

IFC funding short-changes intramurals

The University's Intramural activities program is getting short-changed by the Incidental Fee Committee. It's a very real possibility that there may not be enough money to cover next year's intramural budget. At the same time there is to be an increase in the athletic department's funding. This strange situation makes the Emerald question the thinking and priorities of the IFC.

Mike Ellis, head of the University physical education department, is "mad as hell" over the IFC's funding priorities. Ellis went to the IFC requesting about \$57,000 — roughly half of the \$116,000 needed for the program. The IFC's response was to recommend \$5,000. That recommendation is almost insulting when it's compared to the \$540,000 IFC is funding the athletic department this year.

The Emerald is also "mad as hell" with the IFC's cavalier attitude toward intramurals. They have their priorities and heads up their "ASUO". Intramurals benefit more students than the intercollegiate programs in the athletic department. About 4,000 students yearly are given a chance to participate in sport activities through intramurals. Only about a thousand students can compete at an intercollegiate athletics. Those are the elite athletes — not the students in the gym playing "Rat ball."

IFC's \$540,000 funding of the athletic department is an example of funding the "glory" activities instead of the fundamental activities participated in by the majority of students. That \$540,000 funds sports activities students can only watch. This is not to say the athletic department doesn't deserve such funding — only that intramurals deserves proportional funding.

Bear in mind whose money IFC is allocating — that's money each student has paid. IFC jangles a purse of nearly \$2 million — apparently without student input.

Karsten Rasmussen, chairer of the IFC,

agrees with Ellis saying he'd prefer to re-route the athletic department allocation to intramurals. He says the entire IFC feels that way, and yet, they resent "bailing out" the program.

Rasmussen wants to put the intramural funding issue before the students. That is really an odd idea considering the IFC is alleged to be representing the students interests. Why are they abdicating their role to the students-at-large?

The issue of student-control is a consistent undercurrent in all IFC funding. Despite the general perception that IFC funding recommendations are firm, it's Johnson Hall administrators who have the final say. Could the Johnson Hall

administrators be behind the misappropriation of intramural funds?

There are rumblings of a lawsuit against the State System of Higher Education to gain total student-control of incidental fees. It has yet to be filed — but it may revamp the priorities of the IFC to be more responsive to activities that benefit the majority of students.

IFC's paltry \$5,000 recommendation for intramurals is as much an insult to University students as to the program. Whose money is it anyway? IFC needs to be made aware of the real desires of the students and what activities they see as valid.



gabriel boehmer

editor's note

In Eugene, as anyplace else, certain things are taboo: being from California, or more specifically, anyplace south of Creswell; throwing away glass or newspapers with the morning trash; carrying a briefcase instead of a backpack; and wearing a tie — unless you're looking for a job, so quite a few people must be wearing ties these days.

Although Eugene takes pride in its non-conformist image, there are also community rituals: biking; eating vegetarian; loathing the Emerald, but reading it religiously anyway; and sneezing during field-burning season.

Thought to be the center of the earth by many of its inhabitants, Eugene is actually about an hour-and-a-half's drive from the point midway between the North Pole and the equator — the 45th parallel, just north of Salem. There's a special highway marker that tells you so.

Most of Eugene's rituals I embrace as warmly as the next person. But one addiction that I turn my back on — and run away from, so to speak — is jogging.

Jogging has probably surpassed pot smoking as our city's number-one pasttime, but is certainly a distant second to being laid back.

Today, jogging has spread from a local fever

to a national disease. The next few months in Oregon alone bring a host of road runs, fun runs and marathons: Seaside's Annual Trail's End Marathon; Forest Grove's Gales Creek Valley Marathon; Portland's Cascade Run Off; Eugene's Nike Marathon; Medford's Pear Blossom Run; Bend's Three Sisters Classic; and Jacksonville's Stagecoach Run.

If you wanted, you could run from one end of the state to the other without stopping.

But I have a few objections to jogging. First of all, there's little amusement: no balls to hit, no bases to run, no points after the touch-down, no penalty box, no net, and no over-priced weekend lessons. Take away the fanfare and all you're left with is exercise. I can do that at home.

Secondly, there's pain. That's not to say other sports aren't uncomfortable. My stomach does handstands each time I miss a three-foot putt, especially for a birdie. And my head does a tail spin each time my neck is speared by a racquet ball.

Finally, there's all this talk about Runners' high. It sounds like a bunch of hype to get you to buy expensive shoes. If I wanted to get high, I certainly would want to take a shower first.

letters

Experiments

For the past three months, I have been trying to gain access to the Primate and Rodent Center on campus to find out exactly what kinds of animals experimentations are being performed on (if any). So far I have been refused entrance to the building and given side-track rigamarole from those whom I have sought aid. Is there anybody on campus who knows what's going on in that place?

Alexander Turret
Earth-World Organization

Persecution

The recent execution of over 100 Baha'i leaders in Iran should be a matter of international concern. This religious persecution is an outrage to any who believe in freedom of conscience as a basic human right. It is clear that a systematic campaign has been launched to

exterminate Iran's largest religious minority.

According to an article in the January 25th Newsweek, the Iranian Government will be issuing identification cards that will be required to buy food and fuel. But the Baha'is will not receive them — nor will they be allowed to leave Iran.

During the month of February, various committees of the United States Congress that deal with human rights intend to hold hearings about religious persecution throughout the world. We ask you to express your concern in this matter by writing Congressman Jim Weaver, 1226 Longworth Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515, and /or Senator Mark Hatfield, U.S. Senate, 463 Russell Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515, and/or Senator Robert Packwood, U.S. Senate, Dirksen Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515.

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