

Emerald reviews ballot measures

The University's general elections will begin Wednesday and will run through Thursday. Following are the stances of the *Emerald's* editorial board on the ballot measures up for passage.

Ballot Measure 1 gets a go. The measure asks if students should pay a one-time 35-cent fee per student per term for one year to provide the \$15,286 necessary to buy Project Saferide a new van.

The fee, equal to one-and-a-half phone calls for pizza, is a miniscule amount to pay for a service that does a world of good. Saferide offers safe transportation on and around campus for female students, a necessary service for those concerned about women's safety issues. This year, Saferide denied five to 10 women rides nightly for lack of space.

On Measure 2, we voted for option B, which preserves students' right to obtain a refund of Lane Transit District bus service fees should they not use the service. Under option B, students would pay \$5.70 per term for LTD use; under option A, students would pay \$5.50 per term, but would lose the right to a refund. Keeping the right to a refund is worth 20 cents.

Ballot Measure 3 gets a go. The measure's passage would keep the University's chapter of OSPIRG alive, the statewide student organization devoted to environmental and consumer issues, voter registration, renter's rights, hunger relief and internships. The price is \$2.50 per student per term.

This watchdog organization is valuable to the University because it offers students an avenue for evaluation and change in a variety of areas. The range of issues the group addresses makes its existence a priority for everyone.

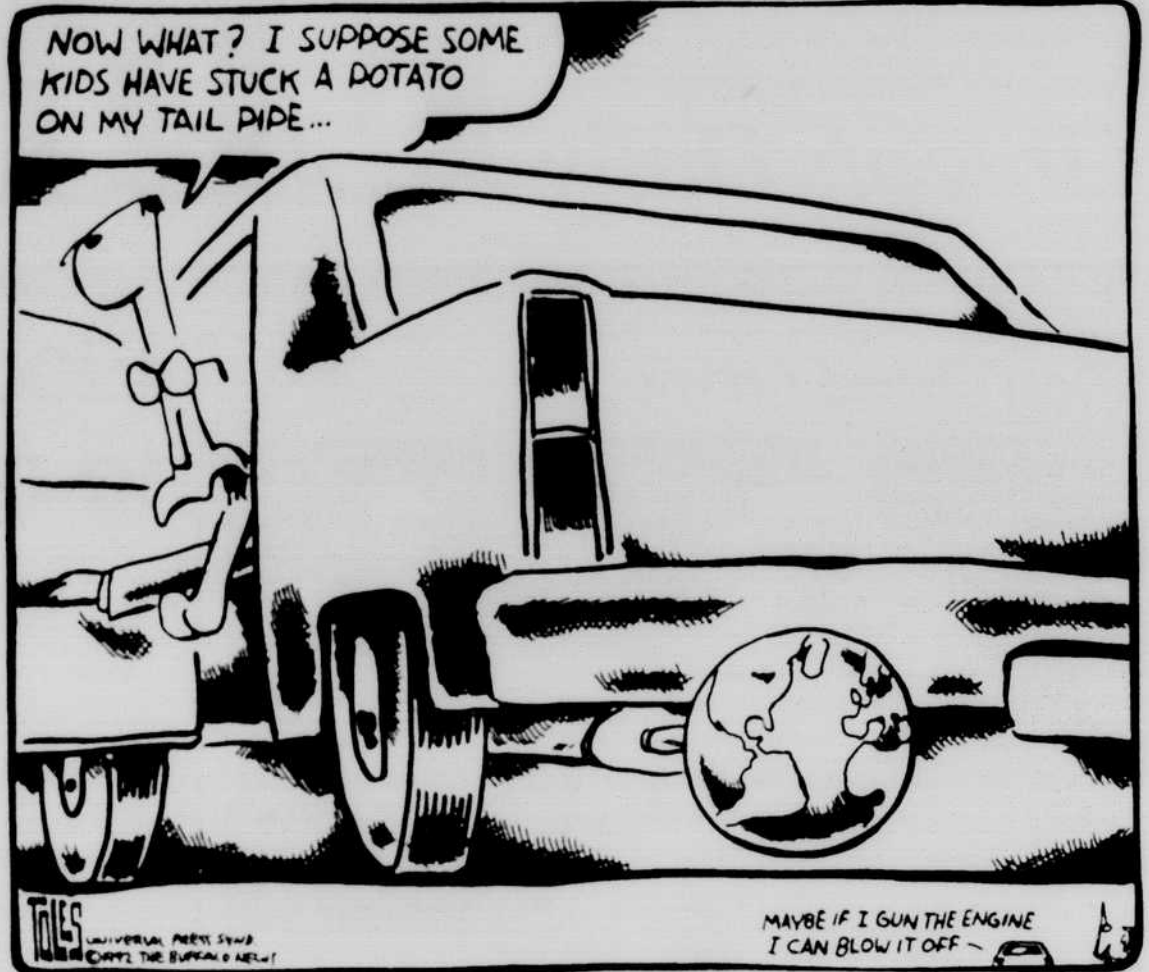
Measure 4 gets a no go. Passage would reduce IFC fees, which support programs including ASUO government, other student organizations, EMU operation and the athletic department, from \$103 paid per student per term to \$92.70.

