

Too many students, not enough classes

We've all experienced it at some time or another. The sense of frustration, anger and rage when the class you desperately need is closed by the time you get a chance to register for it.

The result is usually your name at the bottom of a waiting list as long as a phone book, with the chances of actually getting in the class roughly equal to winning the state lottery.

Not getting what you want is part of life, but the University's registration system brings it to a new extreme. Because of the arena-style registration process, administrators have virtually no idea of how many students want to take a particular class.

However, the archaic registration system is not the only reason for class shortages. Currently, there are more than 18,000 students at the University, many more than can be accommodated by the amount of classes.

There just aren't enough classes, professors and GTFs to go around. Professors are left with the unenviable task of teaching a class that is hopelessly overcrowded. The personal, one-on-one teaching method the University prides itself on is lost in a shuffle of logistics.

The Oregon State System of Higher Education has tried to cut down on the enrollment at the University, but this is only a partial solution. This drop in the student population must also be accompanied by hiring more staff and increasing the number of classes.

Some departments at the University have started pre-registration for what are expected to be the most popular courses. Pre-registration is a step in the right direction, but the process needs to be expanded for it to make inroads into the overall problem.

The major flaw in the current pre-registration system is not enough departments have it. And the ones that do, usually don't have it for all their classes.

Besides increasing the amount of classes and expanding the pre-registration system, we offer another suggestion. As long as arena registration is still used (as it will be until at least 1991), the University should have some way of knowing how many students will take a particular class.

Our idea is to have a survey for each term, held during the middle of the previous one. Students would list what classes they would want to take, giving registrars some idea of how many sections of each class they would need to offer.

A warning: Unless something is done, and soon, students could begin to leave the University in droves. Everybody likes the individual touch in education. Nobody wants to be a number or just another face in the crowd.



Freezing of funds sends a bad message

Not many people paid attention to it, or probably even saw it. It was over before it had any real impact, but the ASUO Executive's move during last Tuesday's Incidental Fee Committee meeting set a dangerous precedent for the Clark-Wyckoff administration.

Vice President Scott Wyckoff's announcement during the meeting that the ASUO Executive had frozen the funds of various student groups caught nearly everybody by surprise.

Wyckoff said a letter had been sent out on Aug. 25 to all the student groups with deficits in their 1988-89 budget. The letter explained why the funds were being frozen, and would continue to be frozen until a payment schedule could be arranged between the ASUO, the IFC and the student group.

It was a neat little bomb to drop during the first week of school. Considering most of the student groups affected were not active during the summer, it must of come as quite a shock to those organizations. Finding you don't have any money to operate is not the way to start off a school year.

We're not arguing the ASUO's right to freeze the funds. They have the right. But the way they went about doing it was dis-

tasteful. The executive should have made sure that every student group affected knew about the freeze immediately, so contingency plans could be drawn up. A letter was not the proper way to inform them.

The IFC's reaction — as could be expected — was one of outrage. Panel member Tonija Swires called the decision "too drastic" and criticized the ASUO for not informing the groups of the freeze more directly.

Swires also summed up the situation pretty effectively by saying the freeze creates bad feelings between the ASUO, IFC and student groups.

We agree.

Wyckoff contends the freeze was done for IFC's benefit, to keep them from having to assume the burden of the deficits. Whatever the intention, the freeze backfired. The IFC felt spurned, not grateful.

The freeze was lifted during the meeting, and funds were available to the student groups the next day. This does not excuse the ASUO's actions. It sends a bad message, one that the ASUO will meddle in student groups' affairs. Hopefully, it's an isolated incident and not an omen of things to come.

Letters

Check facts

Your Sept. 29 editorial and cartoon on GTFF salary negotiations were factually incorrect. You have a right to take sides on such issues but you have a responsibility to report accurately on such sensitive issues.

The University of Oregon that morning accepted the mediator's recommendations presented to negotiators Sept. 28 on a three percent per year salary increase and a payroll deduction plan for insurance. Timing of the response was set by the mediator. The GTFF rejected the mediator's proposals.

You reversed the two positions and also falsely portrayed President Myles Brand as deciding between spending money to renovate McMorrان House or of meeting GTFF demands.

The money to renovate McMorrان House was committed and spent last year before a search committee for a new

president was appointed, before Myles Brand ever submitted his application for the job and well before he decided to take a \$20,000 a year pay cut to accept the job offer.

McMorrان House is not only the president's home but all an official reception area used by him and others in hosting meetings, visiting dignitaries, elected officials and prospective donors. Its use is directly related to the president's job of raising money needed to raise university salaries, repair classrooms and support teaching and research activities.

As our own editorial said, hiring the best possible president and giving him the tools needed to do his job is an important investment in getting resources needed to serve students better.

Gaye Vandermyn
University News Bureau
Director
Assistant Vice President for
University Communications

Bye bye

Staple, staple, staple, staple. It went on like shingling a roof. When over, the floor was strewn with thumbtacks, the bulletin board was loaded with advertising "mail-in" cards, and my lecture was disturbed.

Stapler, strewer and disturber; be advised that your "mail-in" cards are all in the trash. Bulletin boards are places to inform people of activities, not places to be dominated by advertising.

William Loy
Geography

Respect

I am angry. The AT&T construction crew are using signs with abusive language. They say "men (sic) at work" and men (sic) working" (on an old tattered sign they must have just dug up.) IT's been years since I've seen such blatant

sexism in work site signs. They suggest the work is, will be, and always was "men's" work. This is wrong and a lie.

These sexist signs need to disappear. In their place we need sex-neutral signs. Let's

get with it AT&T. Today's world has women construction workers. Show them some respect in your work area signs.

Simon Thompson
Law Library

Correction

Tuesday's *Oregon Daily Emerald* incorrectly stated the Women's Center was sponsoring Create A Rape-Free Environment Week on campus this week.

The actual sponsor of CARE week is the Unwanted Sexual Attention Task Force. Task Force members include the ASUO, University Student Affairs Division, Office of the President, Men Against Rape, Office of Affirmative Action, Office of Business Affairs, Rape Crisis Network, Womenspace, Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, Office of Student Advocacy, Office of the Vice President for Administration, Office of Public Safety, Office of Multicultural Affairs, University Housing, Office of the Provost, Crime Prevention Association of Oregon, Eugene Police Benevolent Association, Lane County Crime Prevention Council, Eugene Commission on the Rights of Women, Springfield Police Officers Association, Project Safe Run, Athletic Department, Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs and Development, Center for the Study of Women in Society and the Women's Center.

The *Emerald* regrets any confusion due to this error.