

Band-aid solutions no help to athletics

Athletics have always played an important part in college life. But when budget deficits in the Athletic Department affect previously-made academic decisions, the situation is obviously serious.

The Athletic Department is facing a \$1.3 million dollar shortfall this year. In order to keep that deficit from growing, the University will enroll 300 more students than it had planned for 1990-91, increasing overall enrollment to 17,800.

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education voted June 14 to allow the University to lift its enrollment cap. The Athletic Department, which had formerly paid tuition for some of its athletes, can now waive those tuition fees completely. The loss to the University will be offset by the tuition paid by the 300 extra students.

The problem of tight budgets at the University is not new, nor will it go away as long as the State Legislature and higher education officials continue to permit band-aid solutions. The Sports Action lottery game did not generate the revenue for sports that advocates had hoped for. A proposed tax on alcohol and tobacco products to help fund college athletics was soundly defeated in the November 1988 general election.

Unfortunately, no real solutions are evident, although options range from the marginal to the ridiculous. One possibility is to separate the Sports Action funds from the general lottery revenue. Currently, money from the sports lottery is transferred if the general lottery falls short of its revenue requirement. Rep. David Dix (D-Eugene) said that the Sports Lottery would generate more money for athletics if it were detached from the general lottery.

Another possibility is to transfer funds from other programs into athletics. Finally, the University could drop out of the Pacific-10 Conference, although many consider this option unthinkable and unreasonable.

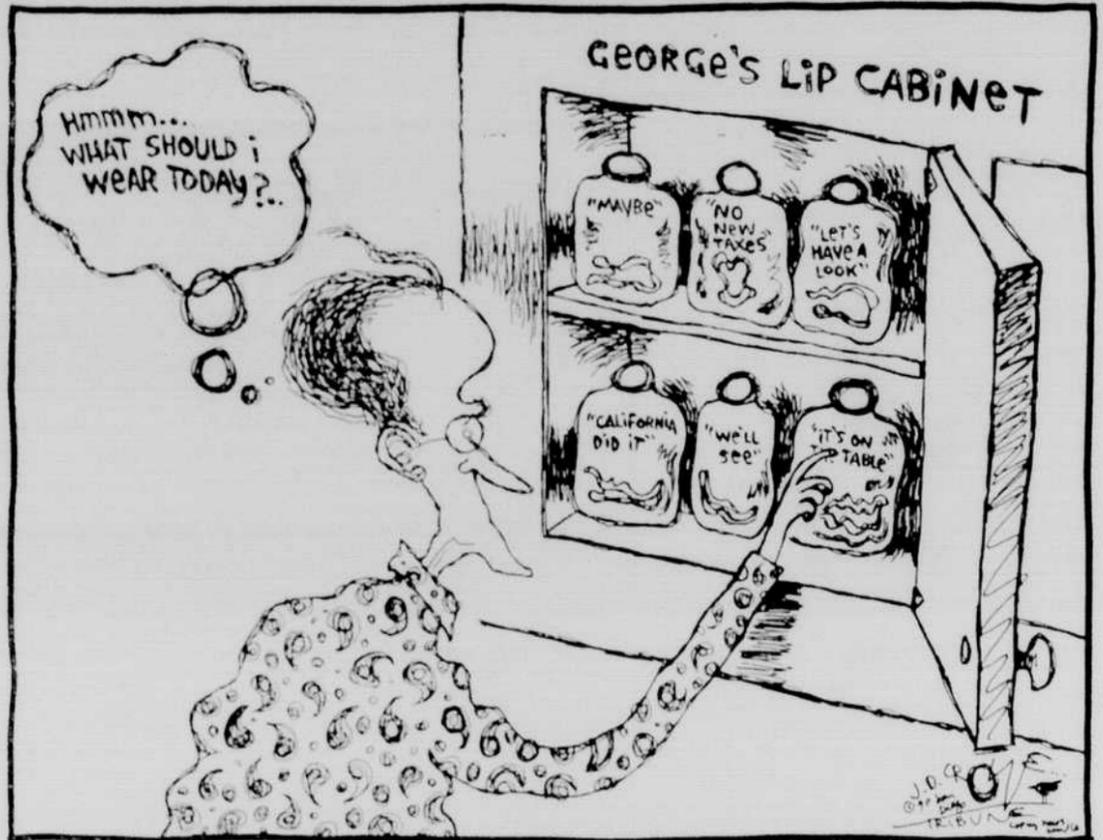
The only consensus among state and local officials is that raising the enrollment cap is a one-year, temporary solution.

"It was the best of a terrible set of choices facing state universities," said University President Myles Brand.