Ten dollars, equal to a date at the movies, isn't a heck of a lot per student, but its accumulated absence could kill many of the programs the fees support.

Also, considering the money is used to fund many special University events, including various lectures, cutting the fees would eliminate a valuable educational source that adds color to the usual university experience. This is especially important now that many of our academic programs are getting the ax.

Finally, Measure 5 gets a no go as well. The measure would totally eliminate IFC fees, not precluding a voluntary system of program support. The reasons for our vote are consistent with Measure 4's vote.

Students — get out and vote. Only 13.1 percent of the student body voted in last week's primary elections. Whether you'll be here next year or not, it's worth your time. The measures, as well as the governmental candidates up for election, will shape not only next year's campus, but the University's future as a whole.



LETTERS

Stipends

How much of your student fees are going to pay stipends for student group leaders? If you listen to the rhetoric of former IFC candidates William Gaskill and Jerod Hume, and former ASUO presidential candidate Don King, you'd think cutting student stipends was the magic ticket to eliminating waste in student groups.

Spending by student groups reveals that only \$200,000 of a total IFC budget of \$4,697,669 is spent on stipends. That's 4 percent of the entire budget, hardly an abuse of student monies. There are far greater concerns about the accountability of millions of dollars in student fees going to athletics and the EMU.

Student group directors and government leaders are not abusing their stipends. Putting in 20-hour weeks and receiving from \$35 to \$125 a month shows a commitment to serving students. These student leaders go to meetings and bring you educational and entertaining events we take for granted. Some even hold second jobs.

For those who doubt they're getting their money's worth, consider the controversy surrounding Saferide this past year — a service most students support. With an IFC allocation of \$15,756 and 80 volunteers, Saferide is able to provide safety to more than 1,500 passengers each month.

If the Office of Public Safety were to provide the same service paying six salaries at \$20,000 plus benefits, the program would cost more than \$100,000. The same goes for numerous student-run programs that provide services at a fraction of the cost the University would pay. Stipends are clearly a bargain.

Troy Shields
Student

Proven

As a member of the Incidental Fee Committee, I have had the opportunity to weigh the

importance of limiting the burden of fees while still maintaining strong programs. This is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly, and for this reason it is important that students educate themselves before voting in the upcoming elections. One candidate for the IFC who has shown himself to be particularly capable for the job is Ed Carson.

As a reporter for the *Oregon Commentator*, Carson has attended nearly every IFC budget hearing, and has the insight required to make fair decisions that are in the best interest of all. He supports student groups and programs, and like myself, favors cutting the amount of student dollars going to the athletic department. Although he is affiliated with the right-of-center *Oregon Commentator*, he recognizes the importance of supporting diversity on campus. He has proven himself to be hard working, responsible and open minded.

I strongly urge you to vote for Carson for the Incidental Fee Committee.

Andy Harris
Political Science

Yes to fees

We are concerned about the focus on incidental fees. Students need to see the incredible benefit the incidental fees have provided to the quality of education on this campus. These funds support valuable student areas such as the EMU and well-used, needed student programs (including the Student Recycling Program).

It is important to realize the incidental fees fund programs that give students a voice in the University. To cut incidental fees means relinquishing the student voice and input on campus issues. The question is: Do students really want to give up their empowerment at a price of \$30 a year?

To cut incidental fees is a misguided effort at reducing the effects of Measure 5. The real crunch is in the tuition in-

crease, not in incidental fees. And what about next year — another tuition increase?

So remember, once you relinquish your rights, they're difficult to get back. Preserve the incidental fees, don't cut them.

Katherine Luscher
Student Recycling Program

Voluntary fees

I support the voluntary-fee measure. The ASUO should not be able to add \$103 a term to our tuition. Most of the things we are forced to pay for are voluntary elsewhere.

University of Washington students have an optional, student-priced season ticket for football and basketball. We are forced to buy one at \$27 a term.

UW students can choose to buy a discounted city bus pass, and if they do, part of the money goes to their version of Saferide. We have to buy a pass, and it doesn't support Saferide.

When UW students register, they choose whether to support groups like OSPIRG through a check-off system. If they do, money is added to their tuition. We have to become members of OSPIRG in order to take classes.

The EMU could run without forcing students to pay \$40 a term. We could privatize it — have companies and individuals pay us for the right to sell food, run the front desk store, etc. The cafeteria would then have to provide edible food or go out of business.

ASUO could put together a package of essential services — intramural sports, the Black Student Union, etc. Students could choose to buy an ASUO membership and participate in these programs, or choose not to and still go to classes.

With a voluntary system, the ASUO would have an incentive to provide services efficiently and keep fees low. And students would choose which group(s) they want to support.

Rhonda Whitney
History

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