

University athletics can ignore the IFC

ASUO President Julie Davis vetoed the athletic department's fee allocation for 1985-86 on Friday. Davis is concerned that the Incidental Fee Committee gave too much to the department and received little in return. (The department received an 8 percent increase totaling \$50,000 in their fee allocation, as well as 199 McArthur Court seats that had been reserved for students.) Even if the IFC decides to uphold Davis' veto, the athletic department has little incentive to participate in a budget renegotiation.

Assistant athletics director Chris Voelz has already said she will disregard the veto. Voelz's statement is a perfect example of why students must have control of their incidental fees. Currently students do not.

University students are allowed to set the incidental fee through the IFC. The seven-member committee, which was established in the early 1970s, conducts an annual budget process to determine fee allocations. The committee sends its budget recommendation to President Paul Olum, who passes his recommendation to the State Board of Higher Education.

The board ultimately determines the fee allocation at the University, although it generally acquiesces to the University president's decision. The state board has vetoed an IFC recommendation twice since the process began.

The most recent veto came in 1980 when the state board agreed to grant the athletic department a 75 percent increase in their fee allocation. The IFC had recommended an increase of 35 percent.

University Athletic Director Bill Byrne is fully aware that the state board ruled in favor of the department five years ago. (John Caine was athletic director at the time.) His unwillingness to renegotiate the department's allocation demonstrates his confidence that the board would again rule in his favor in any funding controversy.

The present system gives the athletic department very little incentive to respect any controversial IFC decision. Past experience has shown that the state board and the University president will support the athletic department over the IFC in a budget controversy.

In order to remedy this situation, the student governments at Oregon's seven major universities have worked in past years for the passage of state legislation that would give students control over the fee process. But state legislators have been reluctant to eliminate the state board's control of the process.

University administrators opposed legislation introduced in 1981 because they feared that students would not responsibly manage the fees. (At the same time, the athletic department had a \$300,000 budget deficit.)

As long as the state board controls incidental fees there will be little incentive for the athletic department to respect any final decision by the IFC. The overall IFC budget totals more than \$2 million and the athletic department receives about 28 percent of this total.

Unlike tuition, students should have the final say on their incidental fee assessment. The fee is intended to enhance a university education. And it is intended to be independent of the University administration's control. It belongs to the students, but students do not control it.

The incoming ASUO presidential administration should set the groundwork for the introduction of legislation, during the next legislative session, mandating student control of the incidental fee.

It is high time that students control what is theirs. Until such a bill passes the Legislature, Bill Byrne and his successors will continue to place IFC and ASUO recommendations in low regard.



letters

Violence

The Commentator (April 22) carried a full page ad by the College Republican National Fund soliciting money to support the Contras. Why should we find this so disturbing?

In the first place, the fellow holding the machine gun intends to use your money to further his political ends through violence. He means to kill people with your money. A donation then would be a private act of violence, making you a direct accomplice to any killing he does.

We believe that human life is too sacred to be taken by private individuals without due process of law. We should have no more right to act as private individuals to kill people outside our country than to kill our fellow citizens.

If violent action against another country seems necessary and just, then we have the freedom to advocate war. But direct financing goes beyond mere advocacy.

Acts of war ought to be reserved to Congress. Killing is too serious a business to be decided by people acting privately, outside the framework and safeguards of the law.

Our Congress recently voted against supporting this war. But simply allowing private donations could be construed as an act of war.

A government is responsible for the violent acts of its

citizens. If the Nicaraguan government encouraged and

permitted its people to privately finance kill squads to assassinate citizens in our own country, rest assured that we would hold that government accountable.

Surely we are equally accountable for our own citizens.

W. J. Holly
Philosophy Dept.

The best

As a part of the Black Arts Festival, Hayward Coleman is on the University campus.

Mr. Coleman is a mime, a performer of international reputation; one European newspaper calls him "the Nijinsky of mime," he has studied with — and is highly respected by — the French master Marcel Marceau, and he is considered to be as good as Marceau — some say he's better.

Mr. Coleman has performed in the United States and throughout Europe. He incorporates many forms of dance and Hatha Yoga, in his art.

He is one of the most important black artist/performers this campus has been privileged to see.

Hayward Coleman will be giving a performance in the Condon School gymnasium on Thursday, May 16, at 8 p.m.

There is no admission charge.

This promises to be one of the most exciting and fascinating events at the University this year; faculty, students and staff should not miss this chance to see something so unusual and very, very special.

Michael Stamm
Graduate Secretary,
English Dept.

Show support

The EMU Cultural Forum has once again decided to spend the money allocated for its annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival, entirely upon performers from out of state, paying nothing to local artists.

The implication is, of course, that local talent is second rate and unable to draw a substantial following, a charge that is demonstrably untrue, as we shall see.

The 18 or so local groups selected for this year's festival were chosen from a field of nearly 70 entries, a fact that suggests rather high standards for acceptance. Now, the cultural forum is quite right to bring in some national headliners and pay them more than lesser known groups; T-Bone Burnett, and the New Songs group from Nicaragua are excellent choices for the festival, and I look forward to hearing them.

But to bring in performers whose songs and whose presence speaks to our social and political conscience while at the same time providing nothing for the artists in our own community, is simply hypocrisy.

Musicians do not expect to get rich, but we would like a token honorarium, however symbolic, in recognition of services rendered.

As the old saying puts it, "If you want to dance, you have to pay the Piper."

Students who pay for the event through incidental fees, and who find the cultural forum's policy unfair, are urged to speak to or write the cultural forum on this issue.

Support local music! Our survival depends on your patronage.

Barney Lindsley
Religious Studies

oregon daily emerald

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