

Student rights at issue

The Oregon State Legislature will collect and hand out somewhere near two billion dollars during the coming months, and student lobbyists will be in Salem to make sure students pay no more than they should and collect what they deserve.

On Tuesday the Emerald editorialized on the financial issues student lobbyists expect to work on and urged students to support the lobbyists by letting the ASUO and the Oregon Student Lobby know about their feelings on state-funded child care, the tuition voucher system, athletic program funding and financial aid.

Another important financial issue of importance to students is a proposal to establish state tax credits to help defray the cost of higher education. The proposal would allow taxpayers who are paying tuition either for themselves or their dependents to deduct a certain amount from their state tax bill. This is a great idea; one that should be implemented on the federal level. For the time being, though, the efforts to establish a state tax credit should be supported.

Of course the Legislature will be doing more than simply passing out money and deciding how to collect it. The Legislature can also grant and deny rights and privileges. Student lobbyists work on student rights and academic issues will be as important as their efforts of financial affairs.

The primary academic issue promises to be a proposal that would create a Student Information Bill of Rights. The ASUO and the OSL want the Legislature to pass a bill requiring state-funded institutions of higher education to disclose a wide range of information about the services and facilities available at the schools, qualifications of instructors and regulations concerning student services and grievance procedures.

The Student Information Bill of Rights would make it possible for students to learn most things they need to know about a college or university by looking through a course catalog. A prospective law student, for instance, could find out what percentage of the school's graduates pass the bar exam. Student lobbyists will need help in developing a specific proposal and in convincing legislators or the State Board of Higher Education to adopt it. Anyone who wishes to suggest particular disclosure requirements may do so by calling the ASUO at 686-3724.

The ASUO will also be trying to persuade the Legislature to extend existing anti-discrimination laws to cover students. Any student who has tried to rent a house or find a job knows that such discrimination exists. The legislation the ASUO has in mind would make it illegal to deny housing or employment to students simply because they are students.

Those who doubt the power of the student lobby should look at what's happening with student evaluations of faculty members. The ASUO has been trying to have these evaluations made public for years. When the ASUO started talking about having the evaluations made public by law the University administration began sending feelers suggesting the possibility that a compromise might be reached. The mere threat of legislative action is sometimes enough to spur people to action.

Student lobbyists are going to be busy during this legislative session, and there is good reason to be optimistic about the chances for significant accomplishments. Much of the legislative action this year will be organized and directed from Eugene, so students on this campus will have a better-than-average opportunity to do themselves some good. Is this reformism? Sure. Is it effective? No doubt. And the broader the base of support and participation, the more effective the student lobby will be.

Reconsideration unwise

Incidental Fee Committee (IFC) member Dave Tyler plans to move tonight for reconsideration of an earlier vote which allocated money for an ASUO-sponsored television series. Tyler's move should be blocked without a second thought.

One of the programs scheduled for the six-part series would deal with the conflict between the United Farm Workers and the E.J. Gallo wineries. Tyler complains that because members of the ASUO executive sent a letter to the Emerald supporting the farmworkers, the organization would be unable to present an unbiased presentation. Baloney.

Eric Bellman, who will co-produce and moderate the programs, didn't sign the letter, which represented individuals, not the ASUO as a program, and even if he did, the restrictions placed on the programming by KOZY and the Division of Broadcast Services should quell any fears Tyler has.

Tyler's move is an invitation for the IFC to step beyond the powers allotted to it by the ASUO constitution. If Tyler approves of the idea of an ASUO series, he should accept it on its face and not attempt to censor its editorial content.



opinion

Dim lights, thick smoke, no music

Regarding the controversy revolving around the promotion of concerts at U of O, I feel I should add my two cents worth.

If Mac Court is too much of a fire hazard for anything heavier than Waylon Jennings, then we could probably have KISS with about as much fire trouble. Shane Tappendorf says "Look at the Waylon Jennings show. It brought an older crowd. When it read signs saying 'no smoking' it listened..." (ODE 12-6-76) That is pure b.s. There was so much pot and tobacco being smoked in the arena that a dim haze partially obscured the stage. There was also an abundance of booze. I've never seen so many empties after a concert here. — Isn't there a rule against alcohol on campus? This apparently doesn't inhibit the concertgoers or the band from imbibing. Alcohol madness contributed to two incidences of tanked up barbarians living things up with good healthy punchouts. It's common practice to search persons for bottles at Paramount and Memorial Coliseum concerts in Portland. Bottles sometimes become projectiles launched on course with performers. Searches are standard procedure at large concerts now — Perhaps similar policy should be instituted at Mac Court.

Did Jennings really appeal to students' taste? An almost four to one ratio constituted general admission versus student ticket sales. And how many student tickets are used for non-students?

Small female ushers seemed unable to control smoking or clogged aisles. They were quite ineffective in dealing with large hordes of rowdy males. Portland concerts hire bodybuilders, and nobody messes with them. "High energy" rock concerts seem less rowdy than Nashville bar bands.

During Fall term we had Willis Alan Ramsey, Waylon Jennings, and Doc Watson. It seems to me that more diverse and numerous performers

can be presented with the organizational potential Cultural Forum has. Many concerts have been canceled or have gone to the cow barn at the Fairgrounds. First hand conversations with some of the local promoters indicate that there is some kind of personality clash or twisted politics going on in Cultural Forum which suffocate their dealings. They claim there are a lot of acts being offered, but the University is getting to be an unpopular place for promoters to deal with. If there are political clashes with reputable promoters, whom else can Cultural Forum staff deal with to bring music to students?

And speaking of concert promoters, T.D.A's Allen Kovac says that his crew "could set up a show in half the time students take..." (ODE, 12-6-76) He is a novice to this area and apparently doesn't quite realize just how much physical work is done behind the scenes. If it took eight people to remove a basketball backboard, there must be a reason. Did it ever occur to him that the backboards are heavy and often stuck in place due to poor lockdown design?

That \$500 which Kovac claims he pays "just for the University to collect tickets the nights of his shows" also goes to pay for: stage setup, chair setup, stage security, ticket takers, and cleanup of the pigsty which his crowd makes. I seriously doubt that his unknown and unpracticed crew could get it together under any condition. Kovac is of the lesser than business-like promoters who make a big stink over minor details which they are somewhat ignorant about. The type of promoter who runs around the day of the show like a nervous decapitated chicken, getting pissy with everyone and everything that doesn't meet up to his confused schedule, is not the type that deserves the privilege of using student and University facilities for financial gain.

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