

# IFC spending binge will hurt students

The Incidental Fee Committee is deciding next year's budget. IFC members are currently deliberating over which groups should receive increased funding and which groups should receive less. Once the money is delegated, the IFC will decide how much students will have to pay next year in student fees.

Hold on to your pocketbooks.

The IFC is spending next year's money at an unbelievable clip. Of the 19 groups that have come before the committee, 14 received increases, three stayed the same, one received a decrease and one was funded for the first time. The group with the declining budget, campus radio station KWVA, actually asked for the cut.

The meetings of Feb. 15 and Feb. 18 produced seven budget increases. As a whole, the nine groups at the meeting received 18.7 percent more than last year, an increase of almost \$27,000.

That's real money. It comes out of real student bank accounts. And despite the fact that the majority of University students don't belong to any of these groups, they will be paying more for the groups' existence.

That's not to say some groups on this campus don't deserve an increase. Students for Equal Access, for instance, received a 485 percent raise for its work with disabled students. Although 485 percent may seem extreme, this year the group received only \$100 — in other words, it was a substantial increase percentage-wise more than money-wise. The group is deserving because it's using the money for a good cause.

The problem is that nearly every group on campus has an argument for more money. And the IFC isn't deciding among them — it's granting increases to nearly every group. The committee has a responsibility to University students to manage their money with skill and energy. Each budget must be discussed and debated rationally.

In other words, the IFC shouldn't blindly hand money to every group that comes along. The Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance received a 300 percent increase — \$15,000 in real terms. Though the group may be responsible with the increase, can the IFC justify spending that much money on an organization that represents only a small segment of students?

Diversity, of course, is the IFC argument. The more money various student groups receive, the more they can promote a multicultural community. But what can an organization like the *Oregon Commentator* expect? Its viewpoint is different, especially at this University. Will the IFC give it an increase comparable to the *Student Insurgent's* 80 percent increase? Probably not, because the *Commentator* doesn't necessarily represent the opinions of IFC members, Ed Carson excepted.

Simply put, the IFC isn't proving itself competent to handle student funds. It would be nice if everyone could get more money, but it isn't realistic. The committee can't simply wait until the EMU or the athletic department comes up to make its cuts, though it probably will.

So far, the IFC has been a runaway train — a crazed consumer with no credit limit. It will have to come down to Earth some time. Unfortunately, the students will end up suffering.



## LETTERS

### Nickel and dime

I applaud charging for class schedules, really. It's about time the University finally gave that handkerchief one more fold and wrenching twist to get those last few drops of sweat wiped from the students' brows.

Oh boy, oh boy, I'm so excited; we're finally on the road to covering costs to build the University. Personally, I think there's much more we, as students, can do to cover the University's butt-dget.

I'd like to share a few proposals to improve this campus.

First, Duck Call is a luxury we all take for granted. Go ahead University, make it a 900 number. Hey, \$2 for the first minute, 60 cents for each minute thereafter. This will cover the cost of having so many phone lines. Come on ... do it.

Sporting event tickets ... no telling how many of these are taken for granted. We all take three or four during the week for our forgetful friends, ending up with 12 tickets per household. Fifty cents will do the trick. That'll cover printing costs.

Charge for parking during Finals Week. ... Oh wait, you already got that one. Sorry.

How about a sales tax exclusively on the campus — say 7.4 percent. That'll help with overhead.

The *Emerald* should cost a quarter, too.

These are only a few suggestions. Hopefully they help. Get us careless students to realize the gravity of matters we take for granted. After all, \$907 a term is just not enough.

Nickel and dime us, University. Bring it on.

Billy Peffley  
Psychology

### Diversity?

While being affiliated with the *Oregon Commentator*, I have encountered many people who believe I am racist, sexist and/or homophobic. They are wrong; I am not. Currently I am responsible for what is printed in the

*Commentator* and I wish to dispute a few charges that have been flung upon us.

Being blamed for all the ills of humanity is the consequence of being critical of student government. Anyone who disagrees with the agenda set forth by political dialogues on this campus is automatically considered to be racist, sexist, homophobic and highly intolerant toward the opinions of others. None of this really bothers me or my staff; it appears to be the proper environment for open-minded rational debate in today's universities.

What does bother me though is lying. Barbara Rodgers lied in her letter "Carson no joke" (*ODE*, Feb. 10). The *Commentator* has never published an article titled "RamRod." Her claim that such an article exists is a blatant attempt to smear the credibility of the *Commentator*. For those who buy into the stereotype that the *Commentator* is nothing more than a Nazi propaganda rag, I suggest you read it. Then, if you believe the *Commentator* is dangerous for this campus, I suggest you recycle it.

If students cannot handle opinions critical of their own, they should not be in a university. Tolerate dissent, honor diversity. We're not going away, and we're not going to get along.

Owen Brennan Rounds  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Oregon Commentator*

### Bad logic

Tammy Batey's article, "Coercive rapist faces truth" (*ODE*, Feb. 12), was a mistaken redefining of the term "rape." In the article, Batey interviewed a man who claimed he repeatedly urged his girlfriend to have sex with him. She finally said, "OK." Because of this, this man now feels he is a rapist. That is the "truth," according to the title given to the article.

I almost felt like a kidnapper. Last week I asked my fiancée to go to the coast. She really didn't

want to, but after my repeated urging, she said, "OK." Following the logic in the article, although this is not Oregon law, I kidnapped her.

Thankfully, she assured me I was not a kidnapper.

John Dezzani  
Law

### Good job

I'd like to commend the business and civic leaders of Albany, Cottage Grove and Junction City who stood up in opposition to the Oregon Citizens Alliance's promotion of bigotry in their respective towns.

The Junction City Chamber of Commerce advised its town's mayor and City Council that the OCA's plan to legislate discrimination would be "detrimental to business."

City councils in Albany and Cottage Grove also resolved to oppose OCA plans for their towns. The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce emphatically decried the OCA's dumping dissension in its community.

All of these civic leaders recognize that bigotry is more than just "bad for business;" it's bad for the very soul of their towns. When peace and goodwill are encouraged between citizens, towns thrive spiritually and emotionally. But when suspicion, self-righteousness and intolerance sneak in, communities stumble.

It's been an inspiration to witness these leaders put their communities first. They stood in united opposition to the OCA's plan to have others pay the economic and social bill, a price that would have surely been paid for with OCA greed and political ambition. But instead, these leaders sent a clear, strong message to the OCA: "Not in our towns you won't!"

Good for each and every one of you. May the other towns on the OCA's hit list follow your fine examples.

Carol Berg  
Eugene

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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