profits, according to Jack Merritt, could be used to carry on OBI projects. “Then, said Merritt, if OBI needed more money they can come back next quarter and get it.”

This view drew criticism from student government, the OBI Society, and the Administration.

Dr. Ford, Dr. Jacobson, and Mr. Lathrop sent letters to student government asking the students to support the OBI budget. Yet, when Gail Bucinni asked Walton

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during the Friday meeting whether the administration had offered to make up the $3,000 difference, Walton said no. The administration had already taken steps to help the OBI Society and TCC in procuring black instructors and advisors. Some students said that although the did not object to the amount of money, they resisted the way OBI “demanded” the money. This objection came up in last week’s meeting and Jim Walton replied, “You’re saying that we should let good house niggers. Well, we’ve been begging for 400 years and it hasn’t gotten us anywhere.”

OBI said the cuts in their budget were unjustified because student government has a reserve fund of $17,900. This fund was set up last year to keep any money that is not spent by student government from falling into the hands of the administration before the administration could take all the students’ unspent money and put it into their own fund. There was also some grumbling about the size of the OBI budget. OBI justified its budget because the scope of OBI includes the entire community, not just the campus. OBI further says that nothing like this has ever been done before even though it could have been done much cheaper before.

And that brings up the question of cost. How much does OBI cost each student per quarter? About $8.

Lindal Gains Appointment

By Terri Bole

John Lindal has been appointed assistant personnel director at Tacoma Community College. He was formerly employed by the Tribune Publishing Company as Assistant Promotion Manager. After serving four years as an officer in the United States Air Force, Lindal graduated from college with a degree in business administration and economics. He and his wife, Shirley, currently reside in University Place with their daughter, Jenny.

Enrollment Reaches 3,000 For Quarter

Three thousand full and part-time students have registered for day and evening classes at Tacoma Community College for the fall quarter of the 1968-69 school year, surpassing the 1967-68 fall quarter enrollment of 2,097 students on campus.

Records Officer Joseph Kosai stated that all available space is being used during the heaviest concentration of students between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Kosai went on to say that there is usually a drop of 1,000 students during the winter and spring quarters.