

University needs sports lottery game

Despite objections from the National Football League, Sports Action - the Oregon lottery game based on point spreads of National Football League contests - will prove to be a good bet in the long run.

The sports lottery, the first of its kind, has earmarked proceeds to aid intercollegiate athletics in the state. While it was almost too late in coming, Sports Action is a needed step in the financing of college sports.

In the beginning, the NFL considered Sports Action a threat to professional football, claiming a betting game based on point spreads would lead to possible game fixing by players and coaches. This was a dubious complaint at best, considering no NFL teams exist in Oregon, and there is only one NFL team in the entire Pacific Northwest. As such, the NFL has since backed off on any lawsuits, as it threatened earlier in the summer.

Sports Action is a necessity for state institutions to remain competitive in the Pacific-10 and other conferences since Oregon is the only state in the nation that doesn't provide funds for college athletics through the state legislature. If not for Sports Action, the University and Oregon State, already pathetically last in the Pac-10 in quality sports facilities, would sink even lower.

University Athletic Director Bill Byrne and most coaches are particularly ecstatic over Sports Action. Although Sports Action may generate only \$5 million this year instead of the predicted \$8 million, Oregon still should receive between \$1.8 million and \$2 million this year.

An important aspect of Sports Action is that 70 percent of the funds will go for non-revenue sports and 50 percent of that money will go for women's sports. Currently the football and men's basketball teams, the only revenue sports, have to fund all of the other sports such as volleyball, golf and wrestling. Money from the football and basketball programs can then go to other things such as the completion of the Len Casanova complex, or building more skyboxes at Autzen Stadium.

Sales were slow during the game's opening week, but sales increased by more than 50 percent during the second week. Byrne feels that the game will continue to grow as more people become accustomed to Sports Action.

Sports Action is a very necessary step for college sports in this state. Funding for state sports is a procedure that the legislature should have taken up long ago. Hopefully Sports Action will be around for many years to come so that intercollegiate athletics in Oregon's state colleges will continue to exist.



GEORGE BUSH, SPORTING HIS ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD, ARRIVES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TO PLANT A TREE AND WARN ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF CLEAR-CUTTING.

Keep Hyland Plasma Center where it is

Once again it seems that the more affluent business people of Eugene are trying to hide or do away with what they call "undesirable" people.

The Hyland Plasma Center at 40 E. 10th Ave. is losing its lease. Less than a week after the Aug. 24 stabbing death of a center donor, the owner of the building, Daphne Walwyn, announced that she would not renew the Plasma Center's lease at the end of December. She claimed that the stabbing had nothing to do with her decision. This is unlikely.

Downtown business owners have increased their efforts to clean up the image around 10th and Willamette. The Plasma Center has been one of their main objections because they fear it scares away potential customers and new businesses from the area. The people the store owners are afraid of are the unemployed, homeless and transient. They don't even like teenagers on skateboards.

Discrimination has been on the rise the past few years, and these so-called "undesirables" are taking the brunt of it.

The Plasma Center is very important to many people in the area and serves two functions. First, it serves as a plasma collection agency. Many people need plasma each

day and the center helps to fill this need. With an average of 230 donors daily, the center is obviously serving a need in this community.

Second, the people who come to donate at the center usually are students, housewives, single mothers and homeless, who really need the money they earn from the center to survive. Donors can earn an average of \$100 a month from their donations and many use that money to feed their children and themselves.

So the Plasma Center's office space will be taken over by a store that will serve the needs of only a few members of the community, instead of leaving intact a program that serves people in a multitude of ways.

So where should these people go? The Eugene Plasma Corporation which is near the Hyland Center serves only 100 people a day. Although the Plasma Corp. says it can take on all the extra people, many donors say they will not go there.

Why replace a needed service with just another business? Aren't there enough trendy, fashionable stores in Eugene? Perhaps the owner of the building should consider the needs of the community as a whole instead of the those of the individual.

Letters

Stereotype

Once again the sororities exhibit their women, publicly behaving and dressing like cheering, short-skirted junior-high-school children. Sororities probably call this clean, getting-to-know-you fun. However, if Rape Crisis Network, Men Against Rape, or NOW (National Organization of Women) saw the drifters watching front-lawn cheerleading practices, or men actually running to look when sorority pledges blocked traffic, I think they would call it risky behavior.

Do sororities recognize that sorority-girl, little-girl and cheerleader stereotypes are staples of X-rated films and magazines that fuel exploitation of women? What is being "said" to the drifter who recognizes a woman he watched, later walking alone? Are they hearing, "If she says no, she can't mean

it?" Are they hearing, "She's just a dumb, helpless little thing?" Are victims being created?

Fun is fun, privately inside sorority houses; but outside them, perhaps costuming, trivializing and parading our women in a manner society regards as mindless titillation, should be reconsidered. Also, the looks on some of the women's faces seem to say it is humiliating (i.e., hazing) to publicly act 12 years old on one's first college days: another obstacle to

showing one's intelligence, being taken seriously, having self-confidence and real friendships.

The women of the Class of '93 have the highest-ever entering GPA. They are our future physicians, judges, congresswomen. They deserve to be respected by campus women of power like sorority leaders, and presented as persons of worth the moment they step on campus.

Patricia Lambert
Institute of Neuroscience

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

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