

Editorial

Optional athletic fee has substantial flaw

ASUO and Athletic Department officials are discussing possible solutions to the problem of funding intercollegiate athletics without substantially raising student fees, according to ASUO Vice-President Caitlin Cameron.

Other sources indicate that one possibility being discussed is an optional fee, a checkoff at fall term registration. This checkoff would be used to support the swimming team.

This is the wrong approach, unless any other campus group that wants to can also raise money with an optional fee. If the IFC believes that the swimming team deserves a special one-year allocation to stave off program shutdown, let it make such an allocation.

If one campus group or department is allowed to use optional fees, why shouldn't others? This is the road to the libertarian concept of cafeteria budgeting, in which each person simply marks a series of boxes at registration designating where their fee dollars are to go.

Cafeteria budgeting, without "exemptions" that provide a base level of funding for basic facilities like the EMU, would result in chaos. Once the list of "protected" activities is established, most groups will fight to get on it, and some ASUO agency will have to decide which activities deserve protection and which do not.

That role is what the IFC already plays, after a fashion, with the option of student initiative or referendum on controversial or large budget items. Opening the door to cafeteria budgeting will result in a "free market" approach to activities funding.

The strength of such a system is that in theory individuals control the disposition of their own money. Its greatest problem is that it does not protect "public" goods and services. Although there is some disagreement about what activities on campus benefit "everyone," there are certain areas of broad agreement.

The EMU benefits a great number of students in fairly obvious ways such as providing meeting, eating and studying space. It also provides office space for many groups and a variety of activities.

How many students would voluntarily check off half of their fee to the EMU each term? We suspect that the classic dilemma of common goods would become reality — person A would assume that persons B, C and D were paying for the EMU, and A would check the boxes for A's favorite special interest programs instead.

We don't see any important difference between funding the swimming team via an optional fee and funding, say, the EMU Cultural Forum or Club Sports office with optional fees. Choosing which of these gets money is simply a policy choice, none are *inherently* more worthy of funding or more appropriately funded via an optional fee.

Optional fees produce an unpredictable yield and do not permit budgeting in advance. No program without another solid funding base seeks an optional fee except as a desperation measure.

The point of having an incidental fee committee is to permit rational determination of broad student needs and to allow groups to budget in advance. Although the IFC's behavior often strains the limits of the word "rational," it exists to make fiscal decisions for the students of the University.

Go to the IFC or the initiative process to make budgeting decisions. Don't complicate the process further by starting down the slippery slope to cafeteria budgeting.



Letters

Coop Goulet

Regarding the May 21 letter from Dan Goulet: Mr. Goulet's comments are so obviously the blathering of a bigot that they hardly deserve these comments in response, much less the debate Mr. Goulet appears to invite.

Fact: The AIDS virus is responsible for 100 percent of all diagnosed AIDS cases.

Fact: The few federal dollars that are forthcoming for AIDS research are spent grudgingly by a government that apparently suffers from the same ugly disease that afflicts Mr. Goulet: ignorant bigotry.

Ordinarily I'd let Mr. Goulet's hot air pass for the bad smell it usually is. This time however, he seems to suggest not only that gays should die but that the sole purpose of human life is reproduction.

I am put in mind of chickens, who will pick to death any chick that differs and who will breed beyond the capacity of the coop. Perhaps we should just dismantle the universities and set up other roosts for the Goulets of this world.

Happily, not many would join Mr. Goulet in his coop on the fringe; his purpose in life would continue to be thwarted.

Anne Wyatt
Law

Voice opinions

In reply to Louis F. Bonson's May 20 letter stating "a decent American should have burned that sign..." I must reiterate the sentiment that is felt by myself and some of the other students now attending the U. of O.

Fuck Reagan.

Frankly, I am surprised that the sign was not burned, just as I am not surprised by certain acts of harassment toward homosexuals and women. Things have really not changed so much since 1945, Louis.

I'm not very interested in supporting a President who advocates the building of more nuclear weapons, who sells weapons of any kind to men who place them in the hands of children to shoot at other children, or who supports indirectly the racist regime in South Africa.

Ronald Reagan is human, no more, no less. If his actions deserved by respect, I would give it to him. They do not. So please, Louis, don't ask me to support a man I don't respect except in the sense that he is, sadly, a fellow human being.

By supporting President Reagan unquestioningly, you do yourself, the "majority" you surrender your values to and Mr. Reagan harm. You deprive everyone of the ability to make an intelligent decision by not voicing your own opinions no matter what others believe.

I will continue to voice my opinions even if they are not pretty to you.

Fuck Reagan.

Craig Myers
Student

Out of harmony

Breaking the commandments of God will always lead to disadvantageous outcomes. This is especially true in regard to sexual immorality, and all the rantings and ravings, all the protests, rallies, films, excuses, etc. in the world can't change the order established in the universe.

The Bible warns, "He that committeth fornication sinneth

against his own body... know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God...?" (1st Corinthians, chapter 6).

We also find, "Ye are the temple of God... If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (1st Corinthians, chapter 3).

Look at the world today. Must one observe for very long to see that turning away from God's principles has brought nothing but severe misery to our society? Perhaps at no time in human history have the disadvantages of living out of harmony with Biblical principles been so apparent.

And ignoring these problems will only make things worse for us and for our children.

Lori Parkman
Elmira, Oregon

Black fraternity

Janean Chun's recent articles (May 20 and 21) on the desire of several black American students at the University to organize an active chapter of the predominantly black Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity were interesting. However, I would like to correct a historical inaccuracy which appeared in Chun's second article.

It was stated that the Kappa organization, founded in 1911 at Indiana University in Bloomington, was the first black collegiate fraternity. The factual historical record will show that the first national Greek letter fraternity organized by black American students was actually founded five years earlier — in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The name "Alpha Phi Alpha" was selected by the eight men of color who formed this fraternity.

In 1986 here at the U of O, the dialogue being generated by the prospect of a predominantly black fraternal society on campus is already proving to be socially revealing.

Ron Rousseve
Counseling Psychology
Monday, June 2, 1986

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