

Dorm funding confuses some treasurers

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DTH Contributors

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part story.

It was the end of the semester and your dorm wanted to have an end of the year party. But the treasurer said there was not enough money in the account to afford the

News Analysis

party although all of the social funds had not been spent. However, the treasurer could spend into the red.

The money will be reimbursed later in the summer (by June 30) because it takes until that time for the University to completely collect all student fees. But during the semester, confusion comes about since it appears the dorm is coming up short on funds when actually it has the money coming.

For example, a particular dorm on campus may have \$50 showing in its account

at the end of the year. It should have \$100 in unspent funds according to the treasurer. But these last \$50 will not come in until June 30. So the treasurer can put the account \$50 in the red but the dorm will balance out in June.

Now a question arises: Why isn't the dorm given all of its social funds at the beginning of the year?

For a dorm of 100 residents that means there should be \$600 in social funds for that dorm (excluding \$50 for intramurals and maybe another amount for a residence college if the dorm is a member of one).

Then \$500 should go into the dorm's social funds account for the semester. But this is not always the case because the account kept at the Student Activities Fund Office (SAFO) will not show the full amount being given at one time. It comes in by installments over the course of the semester. The first amount is usually very large and then it comes in once a month in smaller amounts.

This can be distressing to some dorm treasurers trying to make a budget without

knowing exactly how much money they have.

David Bodenheimer, treasurer of Old East, said that although they did not get all their money at the beginning of the semester, it did come eventually. However, the spaced installments did cause budgeting problems for him.

Mackie Crisco, treasurer of Everett Dorm, is disappointed with the distribution.


"We can't spend it if we don't have it. It discourages us from planning anything because we don't know if we can pay for it or not," he said.

Next week: A look at how the dorm accounts are funded.


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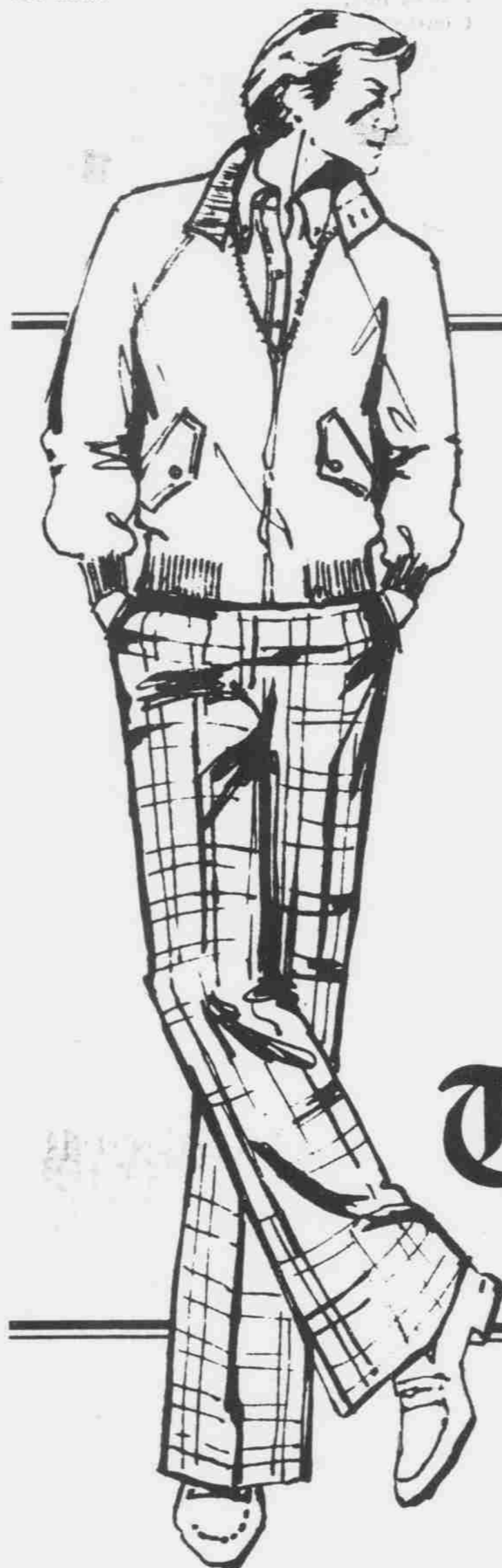
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