

opinion

A quiet death for voluntary fees

Perhaps the only good thing about Rep. Richard Springer's bill to make student fees voluntary is that it stands a very small chance of passing.

The bill has no co-sponsors and is laughed at by other members of the Legislature. Even Springer admits he is "not confident it will be passed at this point."

That leads us to wonder why he bothered to introduce it in the first place.

He has indicated that he has something of a personal vendetta against student-funded programs.

Springer graduated from the University law school in 1977. He didn't enjoy paying fees to support the EMU, which he rarely used, intercollegiate athletics, which he didn't attend and the Emerald, which he didn't like.

He once refused to pay his fees, but was "convinced" to pay them by the attorney general's office.

Springer maintains that one of the reasons he introduced the bill was to get students, as well as legislators, thinking about the mandatory student fees. Students will be required to pay between \$52 and \$56 a term in fees alone next year.

He is convinced that there is a "Proposition 13" mentality among today's students. Many students don't want their money wasted on frivolous activities they have no part of, Springer says.

What Springer has in mind is a "user fee" method of supporting student programs. If you are going to use the program, you pay for it. If not, you should be able to save the money.

Among the dozens of programs that probably would lose most of their funding if Springer's bill were to pass are the athletic department, OSPIRG and the black student union. Given the choice, a large percentage of students probably wouldn't voluntarily pay to support those programs.

The question then becomes whether most students would want to attend a university without an intercollegiate athletic program, without a public interest research organization, without a center for black students. The answer is no.

The appeal of a university lies not only in its academic quality, but in the quality of its ethnic, cultural, political and social student programs as well.

The best thing that can happen is for Springer's bill to die a quiet death in the first legislative committee it comes across.



'ARISE, SIR DUMP!'

letters

University administrators have voluntarily abandoned the improper practice of including religious "invocations" and "benedictions" in commencement exercises and other programs of that nature at this public institution.

As individuals, those who function as leaders in the government sector or at the University may certainly exercise their personal civil liberties in supporting various sectarian propositions. However, to do so in ways which smack of governmental or institutional espousal is constitutionally illegal.

Reagan was ill-advised to sign, as President, a sectarian religious declaration.

Ron Rousseve
professor, counseling

Disagree

Just a short response to Ginger Barnes' letter of Feb. 11.

Although I disagree with you, Ginger, on the issue of abortion, I believe that I can empathize with you, and I appreciate your concern for the future of unwanted babies and children. I also share that concern, and I feel it's inappropriate to criticize abortion, and those who support it, unless one is willing to share the responsibility for a child oneself.

I belong to Orchard Community Church, a small interdenominational fellowship that has its origins in the University area. We will gladly offer our help, without condemnation, to any prospective mother who is unable to raise her children alone, or is not sure whether or not to keep her child. Our pastor's number is 344-3800.

Mark England

Sexual dance

My enjoyment of the very exciting women's basketball game Sunday evening was marred tremendously by the disgusting way in which the University cheerleaders acted. These women were not cheerleading. Rather, their "dances" were blatantly sexual — degrading to themselves and ultimately to all women. They consciously promoted the "woman-as-sex-object" syndrome.

The sharply rising incidence of rape and other forms of abuse of women and girl-children in our area makes it imperative that activities which further this mentality are stopped.

As one person in a crowd of 3,500 attending this game I felt powerless to stop this incredibly obnoxious display.

However, I feel that within the crowd were many other women and men conscious enough to recognize the damage that kind of behavior was causing.

Next time, let's chant our resistance and/or calmly walk out on the floor as a group, encircle the cheerleaders, and walk them out of Mac Court.

Wake up, cheerleaders — it may be you, your mothers or little sisters who suffer because of your lack of understanding of what you are doing to the image of women.

Jane Williams

Poor taste

The display set up by the "Gay and Lesbian Alliance" for the week of Feb. 14-20 in the EMU Lobby is truly a fine example of poor taste. I think it's safe to say most students would find it more offensive than the Ma-

ranatha exhibit against abortion.

Remember, money taken from your mandatory student fees is allocated to help maintain the homosexual activist group on campus so it can sponsor such displays and other various activities. Whether you like it or not you make a contribution to their group every time you pay your student fees.

And are you getting your money's worth? Well, you might be if you enjoy viewing posters of lesbians "making out," homosexual Valentine's Day cards, and candy with inscriptions such as "Be gay with me."

Sure, other groups such as the Mormon Student Association have put on pro-traditional family displays, but the IFC won't contribute to them. At least their displays were aimed at the general campus community with articles, pictures, and information for the vast majority of students who wish to lead normal, happy family lives.

Perhaps the homosexuals should be congratulated for exposing students to the decadence of homosexuality. Such exhibits are probably counterproductive for their cause anyway.

Michael Cross

Thoughtful

I will take this opportunity to thank the University's French students past and present for their sympathy and thoughtfulness in regards to the death of my husband Henry F. Cooper. It has been a great comfort for me. Many thanks.

Paulette Cooper
Eugene

letters

Sectarian

During the "National Prayer Breakfast" in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 3, Pres. Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation designating 1983 as the "year of the Bible." This he did, despite a serious legal challenge filed by the Freedom from Religion Foundation (of Madison, Wisconsin).

On the basis of the separation of church and state principle, it does appear that Reagan's recent action is both unconstitutional and an unwarranted infringement on the right of "freedom from religion" to which those of us who are

secularists are entitled as American citizens.

Our form of government in America is deliberately non-theocratic. A "theocracy" is a system of governance in which the ruling power elite, usually priests and other religious agents, claim "divine" or Godly sanction — as in Iran today.

In the United States, public officials are expected to govern without bending toward sectarian religious themes in the discharge of their governmental responsibilities. Accordingly, Mr. Reagan's insensitivity is grossly unsettling!

Incidentally, I am indeed pleased that in recent years

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