

Cost blamed for unsold athletic tickets

Students may lose seats

By MARK MATASSA
Of the Emerald

Five post-lottery days of selling student athletic tickets have seen the purchase of only about 100 passes, according to Greg Robinson, Athletic Department business manager.

When 1,700 tickets were unsold at the end of the lottery, the Athletic Department and the ASUO agreed to provide an additional seven days to sell the tickets to any University student. Five of those days have passed, and still 1,600 remain.

Robinson and Dennis Mohatt, ASUO financial vice president, both say students can't afford the tickets.

"The problem is that they (the

Incidental Fee Committee) cut the subsidy again last year so we had to raise the prices," says Robinson.

Each year the IFC subsidizes part of the student seat cost, and the ticket purchaser makes up the difference. Robinson says if the IFC cuts the subsidy, students must make up the difference in a higher ticket price.

"I have to balance the budget," he says.

Mohatt says he agrees that the problem goes back to the IFC.

"Every year our two biggest programs, the EMU and the Athletic Department are the last to be heard in the budget hearings and they just get what's

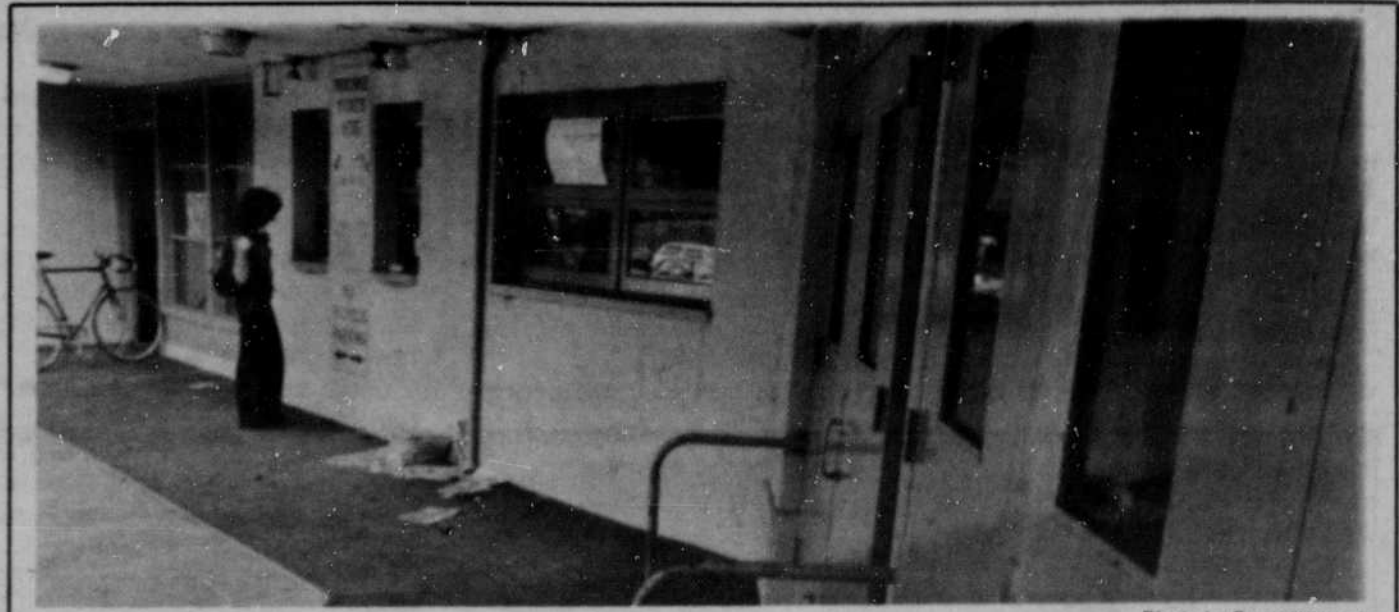


Photo by Doug Williams

At \$53 a shot, there's no rush to purchase any of the 1600 student athletic tickets that remain after the ASUO lottery. Friday may be the last day to purchase tickets.

left." He says the price increase is due to the "inability of the IFC to keep up with inflation."

"The tickets aren't selling because students don't have as much money."

Friday may be the last day students can purchase the tickets. If the tickets aren't sold by then, Mohatt and Robinson say they will have to sit down and talk about what to do.

"To be honest I really don't know what to do," Mohatt says.

Robinson says he wants students to have the tickets, but if students don't buy them year after year, the number of student seats may have to be renegotiated. Mohatt says that view makes sense.

"It would be beautiful to think of all those students in Mac Court, but if we can't sell the tickets it sure would seem silly

to have 1,500 seats sitting empty."

He says he may propose that unsold student seats be held for general admission sale before the games.

Robinson says if the seats aren't sold the Athletic Department will have to talk with the ASUO to decide what to do next.

"All I know is that we still have 1,600 seats left and that's too many."

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By GLENN BOETTCHER
Of the Emerald

Two Eugene Water and Electric Board commissioners are calling for a congressional investigation of the Bonneville Power Authority's lobbying practices in favor of the proposed Northwest power bill.

John Bartels and Jack Craig allege in a letter sent to about 125 members of congress, including Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood and all members of the Senate Energy Committee, that BPA officials violated the intent of a federal statute which prohibits lobbying by federal officials using federal funds.

BPA representatives have responded by calling the charge "nonsense."

The commissioners said at a press conference held during the Pacific Northwest Alternative and Renewable Resources Conferences in Seattle that BPA officials have spent "tens of thousands of dollars in order to gain enactment" of the regional power bill now in Congress.

Although there appears to be sufficient information to file a federal court complaint, the commissioners said they favor a congressional investigation of the "three-year history of the BPA drafting of, and lobbying for, Northwest regional energy bills" in Congress.

"It is our opinion and the opinion of others that these apparent illegal activities by key BPA officials have completely destroyed the credibility of the proposed regional power legislation as well as the congressional legislative process itself," they said.

BPA officials serve the federal administration and the Congress and often are summoned to Washington to help draft legislative language or to explain energy issues, said BPA representative Gene Tollefson.

"If you are asked by Congress to come and explain something, that is not lobbying," he said.

"We do not have an option not to."

Bartels and Craig, however, insist they have evidence of "strong-arm" tactics and "gross violation of the intent of the federal law relating to lobbying activity involving a federal agency's use of funds authorized for another purpose."

Among evidence collected by the commissioners are clippings from Oregon and Washington newspapers which say the BPA spent nearly \$30,000 for travel to Washington, D.C., and for the salaries of 10 BPA officials working on regional power legislation.

Another news story quoted Idaho Sen. James McClure as saying he had been pressured to support the bill by telephone calls he said were inspired by BPA officials.

BPA representatives at the time refuted the charges.

Bartels and Craig say the bill, already passed in the Senate, would give the BPA administrator power over all electrical energy generation and distribution in the Pacific Northwest.

Craig added Wednesday that some members of the American Public Power Association are calling the bill an "electric power OPEC."

That group says the bill needs substantial changes, Craig said.



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