

# Good compromise for ticket dilemma

Both student government and the athletic department deserve praise for settling the student ticket controversy.

Either side could have retreated to a corner and complained about their misfortunes — the athletic department about losing another \$35,000 from its budget, the student government about losing valuable student seating at football and basketball games. But to their credit, they negotiated a settlement that makes sense for just about everyone.

According to the agreement, the athletic department will take a \$75,000 cut from its \$1.04 million incidental fee allocation. In return, students will have to pay \$2 for each football and men's basketball ticket they pick up, but they will not lose section 9 of Autzen Stadium or the west courtside seats at MacArthur Court.

In the long run, the athletic department should more than make up the \$75,000 it loses from incidental fees, provided student attendance increases. Neil Sunnell, ASUO finance coordinator, said the athletic department could gain \$99,000 in additional revenue if all tickets are sold. The department has to be pleased with that alternative.

In addition, the settlement gives the department incentive to market an enjoyable product and provide competitive teams. If officials want a full stadium, they're going to have to earn it. That's the way it should be.

On the student government side, Sunnell and ASUO President Bobby Lee deserve credit for saving the student seats. They understood the value of good Mac Court seats to the student majority (especially if Jerry Green's rebuilding project takes off) and developed a realistic solution to the problem — charge students who actually go to the games.

They also didn't tamper too much with the intention of the original 1987 student vote, which was to fund non-revenue sports at the University. That's always been the rationale behind paying \$22 per student per term to the athletic department; student tickets were considered fringe benefits. Now students who want tickets only have to pay a small fee, and people who don't use the tickets will be aiding a wide-variety of athletic activities with their funds — which most of these students should feel comfortable with. And if they don't, that's a complaint with the entire incidental fee system, not the athletic department.

The only loser with the compromise may be hard-core sports fans who attend nearly every game. The \$1.56 they save every term in incidental fees cannot make up the \$20 or \$30 they may spend to attend football and basketball games. But before these students complain, they should realize that if they were charged general admission prices for every event, it would add up to a lot more than \$66, which is what they paid the athletic department this year.

Although the *Emerald* criticized the IFC on May 4 for the method it chose to cut the department's budget, student government salvaged a bad situation with a good compromise. Leaders on both sides deserve praise.



**LETTERS**

**Keep out**

It was with great concern that I read the account of students' unauthorized exploration of the University's utility tunnels as reported in the May 10 *Emerald*.

David Zartman's "a'mazing adventure" in the tunnels could have resulted in tragedy for him and his companions.

The tunnels contain high-voltage lines, asbestos covered pipes, protruding objects (many at head level), super-heated steam and many tripping hazards. At best, the tunnels are dimly lit.

For safety's sake, Physical Plant employees, and others authorized to work in the tunnels, are required to wear a hard hat, may never enter a tunnel alone and receive training in confined space entry, etc.

Students entering any portion of the tunnel system, unless they are accompanied by a Physical Plant or authorized University employee, are in violation of the student conduct code. Unauthorized entry into these secured areas is the same as breaking into a locked building or room anywhere else on campus.

For the curious, the Physical Plant offers conducted tours of a representative section of the three mile system of tunnels. For information on tours, contact the Physical Plant at 346-5243.

I want very much to be sure that we will never find an injured "explorer" in our tunnel system, and would request that the campus community work with me to ensure that this does not happen. As Zartman said, the tunnels are interesting. They are also dangerous.

**George Hecht**  
Physical Plant director

**Odd or even?**

A week ago someone wrote a letter to the editor complaining about the cigarette smoke when walking outside on campus. It seems that he believed that the right to breath clean air had been taken away.

A few days later, someone else wrote in saying that smokers

should be able to smoke anywhere they want. I guess that this person believed that his rights were being threatened.

I have devised the solution to this dilemma. We should make every other day a non-smoking day on campus. That way one day the smokers can infringe on the non-smokers' rights. Then on the other day, the non-smokers can infringe on the smokers' rights.

**Clayton Horste**  
Physics/Math

**Honor roll**

I'm a fervent believer in a self-regulated press, but the back page of the most recent issue of the *Student Insurgent* (May 11) steps over the line into irresponsible journalism.

To insinuate that someone is racist because they disagree with you is morally bankrupt. To print their name, office, phone number and the times and places they teach is simply irresponsible.

If support of open and free debate on this campus makes one racist, please add my name to the honor roll of Beck, Csonka, Givon, Love and Sanders.

My teaching schedule for the next two terms: Summer term — School Facilities, July 9-10, 249 Lawrence and July 23-24, 279 Lawrence; Fall term, Campus: An American Place, 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., Tuesday/Thursday, 151 Education. Office: 210 Physical Plant. Phone: 346-5562.

**Fred Tepfer**  
University Planning

**Irresponsible**

Five respected professors of our university were attacked in the May 11 *Student Insurgent*. This irresponsible labeling of

individuals is contrary to the ideals and traditions of higher education and the University.

Advocacy of a point of view that relies on blatant efforts to intimidate faculty or any others who wish to engage in enlightening examination of a complex question should be rejected by the University community.

Free speech has broad bounds. When it is exercised to stifle debate, the perpetrators do not deserve respect. Two scurrilous publications on the multicultural issue within a few weeks should serve warning that our community needs to return to rational, though passionate, discourse founded on mutual respect.

I urge all members of the University community to shun such divisive efforts.

**Norman K. Wessells**  
Provost

**Crossed line**

I thoroughly enjoyed the editorial about the postal worker shootings (*ODE*, May 12) until I read the last paragraph. In the last paragraph you jokingly state, "They simply need a little luck so that the next few crazies to shoot up a neighborhood will work for McDonald's instead."

I find this in extremely bad taste in light of the tragic events in 1984 at the San Ysidro, Calif., McDonald's where 21 people were killed by a crazed gunman with an Uzi submachine gun.

I understand the right to freedom of the press and the controversial nature of editorials. However, this joke crossed the line of decency and responsible journalism and lacked any dignity or respect for those slain and their families.

**Mark Numainville**  
Undeclared

# Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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