

# Athletic department doesn't deserve cut

The Incidental Fee Committee's decision to cut \$35,000 from the athletic department's \$1.04 million budget last Thursday was an irresponsible response to rising student fees.

The athletic department uses the money to pay for student seating at home sporting events. Currently, students must pay a mandatory fee of \$22 per term for the right to attend every sporting event on campus. The seating is heavily discounted from the public rates and is among the best in the Pac-10.

Because of the IFC's announced cut — the fourth in five years — the athletic department has threatened to take away either Section 9 at Autzen Stadium (at about the 30-yard line) or the courtside section across from the benches at McArthur Court. The department would then sell those seats to donors to make up the \$35,000.

There are two points to be made here. First, the IFC's decision affected many more students than most IFC decisions do, and therefore should have been voted on by the student body. Instead, five IFC members, who were elected by about 500 people apiece, were allowed to cut money from a program supported by the nearly 4,000 students who attend each football game, and the many others who watch basketball and other sports.

And while most students likely grumble about paying constantly rising student fees for groups they never encounter, many of those same students will cry even louder if they learn the athletic department, a group they actually don't mind paying for, no longer receives as much money.

This leads to the second point. Should the athletic department have the right to take away good student seating such as Section 9 at Autzen rather than the marginal, rarely filled seating of Section 5? After all, it wouldn't take too many regularly priced tickets to make up \$35,000.

The answer is that the athletic department has the prerogative to be as money-hungry as it wants. It already gives students a huge discount for excellent seating at sporting events. If it charged full market value for those seats, the department estimated it could make about \$225,000 more next year.

The department has no reason to continue to be generous with a student body that continually cuts its budget. The department already runs a \$1 million deficit. If opening up Section 9 to donors is a smarter business decision — which it is — it shouldn't shy away from making that decision based solely on student complaints. Remember, the athletic department is getting \$3 less per student than in 1987. Meanwhile, salaries, ticket prices and fees have all gone up.

If the decision to cut the \$35,000 stands, the athletic department should forget cutting the McArthur Court seats. They are too valuable to both students and the basketball teams. The athletic department should recognize that players feed off the crowd's energy, and no crowd is more energetic than the students in the west-side seats.

As for giving Section 9 to donors, it wouldn't be a huge loss and is therefore a better option. After all, there are no bad seats at Autzen. And many people who attend football games go to meet friends and drink.



## LETTERS

### Fuming

The letter by John L. Poppin that was published in the April 30 *Emerald* needs some perspective.

What is funny about this letter is that I identify with much of what is said until I come upon the parts mentioning cigarette smoke and smokers specifically. I am surprised that cigarette smoke is the whole subject that this choked person expounds on.

What about diesel? Don't diesel fumes do anything to you? Diesel fumes are tremendously vile and disruptive to every natural organ and system of the body, and diesel is not even intended for human consumption!

And you must know how regular diesel frequents our fresh campus air. I smell it, inhale it every single day against my will. Try to encourage a diesel-consuming vehicle to quit with the fumes. Not a chance.

Poppin mentions cancer, providing the cigarette appellation cancer stick. And I call these bigger spewers "cancer mobiles."

I find the "Choked" letter to be a weak and insufficient attempt to place blame. You should know that you are probably inhaling something carcinogenic from the outdoor environment, whether you see blatant smoke or not.

Jennifer Kamau  
Pre-Journalism

### Open Hands

As long as helpful resources are being printed in the *Emerald*, please allow me to mention *Open Hands*, a quarterly publication from the Reconciling Congregation Program of the United Methodist Church. *Open Hands* is a resource for congregations and individuals seeking to be in ministry with lesbian, bisexual and gay people.

Each issue of *Open Hands* focuses on a specific area of concern within the church. The articles are written by contemporary theologians such as

Robert MacAfee Brown, William Sloane and Mary Jo Osterman, as well as by persons who experience the daily discrimination within the church because of their sexual orientation. The articles are faith-based, informative and supportive of persons who are working to affirm both their Christian faith and sexual orientation.

*Open Hands* is available by writing to 3801 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago, IL 60641, or by stopping at the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry office. It is an important resource for Christians who desire an open and inclusive church.

The Rev. Janet Cromwell  
Wesley Foundation Campus  
Ministry

### Cost of lunch

Yes, I am also frustrated with fee hikes. Particularly when I feel the majority of administrators and instructors maintain an institutionalized curriculum of racist, sexist, ageist, religionist and Euro-centric material.

It is for this reason I voted for the Multicultural Center. A fee of \$2.75 per student per term for one year is about the price of a cafe latte and muffin. It's sad some students do not understand the need for multicultural, diverse awareness not only on campus but off as well.

The argument against the Multicultural Center maintains there are already student unions for multicultural students. A Multicultural Center would be redundant.

Yet a Multicultural Center would be for everyone. It is important each student ethnic group has its own union in order to support each other, but a Multicultural Center would have taken another step and

been a place for communication and education for all.

It's bewildering that many "white" students believe "multiculturalism" is only for those of a particular ethnic group and not for them. They fail to understand they can benefit. As a "white" (Jewish) woman, I find inspiration in learning about, and being with, people from other ethnic groups.

Celebrate diversity. Obviously not for the price of one lunch.

Regan Lee  
English/Ethnic Studies

### Drinking greeks

I'm writing in regards to Jake Berg's article about the greeks' alcohol policy (*ODE*, April 27) and the editorial that followed (*ODE*, April 29). Let me ask you one question; where did your information come from?

First of all, the policy described by Berg in his article wasn't even the policy that was presented to the Student Conduct Committee. Berg talked about greek ID cards, checking of IDs by security guards and various other things that were not even in the proposed policy.

Secondly, the *Emerald's* editorial, which appeared two days later, talked about how the greek system should include alcohol education in its current policy. Well, that's a great idea, but your one flaw is that it's already in the policy.

To be perfectly frank, the *Emerald* looked at two pages of a 14-page social policy and based its opinion on that. Next time, I would appreciate it if you read the entire policy before you decide to voice your opinions. Thank you.

Melinda Bessner  
Student Conduct Committee

## LETTERS POLICY

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

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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