

Editorial

No more increases for college athletics

Oregon is the only state in the Pac-10 conference that does not use state revenue to support intercollegiate athletics.

Last week the student voters of the University turned down two measures that would have increased student fees to support athletics.

The state and the students should continue to discourage the use of additional public resources to support intercollegiate athletics. Colleges and universities must recognize the nonessential nature of athletics and make funding decisions accordingly.

There is nothing inherently wrong with combining academics and athletics. Intercollegiate and intramural athletics as competitive, entertaining recreation between amateurs is healthy.

Such activities give students a chance to engage in enjoyable extracurricular activities that build skills, encourage teamwork and provide entertainment.

The problem is a combination of high cost and the special status of student athletes. The state cannot afford to spend more on athletics. The University, too, must keep athletics — and the needs of athletes — in perspective.

Universities try to operate the equivalent of semi-professional training schools and franchises. Some schools with access to vast financial resources and enormous donor bases are able, for better or worse, to do this. Oregon cannot.

The University is trying to raise \$20-22 million to dome Autzen Stadium, but cannot find \$400,000 each year to provide basic support for women's athletics.

We support doming the stadium with *private* funds as a way to provide more long term revenue for athletics, but we caution the University not to seek or rely on more public or student funds to support athletics.

The Athletic Department should raise money by reducing spending of both public and private money for special support programs for athletes. This may allow better funding for women's programs, and will help return student athletes to amateur status, where they belong.

No university — including ours — should make special academic, financial, housing or other support available to athletes or their programs.

At this university, intercollegiate athletics is supported mainly through private donations and ticket sales, with a small portion of the budget coming from student activity fees. This is the proper detached status for an athletic department at an academic institution.

The University community must make sure student athletes always are treated fairly — no differently than other students.

If amateur athletes getting no special perks cannot attract enough private donations and ticket sales to sustain a top-quality athletics program, so be it.

If students, donors and ticket-buyers are unwilling to pay more, then administrators must recognize this and accept limitations on the future of University athletics.

Athletics administrators may have to choose between quality and quantity of sports. Quality brings recognition, visibility and opportunities for outstanding student athletes. Quantity brings more student participation and the ability to remain in the Pac-10 and NCAA.

If the choice must be made, choose quantity. The people of Oregon and the University cannot pay for quality across the board.



Letters

Awaiting reply

Mr. Blake Louis Sliter: This Greek apologizes for not playing your silly little game. I suppose we Greeks have been too busy flunking out of school, raping our dates at parties and undermining community vitality to fret over the attempts of "a fucking narrow-minded son-of-a-bitch" (excuse me?) to provoke our violent, primitive and uncontrollable passions.

Really now, Mr. Sliter. Consider your statements. Greeks have been listening to charges such as yours for years. But if you look around yourself, you see not only that we're still here, but that we're also getting stronger every day. We're obviously doing something right.

You have a fine, progressive, liberal education, Mr. Sliter. Why don't you put it to use by experimenting with a new approach to the Greek condition? Examine closely the ways in which Greeks (in your twisted logic) harm the community: the Greek Days of Giving, the Sigma Chi Derby Days, the Greek Volunteer Bureau, Delta Gamma Anchor Splash and the numerous other philanthropies and charity drives sponsored by Greek organizations.

If you like, comment on those

aspects of Greek lifestyles. If you fail to see the virtue in our efforts, Mr. Sliter, then I'm afraid the problem lies with you, not us. I'm sure we'll all be waiting for your response with great curiosity.

End of game.

Ric Ilgenfritz
Journalism, Greek

Olum would "Manhattan Project" us all the way to the NCAA championship!

Then people around the nation would shake their heads and say, "those were the Ducks?" as they sort through the rubble.

Tim Jaques
Math

All mixed up

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) are up to their usual antics this spring. Bringing their usual lack of logic to the research arena, they present a strong argument against the use of stupidity in very sophisticated areas of human endeavor.

Their argument goes like this (I think):

We shouldn't test new drugs on animals, because that isn't nice. We should test new drugs on people. No, that isn't nice either. We should not develop new drugs; that is, we should allow people to get sick and die. Hmm. That's not quite it.

We shouldn't test animals to learn about the limits of human physiology. We don't need to know any more about our bodies. All medical research should be done by computers.

Wait, I'm suddenly all mixed up.

Sigh. Perhaps it's hopeless to try to mimic the logical convolutions of the PETA people. However, their existence does serve one vital role: we don't need to use animal experimentation to determine the effects of brain deprivation.

Rob Young
Senior

Earthshaking

We should change our mascot from Donald Duck to Khadaffy Duck. Then our sports teams would "terrorize" the whole PAC-10. And maybe even Paul

Vote Larson

As you may know, primary elections for Lane County are approaching us quickly. On May 20, we, as citizens of Lane County, have the privilege of exercising our right to vote for representatives and issues that effect Lane County.

Wishing to serve as Lane County Commissioner in District 2 is Christine Larson. This nonpartisan position is for a four-year term beginning in January of 1987. I feel she would be the most effective person as County Commissioner for the following reasons:

1. She has six years of experience on the Springfield City Council and has been council President since 1985.

2. She has knowledge of current and longterm problems of our area as a resident of Eugene for twenty years.

3. She has held representative positions on state and local committees where she has gained the trust and confidence of other community leaders.

4. She formally attended the University of Oregon and graduated from Southern Oregon State College with a Bachelor of Science in Education.

I hope you will consider her experience and commitment as you make your choice for Lane County Commissioner. I support Christine Larson with the confidence that she will do the best job possible when addressing issues and problems within our county. I encourage you to support her too.

Tracie L. Rieker
Political Science

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