

## CUTS

Continued from Page 2

tained a student presence in the executive staff meetings of the department. Nor am I aware of the *Emerald's* participation in making tough decisions about how many tickets to buy.

The office of the ASUO Finance Coordinator maintained two staff members assigned to the athletic department. For most of the year they attended executive staff meetings at the Casanova Center.

These staff members collected and carefully analyzed information with regard to student attendance at games and student

interest in the games. As a result, sincere and productive dialogue between the athletic department and the ASUO Executive has been conscientiously maintained this year.

Senior Associate Athletic Director Sandy Walton indicated the minimum the department could get gross out of section five is \$35,000. Therefore, we have offered the department a way to replace at least \$35,000 and potentially \$157,500. It should be noted here that the student government has been pro-active in trying to keep student fees low and athletic department funding at necessary levels.

Shortly after approving the

decrease in fee funding, students called a meeting in University President Myles Brand's office in an effort to be part of the solution, not a cause of the problem.

Students have been eminently responsible in trying to assure that students are able to attend games in quality seats. Students have not requested seating on the 50-yard line, as students University of California at Berkeley have. The ASUO has simply requested to purchase the tickets that we use. To take more than \$100,000 to \$200,000 worth of seats as a result of a \$35,000 cut is unfair and students should not stand for it.

**As for the assertion that the IFC should not be making decisions affecting large numbers of students and that such questions should be put to a vote: Welcome to the world of representative democracy. Get used to it.**

Rather than pressuring student government to purchase tickets we don't need, the *Emerald* should be pressuring the athletic department to maintain quality seating at a good price. Students have provided funding, labor and patronage for ath-

letics at the University for many years. But it is our money that we are spending. We should insist we get what we want for the dollars we spend.

*Neil Sunnell is the ASUO finance coordinator.*

## SEATS

Continued from Page 2

tions. The athletic department has been striving to maintain the spirit of the student vote of 1987-88.

Right now, the students at the University have some of the best seating for basketball and football in the Pacific-10 Conference. Basketball seating is excellent in location as well as numbers, comprising 35 percent of the total seats available. Football seating reaches from the 30-yard line to the goal on the west side and totals 15 percent of the seating.

The athletic department realizes that student attendance has recently declined, particularly in men's basketball, but it will increase again. Fans saw a preview this year of the excitement Jerry Green's teams will return to "The Pit." Attendance at football games declined sharply for the first two games last year, which were held prior to fall registration, then rose appreciably.

The total student attendance was still down significantly, as was public attendance. The athletic department firmly believes with fewer home games on the schedule for next year, football attendance will rise again. But even with low-

er attendance, athletics is still the activity most participated in by students as student-athletes and/or as spectators. The IFC and ASUO need to think carefully and consult students before endangering the best seating the students have.

The profits generated by football and men's basketball cannot provide sufficient monies to support all the other sports sponsored. The internationally prominent Oregon track programs for both men and women do not even begin to support themselves. Funded at a level that allows national competition, they currently spend more than \$700,000 between them, but have gate receipts of less than \$40,000.

Women's volleyball and basketball are also funded for national level competition, but have gate receipts of less than \$20,000 between them. All other sports are funded at slightly lower but competitive levels, and have comparably low income for self-support.

Membership in the Pac-10 Conference, in addition to premier academic affiliation and athletic competition, has provided between \$1.5 and \$2.3 million in annual revenue sharing. Oregon cannot drop any more programs and remain in the Pac-10.

**The IFC and ASUO need to think carefully and consult students before endangering the best seating the students have.**

The athletic department has been very patient, generous and understanding of the financial problems faced by students in negotiations with the IFC and ASUO for many years. However, the IFC and the ASUO have also been warned for the past two or three years that athletics cannot continually face budget cuts without doing what is necessary to recoup accumulated losses. We only have one product to sell: tickets.

With yet another budget cut, the athletic department would need to take back those seats from which it can realize the most revenue. The offer by the IFC and ASUO to give back Section 5 in Autzen Stadium was refused. Section 5 is a general admission section, and with a five-game home schedule, by selling 50 per-

cent of those seats, which is an overly optimistic estimate of sales, only \$30,500 would be recovered.

Athletics suggested taking back the west court side seats in McArthur Court (and adding back all of sections X and Y) because it can realize the most return in the shortest amount of time from the least amount of people. Even if it sells only 25 percent of these seats to "new" ticket buyers and fills the rest with donors who merely transfer their seats, athletics can realize an additional \$72,252. To do this would be an excellent business decision.

However, athletics involves more than just business. Without students, there would not be a university, much less an athletic department. The department feels a strong commitment to providing the best possible seating at the best possible price.

The athletic department does not want to relocate student seating, but as it is required to balance its budget, and is faced with ever-decreasing dollars and rising costs, there may be no choice. And once seats are sold to donors, they cannot be given back to students.

*Sandy Walton is senior associate athletic director at the University.*

## LETTERS

### Next time, plan ahead

I must have been off campus when EMU-frequenting females were asked to conveniently stop menstruating. It stands to reason, then, that uninformed women should have to go to the main desk to receive feminine oddities such as tampons. Being in such low demand, why not make 'em hard to get?

Actually, it's fun to visit the main desk store for my tampon needs when I'm in a jam. I like risking unneces-

sary accidents by going out of my way. And I love being looked at like I've just wet myself each time I arrive at the counter with my supplies in a store full of males who, God bless 'em, have never menstruated.

I'm an outgoing person, but even so I find myself whispering to the nearest female cashier, hiding my purchase and leaving the store red-faced.

Strangely, when I first learned of the EMU tampon system, I was not thrilled. In fact, I was so irritated that when I finally arrived at the lovely main desk after visit-

ing six restrooms, I had to keep my hand over my mouth to keep from yelling, "All I want is a tampon" — if it were condoms I needed in the bathroom, I could really knock myself out.

I've got to control my female irrationality. After all, I'm probably the only person complaining. If toilet paper was only available at the main desk, we'd all just learn to deal with it too, right?

*Colleen Crabtree  
Theater Arts*

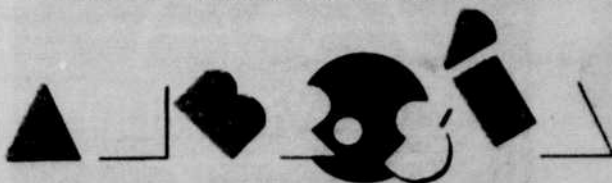
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