

Interest from fees should go to students

In an overwhelming vote of 52-6, the Oregon House of Representatives approved Senate Bill 400, also known as the Student Activities Bill, Tuesday. This bill only can prove to be beneficial to the University and we encourage Gov. Neil Goldschmidt to sign it.

The bill proposes that the interest earned from students' incidental fees be given back to the University. Currently, the interest is put into a State General Fund that gives the money to a variety of different projects and programs in the state.

All interest from University revenues goes into the State General Fund with the exception of athletic funds. The interest from revenue generated from ticket sales is put back into the athletic department. They use the money to improve their program.

Some senators feel confident that the governor will sign the bill, but there are some problems that may prevent this. In the past there has been a policy against giving the interest back to the original institutions.

Some feel it could set a bad precedent and encourage other larger agencies to ask that their interest be returned. If this did happen, it could jeopardize the projects funded by the State General Fund.

But education should be seen in a different light from the other institutions. Incidental fees are similar to user fees and are an investment made by the students. Senate Bill 400 would put the money made from the students' fees back into the hands of the University. As a result, the money could directly benefit the student body.

The University could receive as much as \$30,000 in interest. There are two options for this added income and both would benefit students. On a more practical level, the money could be put back in the system and help to reduce student fees overall. Incidental fees are expected to increase next year because of the ballot measures that passed in the spring elections.

But according to ASUO President Steve Nelson, the money will probably be used to expand University programs. Either way the University comes out ahead. No one can argue against paying fewer fees, and improving more programs will improve the quality of our education.

The Student Activities Bill seeks to promote education and we laud the Oregon Student Lobby for supporting it. It is a bill that directly relates to the University and will produce tangible results.

In comparison to the amount of money other institutes contribute to the State General Fund, the interest from the University is relatively insignificant. Consequently, state programs will not be hurt if this bill is signed. Each situation must be considered on its merits, and this example has many benefits.

There is a distinct difference between education and the other agencies that contribute to the State General Fund. If Gov. Goldschmidt wants to help the University, then he should not hesitate to accept the bill. University students have nothing to lose but a better, more extensive education.



"THEY NEVER HEARD OF CUOMO OR DUKAKIS OR BIDEN...THEY'RE SUPPORTING VANNA WHITE"

Letters

Poor coverage

While rumor of a "new ODE policy" of not covering student activities officially has been rejected by the paper's editors, it is clear the Emerald is guilty of a de facto lack of such information.

The list of apparently non-newsworthy events is growing steadily: a symposium on Judeo-Christian religion co-sponsored by Campus Interfaith Ministry and the Muslim Students Union, charges of racial violence at a fraternity boxing match, speeches by Bella Abzug and Elizabeth Hegginbotham.

Eager to report and comment on charges of racism against the ASUO Women's Task Force, the ODE was unable to provide any coverage of the Women of Color Symposium or the NASU Pow Wow.

Apparently no ODE reporters actually attended the presentation by Margaret Randall, since coverage of the controversial author's appearance was limited to a generic preview story.

What message did Abzug give to college students of today?

What unique social burdens must Black women face in our society? What is a pow wow, and why is it important to Native Americans?

What ties bind women of color, or Arabs, Muslims and Jews? What is the status of race relations among fraternity members at the University? How did Randall interpret her loss of U.S. citizenship through poetry and prose?

Why were none of these questions important enough to warrant news coverage by the only daily newspaper on campus?

Just two more questions: Does the ODE have a responsibility to cover student activities? What would those requesting a refund of their \$2.25 subscription in coming academic terms really be missing?

Lisa Loving
American studies

Public apology

Scott Maben: I publicly apologize for the letter I wrote the Emerald regarding your article on Pete Frangos.

The article aside, I had no call to go on a public personality assassination campaign like that.

That can't have been an easy article to write, either. It really wasn't anything personal; you were just the unwitting recipient of a lot of negative feelings I had toward the universe in general at the time.

Finn John
Undeclared

Good intention

In his letter (May 18), Craig Loughridge had good intentions. However, the correct French for "Are you ready? Go!" is not "Etes-vous pres? Partez" (which means "are you nearby? Go!"), but "Etes-vous prêts? Partez!"

But real expression used by runners is "A vos marques? Prets? Partez!"

I guess the moral here is: If you correct someone else's mistakes, please try to do it right!

Eric Butruille
Eugene

Pride week

Well, now that we have all hopefully survived that rousing Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, when do the rest of us get to celebrate Heterosexual Pride Week?

Or dare I say Normal People Pride Week...

Mark J. Hash
Business

Crucial points

In response to Benjamin Davis' letter (ODE, May 18) advocating the illegality of sodomy, I think two crucial points need to be made.

First of all, in a constitutional sense, who cares what most Americans feel in opinion polls? Most Americans can't find Mexico on a map, let alone seriously consider a touchy (excuse the pun) constitutional matter.

As a matter of fact, in opinion polls, most Americans respond negatively to hypothetical questions concerning the Bill of Rights, as long as it isn't explicitly mentioned by name.

Secondly, saying the Supreme Court upheld the illegality of sodomy is true, but ignores how controversial that decision was. The decision was five to four, and Justice Blackmun read his dissenting opinion aloud from the bench, something never done before in Supreme Court history.

Finally, I'm not going to touch Mr. Davis' statement that we should "keep sodomy out of the nation's classrooms." I mean, taken literally, that would be awfully rude, wouldn't it?

Scott E. Baldwin
Political science
Friday, May 22, 1987

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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