

opinion

Who pays for IFC plan? Students, who else?

The Incidental Fee Committee may have committed an error last year when they slashed the athletic subsidy from \$17 to \$12. In defense of IFC, they were being hounded by students and the athletic department and tried to devise a system that was the most equitable to all.

But the situation is not equitable, and in the end the students will have to pay.

The reduction of the fee is an experiment this year and its success or failure depends on a number of variables.

The Incidental Fee Committee was concerned last year about the ever-rising subsidy costs demanded by the athletic department. The committee was also under pressure from students who did not use the athletic facilities or attend games who resented having to financially support athletics.

ours

Students originally proposed a plan along these lines two years ago. However, then University Pres. William Boyd overruled the plan. The ASUO appealed Boyd's decision to the State Board of Higher Education, only to lose by a vote of 6-3 in favor of Boyd's veto.

The committee attempted to strike a compromise system designed to raise the \$222,505 that would be lost to athletics from direct incidental fees. They hit upon the plan to sell student tickets for football and basketball, costing \$2.50, and tickets for track and field events costing \$1.50.

The system, in theory, is sound. But in reality, it is shaky.

A season ticket is offered for \$12.50 for the fall season and \$38.50 for the winter season. A combination ticket is priced \$51, and those who buy it

yours

Postal MX system

I was mailing a letter at the corner post box when my good friend Herman walked by.

"Herman," I said. "Twenty cents to mail a letter now. Isn't that robbery?"

"It is," he said. "But I have a solution."

"You do?"

"Yes. We could hand over the MX missile system to the Postal Service. This would solve two problems in one swoop. The Postal Service would get the extra revenue it needs and the MX missiles would have a place to hide from the Russians."

"How would you do it?" I asked.

"We could put the missiles in discrete brown envelopes. Nobody would know the difference from the other junk mail."

"That's ingenious," I said.

Herman went on. "The Russians would never be able to find the missiles because it would take them months to figure out the new Zip Code — plus four. At the same time, the new Zip would be moving mail and missiles around even faster."

"But what would happen in an emergency when we need the missiles right away?" I asked.

"We'll do two things. First, we'll discourage pre-emptive strikes during the Christmas rush. Second, we have the option of switching to a private company that offers overnight delivery."

"But at \$10 a pound wouldn't that be a little expensive?" I asked.

"Remember, the Defense Department will be picking up the tab for all this. So who's worried about money?"

"That's true," I said, then added, "Wouldn't environmentalists have concerns too?"

"No problem. If a missile begins to leak, we'll just put it into the dead letter office. It'll stay lost for years."

"And what if someone becomes suspicious when he sees a missile sticking

will be given a spring sports "package" worth \$7.50. Mike Easterly, acting athletics department business manager, says about 800 student season tickets have been sold.

Those 800 student season tickets are far off the mark — so far in fact that the IFC plan may be headed for disaster.

In order for the \$222,505 to be raised, an average of 6,000 students must attend each home football game and 4,000 must attend each basketball game. These numbers are not being met. They were realistic based on the Ducks having a winning season. That was the IFC's thinking at the time.

Only 4650 students attended the game with the University of Washington. Credit the Ducks' record and the inclement weather. But it created a deficit that will be carried over to each successive game.

The burden of ticket sales has been unfairly put on the shoulders of ASUO by the athletic department.

theirs



out of a postman's pushcart?"

"The postman can just pass it off as a can of dog repellent," Herman assured me.

"You do have all the bases covered," I said.

"Not quite. We'll have to require more rigid standards for postal employees. They'll have to be able to lift a little more than 50 pounds."

Pete Kent
1190 Monroe Street

Contempt for RCYB

I am writing this letter to express contempt for the RCYB and the tactics they employed at their rally Friday afternoon.

Instead of using the rally as an open forum for the exchange of ideas where clear, well-formed arguments could be voiced and analyzed, they chose to conduct a "freak show" to entertain the on-lookers, and I'm not sure they are aware of the damage they've caused.

Their speeches were unorganized and their references to Marxist and socialist principles were shallow and used out of context. This tended to confuse and alienate the audience from the speakers. The manner in which these ideas were expressed was destructive to progressive socialist principles and ideas, the open forum, rally and methods of exchanging such ideas.

I think in these times of social and political uncertainty here in the U.S. and throughout the world there is a greater need for discussion and analysis of the social and political issues that confront us. The problems of unemployment, inflation, and the eliminating of social

programs are connected with the political problem of an expanding military complex and anti-American sentiment around the world. Even U.S. involvement in the guerilla war in El Salvador comes down to an economic issue, because as we've been told our "interests" are at stake.

With these kinds of problems and issues confronting us, the open forum and rally should be used to educate, not entertain the student population. The RCYB, by employing the tactics mentioned above, only serves to alienate the apathetic student and turn that student away from rallies and open forums where the socio-economic and political issues must be addressed in order to provoke greater student involvement in their discussions and analysis.

Michael Solomita
U-Mass exchange student

ELC opportunities

The controversy of the Environmental Law Clinic embraces the larger issue of the function of the law school. This law school, like most, is doing a good job of training students for entry into the corporate world; it is doing very little to train lawyers to be individual practitioners, able to answer the needs of the general public. The conventional law school curriculum instructs in analytical methods of reasoning and rules of law, but offers little of the practical aspects of being a lawyer. As a third year student, I now realize that only after law school, when I am under the wing of some law firm will I receive the training necessary to practice law. Indeed, the legions of

Easterly says that "student participation has not been sufficient to carry the guarantee."

There are still track and field revenues as an "ace in the hole," according to Jim Edmunson, ASUO vice president for program administration.

Neither Edmunson nor Rich Wilkins, ASUO president, will publicly comment on who would absorb a debt at the end of the biennium. It's safe to wager that if a deficit occurs, and it seems likely if student ticket sales don't pick up, incidental fees will be raised substantially from the \$12 figure.

This is a no-win situation for students. Whether they buy season tickets or not incidental fees will have to be increased. Students can't win — but the athletic department stands only to gain. No matter what, the athletic department has a "guarantee" of the funds it requested.

Edmunson thinks track and field is his "ace in the hole". When the game gets tight and the stakes get high, those "aces" have a way of disappearing.

unskilled, yet analytically keen graduates are essential to corporate law firms who need the research potential to handle gigantic cases.

Therefore, while the law school is a convenient breeding ground for corporate associates it does not prepare us to be professionals. We are still forced to play the academic games of our undergraduate years, learning how to take tests instead of how to practice law. The only counter to this are the opportunities offered by the clinical programs. There students can confront clients and decision-makers and start to understand how to fashion strategies and solutions. The Environmental Clinic serves the large number of students at this law school specifically here for the natural resources program. Removal of the clinic takes away the only practical experience this school offers in environmental law and degrades the entire curriculum. I hope that President Olum will realize that clinical programs, although they may spark controversy, are essential for the training of good lawyers, and that he will do everything in his power to insure the Environmental Law Clinic remains on campus in its present form.

Ellen Mendoza
Third year law student

letters policy

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