

**LETTERS**

**Who needs to get paid?**

When the University experienced its first round of Measure 5 cuts, a couple thousand students had to quit school because they couldn't afford, or were unwilling to pay, the extra \$300. Now, as the state Legislature contemplates another 20 percent tuition increase, the Incidental Fee Committee is going mad with next year's budget.

Of the first 19 groups to be reviewed, 14 received increases, all nicely justified by the Future Bankrobbing Bureaucrats of America (i.e. IFC members). Now the *Oregon Commentator* has been denied its request for extra funding. Why? The IFC justifies its actions because the *Commentator* doesn't pay its staff, which supposedly impedes some people's ability to contribute to the journal.

This is madness. Since when must people be paid to express their opinions? We know from experience that universities are able to maintain a number of diverse groups without stipends for volunteers and group members. At Southern Oregon State College, student senators and reporters on the school paper receive credits only.

Members of student organizations participate because they want to, not because they could get a stipend. The same is true at Arizona State University. The incidental fees at these schools? About \$20 — a far cry from the current highway robbery administered by the IFC. Paying "volunteers" for their work is not only a gross contradiction in terms, it can effectively eliminate many students from even being able to participate in the education process by inflating fees and raising the cost of getting an education at the University.

The *Commentator* should be commended for its policies. All other activities on campus, if they have any conscience or sense of fairness to others, should follow the lead.

**Dan Carothers**  
Physics

**Drawing attention**

I'd like to draw people's attention to a number of mistakes or misinterpretations in the Feb. 19 edition of the *Emerald* concerning the Incidental Fee Committee's increased budget allocations.

First, Lydia Lerma, not Steve Masat, proposed the amendment to earmark additional funds to the *Student Insurgent* for a multicultural newsletter. Please note this amendment passed with no opposition.

Second, Masat's involvement with the *Student Insurgent* was a one-time activity in December 1992. The instance in which he did participate in the *Insurgent's* activities was for the purpose of observing layout procedures. It is the editor's practice to include the names of all people who had a hand in creating the newspa-

per, including those who simply put glue on a piece of paper.

Third, the *Insurgent* had in fact initially requested a multicultural newsletter. In the interest of the University's commitment to promoting diversity, the board questioned why plans for the newsletter had been cut from the revised budget; it is this that initiated the amendment for additional funds, not special interests as the article implies.

I am quite concerned with the manner in which the IFC and the *Student Insurgent* are represented in this article. The article harbors accusing overtones to the effect of special interests on behalf of IFC members, particularly Masat — ideas that are erroneously-based to begin with.

Also, the *Oregon Commentator* was granted a budget increase (38 percent), but did not receive the entire \$11,000 it requested.

**Natasha Latta**  
Reporter  
*Student Insurgent*

**Room for all in jail**

The Feb. 18 *Emerald*, page 4, proclaimed in a headline: "County jail will turn felons away if levy doesn't pass, sheriff says."

The article said: "At least 33 criminals would be turned back into the streets from the Lane County jail daily if voters turn down a \$5.8 million per-year law enforcement levy, a county official said this week."

Section C, page 1 of the Feb. 23 *Register-Guard* cried: "Two charged with raiding city meters," but later said "the men were released under a program designed to free jail space for those charged with more serious crimes."

In the same issue, a headline said: "Burglar gets eight years for violating probation," yet the article said "... after serving 279 days, he was released under a system devised to meet a federal judge's order to reduce jail overcrowding."

What common purpose do these three examples have? Voters, on March 9 it's time to refill the public mammary gland. The county jail will stay the same size regardless of whether the three-year tax levy passes. Currently there are eight cells for each inmate. Check it out citizens, these "reporters" didn't. Who was it that stated something about the bigger the lie the easier the masses will swallow it?

**William Amlin**  
Creswell

**Bible cautions condemners**

Sean McGrath (*ODE*, Feb. 25) directs "... people who think that it is OK to be homosexual ..." to Leviticus

20:13. That is a good idea for a start. But he shouldn't pluck that single verse without reading the whole chapter of Leviticus 20. Also, he should study the historical and cultural context of this part of the "holiness code." He needs to use his God-given critical faculties when he does this reading.

He'll discover this verse has nothing to do with homosexual sexual orientation. It is aimed at those who worshiped the pagan god Baal at that time. They were heterosexuals and believed that behavior described in this chapter of Leviticus would benefit the fertility of their lands and produce abundant crops.

People who read the Bible to find justification for their biases and prejudices should be careful. The Bible contains many condemnations of those who judge and are self-righteous. Remember, reading the Bible, as a Christian, should make us more Christ-like. We shouldn't become self-satisfied determiners of God's truth.

**Jacob Veldhuisen**  
Eugene

**Pesticides pollute water**

With all the recent outcry over pesticides and water quality, you might be wondering how safe your own water is. Pesticides and other hazardous chemicals are too minute to be easily detectable without careful and expensive chemical tests.

The shocking thing is that our sewage treatment facilities are only capable of removing 50 percent to 70 percent of all nitrates and toxic metals, and they remove almost no pesticides. The good news is Eugene currently has one of the cleanest water sources around.

"K," you say. "Then why worry?"

The answer is because once pollutants reach the groundwater they are virtually impossible to clean up. These water sources are renewed very slowly, and it may take centuries to filter out contaminants. With some of these contaminants it only takes a few parts per million to cause cancer and birth defects.

There are many ways we can each have an impact upon our environment. Read labels, ask questions and listen to what people are saying. The University offers several courses in environmental studies. Around the community, there are several organizations involved in the issue, such as EWEB, the 4-H extension service and Ace Hardware — all of which provide some environmental alternatives.

In addition, people should get involved in our government. OSPIRC is lobbying in Salem on March 3. It has a bill before the Legislature aimed directly at water contamination. The bill focuses on the citizens' right to know about pesticide use; it works to improve cleanup programs and help prevent future contamination.

**Laurel C. Coberly**  
Biology



University Theatre  
Second Season Presents

**T\*bone 'n Weasel**

A comedy by **Jon Klein**

Join two ex-convicts on a rollicking adventure as they struggle against corruption and racial injustice.

**February 24, 25, 26, 27**  
**March 4, 5, 6**

**ARENA THEATER**  
Villard Hall  
University of Oregon  
346-4191

**TAX WORKSHOP**  
for  
**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND FACULTY**  
Preparation of U.S. Tax Returns for Oregon Income Taxes

**Wednesday, March 3, 1993**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm**  
**EMU Fir Room**

Resource People: Susan Gary, Tax Attorney  
Ginny Stark, International Student Adviser  
Ennis Wuite, Certified Public Accountant  
Tina Zamora, UO Accounting Graduate

**Oregon tax forms, information sheets and instruction booklets will be provided**

Participants should bring with them their W-2 forms, December 31 paycheck stubs, and other documents needed to help them complete their state tax forms.

Sponsored by the Office of International Education and Exchange, Graduate School and GTF Federation.

**For more information, call 346-3206**