Higher Education Chancellor Thomas Bartlett added, "The question is, which is the lesser of some bad solutions?"

Perhaps Dan Williams, vice president for administration, said it best. "To solve one problem we are creating another."

Band-aids won't cure the athletic-funding problem. Only serious analysis and negotiations by concerned officials will.



Education president should repeal law

This weekend America's mayors urged Congress to repeal the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law because it unfairly reduces city-level services. However, student-lobbying groups have complained for years that federal financial aid programs are also unfairly targeted by Gramm-Rudman.

Under the law, automatic spending cuts take effect if the White House and Congress do not meet specific reductions. Too often however, the programs hardest hit by the automatic cuts are the ones with the most to offer.

Under President Reagan, Pell Grants and other financial aid programs were targeted for severe reductions through Gramm-Rudman. Only intense lobbying by student organizations and support from sympathetic representatives kept the administration from realizing its goals.

Gramm-Rudman merely provides an escape clause for Congress. Because of legislators' failure to propose a balanced budget, Gramm-Rudman acts as a safety valve and

all too often, social programs, including financial aid for students, are the first to suffer.

There are exemptions to the Gramm-Rudman law. Certain military projects and foreign aid appropriations are not affected by the automatic cuts. Evidently, representatives have identified these exemptions to placate their constituents and their PACs and so boost their chances for re-election.

George Bush says he wants to be the education president, but so far he hasn't shown us anything. Bush should repeal the Gramm-Rudman law and ensure Congress pays proper attention to education if he really wants to prove he supports the issue.

Bush has a lot more to do before he persuades us he is the education president. But that's hard to do when he spends his time on matters such as the constitutional amendment to ban flag-burning. Of course, the right to free speech includes the right to say nothing.

School paper

I am amazed at the amount of "Tell us what you think" advertising you used to promote a demographic survey that allowed a 1- by 5-inch space for comments. What an administrative farce.

I would like to suggest that you do a column-inch analysis of the past year's issues and compare the content for advertising, gay issues, and the other 200 University groups' activities.

The *Emerald* is not a national newspaper — it is a school publication — and is meant to serve the entire University community. At present, the *Emerald* seems to serve a very small (but highly vocal) portion of the community. I was unable to secure the number of GALA's membership, but I doubt it comprises a majority of the 16,000 to 18,000 students who attend the University of Oregon. By comparison, it re-

ceives at least 60 percent of the *ODE's* coverage (including GALA, gay and related issues). Where is the voice of all our other students?

Have you ever considered that if the quality of the *ODE* was to be raised sufficiently, advertising could be limited in space and retain its revenues (or exceed them)? I think it's worth consideration.

Another suggestion: To serve the University population by offering "dollar ads" every issue. There is no rule that says you must charge per line. Why not make it the rule to offer your closeted community the chance to reach each other for only one dollar? Advertise how many copies are printed and how many students and employees have access to the paper on campus — then let the students figure out the bargain. I bet you would increase ads and readers by the end of one year.

Not only does a student pa-

per need to highlight individual student groups and their activities, it needs to introduce the population to its faculty and courses. Each term there are new students, new classes and new opportunities that go unnoticed because no one knows about them.

There is an absolute abundance of material on campus if you would only see beyond a narrow "news" concept. This is where a community paper and a university paper separate — in content and in focus. Your job is not to serve the world, but to serve the University community.

Deborah Martin
Eugene

Flag Charade

So once again flag-burning has become a major campaign focus. My God, what has this country been reduced to? Anything but reality will do. As long as we have vaudevillian

exhibitionists pounding their chests on this flag charade why spoil the show with discussion of real issues? Things like getting to the bottom of the \$500 billion S&L scandal, homeless families, environmental problems, displaced workers, outrageous fraud and waste in military spending, regaining a competitive national economy, etc.

In my opinion, any leader with the integrity and courage to deal with the aforementioned issues is a true patriot, a true fighter for what the flag represents. Any political candidate who espouses the flag-burning issue as his or her sole focus without regard to other issues is a charlatan and a liar. Lest any stone be left unturned, there is only one thing that

bothers me more than the rabid lunatics who are proponents of this constitutional amendment. It's the sops, both Democrat and Republican, who hide under the rug crying because if they confront this legislation it might hurt their campaigns. Have some guts gang, confront it head-on, you might find being a real leader can be rewarding and enjoyable.

As citizens we can make a difference by saying no to nursery school hype and writing letters to political candidates demanding discussion of real issues. We can also make a difference by voting for real candidates, and voting the other political trash out of the office.

Gerry Rempel
Eugene

Letters Policy

The *Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.