

FUNDS, continued from page 1

think because it is portrayed to them that this is a business operating. But it's not a business. It's me operating with a partner – who have a joint checking account with a different name on it.

"That's why my business doesn't file taxes. We each file our own individual taxes because the partnership is just basically a checking account. The business is a joint checking account."

Huckabee compared his companies to a kid who mows lawns for his neighbors. "He's not going to go register his business with the city clerk's office, because he cuts his next door neighbors on either side's grass. Even though that is a legitimate business," he said. "It's completely legitimate that I provide a service. I don't have a business; I provide services that I can do. I called my tax attorneys. He said, basically, you don't have a business, you have a partnership."

"Trust me, when you have a last name that people like to attack on a regular basis, you make sure that what you do is legal. So, yes, my business, or the things or the services that I provide, are legal to operate," Huckabee said. H & K Enterprises has donated money to ASU on various occasions, including \$600 to the Rugby Club, Huckabee added.

However, the City Collector Becky Clark disagrees. "He needs a business license. He is providing services, which is what a business does. He has entered into contracts with the university," Clark said. "It's a business, plain and simple."

Clark said her office will be issuing a statement to Huckabee for both companies.

The fine for not having a business license can be the cost of the license per day for each day a business is illegally operating, but not more than \$500.

The SAB has no way of knowing if a business is operating legally or not before it contracts out services, said Reggie Porter, dean of the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement.

"I don't know that they have to be licensed to operate businesses here in Jonesboro in order for us to do business with them. I know nothing about business licenses. I have no background in any of that," said Randall Tate, associate dean/direc-

tor of the Student Union. "Maybe they [H & K and Pyro-Erectus] were unaware of the law. There are millions of laws and millions of statutes out there to know everyone of them is asking a lot of a person."

H & K Enterprises provided cotton candy and Sno Cones for \$1,415 and \$690 for pens ordered for giveaways, both for use during Welcome Week.

Pyro-Erectus was paid \$3,000 for building and lighting the Homecoming bonfire. Last year's Homecoming bonfire cost about \$1,000 and was mostly handled by the Physical Plant, according to the SGA 2000 budget. The cost increase of about \$2,000 can be accounted for with the rising costs Physical Plant labor and the fact that Pyro-Erectus also cleaned up the remnants of the bonfire, Porter said.

The SAB searches out businesses that can provide services at the lowest cost and H & K Enterprises and Pyro-Erectus were the lowest bidders, Porter said.

"I can honestly say that David Huckabee is one of the strongest leaders that this university has had. And when it comes to David, he gets things done," Porter said.

Carol Barnhill, an ASU purchasing agent, said student groups such as the SAB and the SGA do not fall under state purchasing guidelines because the money that they have is generated from auxiliary funds.

Auxiliary funds include money that is collected for a specific purpose such as the student activity fee or the new student union, she said.

Although there is no regulation that prohibits a student organization from contracting services through another student leader, it raises ethical questions, Barnhill said.

"We have flagged our files for these businesses meaning that we will no longer do business with him. We do feel like this is ethically not right to do business with a student in this manner," Barnhill said.

Barnhill said her boss, Don James, assistant vice president of business, will be setting up a meeting to discuss this matter with the Office of Student Affairs.

According to Huckabee, there are no ethical questions involved in this matter.

"Unethical. Not exactly. Because if you look at the bids that were put in on those [contracts], not only did

I come in super-low, but I mean, if you want to do a story, do one on how much money David Huckabee has saved the Student Activities Board," Huckabee said. "That is exactly what my company does. We save the students money."

"I have never been a part of the SAB. And my company has never done business with an organization that I am a part of, or the head of, or however you want to look at it," Huckabee said.

It has never done business like that even though we could have saved money on things that the UAB purchased this year and for the SGA last year. We could have saved a ton of money. But we didn't, because that is unethical."

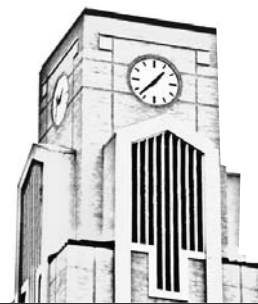
Rick Stripling, interim vice chancellor of Student Affairs, said he had just learned about these companies.

"Obviously, that is a student-run organization, the Student Activities Board. I am sure that they have made deliberations to collectively make the decisions to do those things. Part of that is because they are not under state purchasing guidelines – they have the ability to go in that direction," Stripling said.

"I think the question is was the service delivered as contracted, as requested. Have they provided adequate services, was it a service that was needed and was it price-appropriate?" Stripling said.

"Because the SAB is run by students ... there is that learning experience that if they choose to buy something that becomes questioned, if it is challenged, people ask about it, it's something that they should be willing to defend," Stripling said.

Briefs



GENERAL

Zeta Phi Beta's annual Talent Showcase will be held in the Reng Center Ballroom at 7 p.m. today. Admission price is \$2 with a can good, or \$3 without. Come out and enjoy the show "Where the Stars are Born!"

The intramural bowling tournament will be Wednesday, Nov. 28 at the Jonesboro Bowling Center. You may bowl at either 3:30 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.25, but shoe rental is free. Contact Gary Albright at 972-3109.

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry is holding its annual Chili Bowl from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 17. Contact the BCM office at 932-7241.

The ASU Equine Club is holding a bonfire at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16 at the Equine Center Pasture. Non-members must pay \$1. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served. Contact Shannon Holden at 972-2199 or Matt Jones at 972-2775.

More briefs online at herald.astate.edu.

Campus Crime

from the files of the University Police Department

Men arrested for marijuana posses-

TUESDAY, NOV. 13, 2001

• The Media Services Department reported the theft of a laptop. The laptop has been missing since Oct. 30.

MONDAY, NOV. 12, 2001

• Wendy Loran of Brookland reported the theft of a toolbox from her vehicle at 8 p.m.

• Parice Tyler of Jonesboro reported the theft of a checkbook and several checks at 4:30 p.m. The checkbook was inside an unlocked cabinet and contained 25 ASPAC checks and one NAACP check.

• Kenny Brewer, an employee of the ASU Convocation Center, reported the theft of \$91. He said someone had placed two bags filled with money in the outgoing mailbox next to the admission entrance and had been left there over the weekend. When employees found the bags, \$91 was reported missing.

SUNDAY, NOV. 11, 2001

• Deangulus Stevison of Lepanto was arrested at 4 a.m. for possession of marijuana. A UPD officer was dispatched to his room after receiving a complaint about a strong odor of marijuana. The officer found marijuana on the desk and confiscated it, then arrested Stevison and took him to the Craighead County Jail, where he was fingerprinted and released.

THURSDAY, NOV. 7, 2001

• UPD officers were dispatched to Kays Hall after receiving a complaint about a white powdery substance found in the south hall of the fifth floor. Officers found it to be only laundry detergent, and disposed of it.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6, 2001

• Allen Wagner and Kaleb Creshier, both of Jonesboro, were arrested at 8:41 p.m. for possession of marijuana.

— Jerrica Hutchison

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