

Editorial

Health requirement should be retained

The University health requirement provides students information on potential health problems that warrant retaining applicable courses when the University switches from a quarter to a semester system in 1990.

Currently, each student is required to fill the University's three-credit health requirement before graduation. The requirement is in danger of being deleted from the curriculum if some members of the Special Semester Curriculum Committee have their way.

But if the mandatory health course goes down the drain, so does about \$30 million in federal financial aid the University receives for offering health education. The federal funding is contingent on the availability of substance abuse education for all students. This requirement is currently filled by the University's mandatory health course.

Of course, \$30 million in financial aid is not the reason health education should continue, though it's definitely a motivating factor. Health education should remain a University graduation requirement because, in a time plagued by social problems such as AIDS, alcoholism and drug abuse, it serves to provide students with information to overcome these problems.

The course also provides useful information on stress management, eating disorders and lifestyle planning.

The health requirement should not only be kept when the University converts to a semester system, but also should be expanded to include a more in-depth study into the social problems that tarnish this nation.

Computing resource fee could raise needed funds

The State Board of Higher Education on March 18 will hear a proposal for a computer resource fee, which, if implemented, would be used to finance instructional computing at the University.

The proposal is worthy of consideration, but other means should also be considered to raise the needed money to finance computer instruction.

Superficially, there seems to be one problem with the proposed fee: it would be unfair to ask students who do not seek computer instruction to pay for the computer instruction of others.

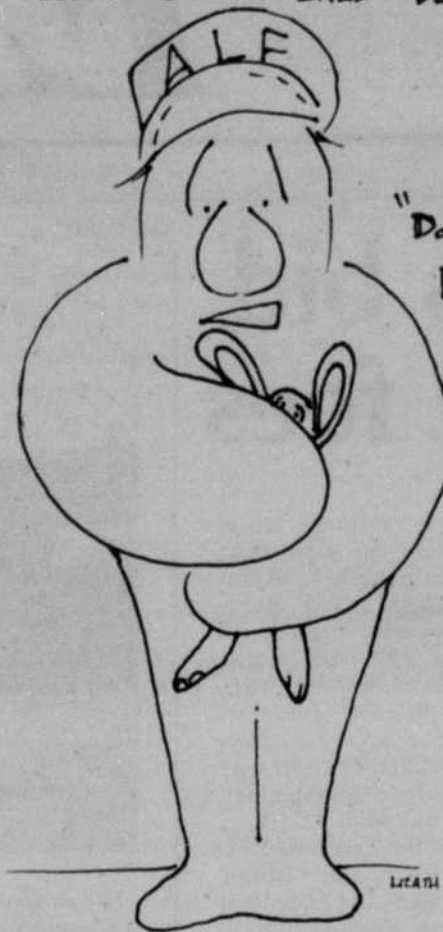
On a deeper level, however, this problem exists currently, because funds are re-allocated internally away from other programs to finance computer instruction. Thus, students pay indirectly for current computer instruction by foregoing a decrease in other programs.

Yet the need for computer instruction is on the rise as society moves increasingly toward a high-tech, information age. If students can become knowledgeable in the use of computers, they can increase their marketability once they leave campus for the real world.

But the computer resource fee would only generate about \$500,000, leaving the University well short of the \$1 million needed to finance instructional computing. This discrepancy could be made up by charging a course fee when a student takes a computer course.

Other ways to raise the needed funds may also exist, and all possibilities should be considered before the computer resource fee is implemented.

THE 'LESSER OF TWO EVILS' DEFENSE



Letters

Constant conflict

Recent unrest in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for more than seven weeks has brought the Arab-Israeli conflict to the top of world attention in a way never seen since the conflict started at the beginning of this century.

The seeds of conflict are traceable to the rise of the Zionist congress held in Basel, Switzerland in 1897.

Mindless of the Palestinian people's immemorial roots in Palestine, with Muslims and Arab Christians constituting 92 percent of the total population, the European Jewish Zionists launched the slogan "A land without people for a people without land."

Zionist leaders pressured one world power after another to support their cause. Their pressure induced Britain in November 1917 to issue the Balfour Declaration, which

viewed with favor the establishment of a Jewish National home in Palestine. (Britain occupied many countries in the Middle East at that time, including Palestine.)

Palestine became the object of Zionist-Jewish colonization. From 1917-1947, immigration (mostly from Europe) raised the Jewish population from less than 8 percent to 33 percent of the total population.

Most of the Middle East and North Africa is a homeland for more than 150 million Arab-Muslims. The minority of Christians have the same history and the same culture.

Even while they are living under different governments, they aspire to be under one independent state with their own identity. Three million Jews in Israel, just in the middle of that area, regard themselves as chosen people. They also regard the area between the Nile River in Egypt and the Euphrates River in Iraq as their promised land.

I see the Arab-Israeli conflict as involving two main issues:

1. Israel doesn't belong to the Middle East because of its language, religion, culture and hostility.
2. Most of the world's five million Palestinians are living in refugee camps in Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. They are only seeking their identity and their homeland.

The solution to the conflict needs time and the world conscience.

Fouad Elgharabli
Landscape architecture

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Submit letters to Suite 300, EMU.

Non-coverage

Last week was rough for Reagan's beloved Contra rebels on the University campus. Two powerful speeches were given against further Contra aid. Congressman Peter DeFazio criticized Reagan's tactics to gain more Contra aid before a standing-room-only crowd. Two days later, Bill Davis of the Christic Institute spoke before more than 2,000 people about alleged crimes of the Contras and the shadowy figures who help them.

I was concerned to note that the Register-Guard, the local daily newspaper, gave no coverage whatsoever to DeFazio's speech, and gave only limited coverage to Davis' speech by virtually hiding the article on the back page of the classified section.

As a newcomer to Eugene I may not know some things about the local press. Perhaps the Register-Guard has a policy against setting foot on campus, or perhaps they kindly spare their readers of accounts of "liberal" events.

All publications are biased and all publications are free to exercise whatever editorial policy they choose. But for a major local paper to fail to cover events that are both timely and of international significance is worse than irresponsible.

Perhaps many people have come to expect such non-coverage from the Register-Guard. At any rate, I'm sure the reactionary right is delighted that the Register-Guard is protecting Eugene from such problematical views. And I'm sure that conservatives all across the nation can depend on such non-coverage to keep America in the dark about their causes and their candidates.

Tom Ribe
Graduate,

Environmental studies
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