

Editorial

Budgeting by ballot raises student fees

The recent ASUO elections brought a significant fiscal and procedural problem into clearer focus. Students, programs and departments chose to take a large portion of the incidental fee budget directly to the voters.

This "cafeteria budgeting" works well for occasional special allocations, but is generally an irresponsible fiscal management device.

Measures to fund the Counseling Center, United States Student Association, Marching Band, Oregon Daily Emerald and OSPIRG won. This created about \$300,000 in student fees, including several increases. Had either of the athletics funding measures won, well over \$1 million would have been allocated by initiative or referendum.

This would have left the Incidental Fee Committee, which supposedly oversees the entire budget package, voting on only half of the budget.

The IFC exists to provide a broad view of the budget and to make decisions with this view in mind. "Cafeteria budgeting" renders the IFC next to useless.

Next year's process may see any group that can muster the votes choose to gather signatures for an initiative rather than go through budget hearings. This will result in steadily increasing fees, because fiscal measures taken individually do not necessarily appear excessive.

Tuition has increased from \$211 to \$388 — 84 percent — since 1979. The incidental fee has increased from \$36.50 to \$61.00 — 67 percent — during the same period.

This constant fee increase must stop. Students cannot afford to pay higher fees.

ASUO leaders who lobby for a tuition freeze are addressing only part of the cost of attending the University. They should work to hold down the incidental fee as well.

Some of the fee increase is a consequence of a substantial increase in 1980 of the portion of the fee that supports intercollegiate athletics. But the "athletics fee" is only part of the problem.

Increases occur in part because certain EMU costs such as labor are difficult to keep down and are not under EMU or student control. Increases also occur in part because neither the IFC nor the voting student body is able to vote "no" often enough.

The latter problem is getting worse due to a combination of ASUO Constitution Court decisions and student dissatisfaction with the IFC.

The Court has ruled that groups such as the Emerald and the athletic department can go on the ASUO ballot by initiative. This means that in practice any student group that can obtain about 800 signatures can place a budget request on the ballot.

Groups should try to raise more money from their own constituents instead of relying on fee allocations. Fees take money from student pockets just as surely as donations to groups do.

Incoming ASUG officials should examine why the problem of rapidly increasing incidental fees has come about. They should also analyze the causes of more items going on the ballot.

They should develop a comprehensive plan to retain student rights of initiative while regaining control of increasing fees and fragmented allocation processes.

If ASUO leaders do not act soon to bring the fee monster under control, students will begin using existing processes to force cutbacks and limitations. Responsible fiscal management that holds the line on fees will avoid this risk.



Letters

Neglected facts

I simply cannot stay quiet after the presentation by Mrs. Allende on "Chile's reality" on Wednesday, April 16. For most students and Americans in general, Chile's history seems to start in 1973, after the military overthrew the government of Salvador Allende.

Mrs. Allende has been away from Chile for 13 years, which seems to make her see things quite differently. For most Chileans, it is clear today that we got the military thanks to the mess created during Allende's three years in office.

Some facts Mrs. Allende hasn't and will never present in her speeches:

By 1973, Chile had an inflation over 300 percent, a fiscal deficit of 45 percent over the total expenditure of the national treasury and a decline in the industrial production of six percent compared to 1972.

I was 12 years old when I had to stay in line for hours to have access to a supermarket to get some groceries (a situation that didn't affect people belonging to Allende's party; they had "special stores" and "special access.") Classes in school were suspended constantly because of riots and protests against Allende's policies. The country was full of hate and confusion. We needed and asked for a change.

Today, Chile's political and economic standing is far from ideal. We do want real

democracy and economic stability, but I can assure Mrs. Allende and her followers that we in Chile do not need or want another "Popular Unity." Chile needs to and will stand firm again, without the help of old formulas that didn't work in the past.

Ralf Oberti
Chilean

Limited view

Dear Mr. Duffy,

As a student, a musician, and a person under 35 years of age, I feel compelled to respond to your letter.

Contrary to your miniscule perceptions, many students are interested in classical music. That this university houses one of the larger schools of music in the Pacific Northwest is evidence of this. Your next statement, "college radio stations are supposed to be for the student body," can be disputed also.

First, the fact stated above seems to illustrate a self-contradiction in your argument. Second, college stations may be seen as having several functions. Serving the community which houses the University in some cultural capacity is one service KWAX performs, and providing a format which would otherwise be absent from the Eugene-Springfield area is another such service.

There are several radio stations which program rock music in Eugene, as well as a station which programs primarily jazz and other types of ethnic music. There is one country station I know of, although I admit I don't listen to it. It does not require a great deal of intelligence to find these stations, but if you have trouble,

someone will help you.

I also come from a large metropolitan area (Washington D.C. — perhaps you've heard of it), and I have found Eugene to be surprisingly full of a variety of cultural outlets for a city of its size.

Please, in the future, show us some of the intelligence you were born with as you haven't so far.

Benjamin Tomassetti
Graduate, Music

Resistance

Thousands of Hopi and Navajo, mainly traditional, live in the Four Corners area of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. However, 10,000 to 20,000 of these self-sufficient peoples who raise crops and herd sheep are being threatened with a possible forced relocation off of their homeland coming July 8, 1986, because of P.L. 93-531.

The government and private interests such as Peabody Coal and others have found a wealth and abundance of oil, gas and coal underneath these people's feet. According to P.L. 93-531, these people are to be moved off so these resources can be exploited in this "National Sacrifice Area."

Of course, the Navajo and Hopi have refused to be moved off and will resist. Please help prevent any further conflict between the government and these people by writing your senators and representatives to repeal P.L. 93-531. The livelihood of these Indian peoples is being threatened.

Guy Prouty
Anthropology

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Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.