

Women's money request justified?

The Women's Center is requesting more money - a lot more money.

Most of the costs incurred in the Women's Center budget are administrative. The positions, ranging from a new director to facilitators, exist to serve women, not only University women but, in a limited capacity, women throughout the community.

The Women's Center has been restructuring over the last year and operating without a director. Instead it has been functioning under a committee and an adviser with limited authority to delegate. Certainly, a full-time director is imperative to the center's successful operation. The director of the center, under its new budget, is entitled to nearly a third of the budget. This may seem like a big chunk and it is, but the benefits outweigh the costs incurred.

The second most costly position is the office coordinator. With the responsibility of overseeing the daily business of the center and overseeing the student positions, the office coordinator's salary has a large impact.

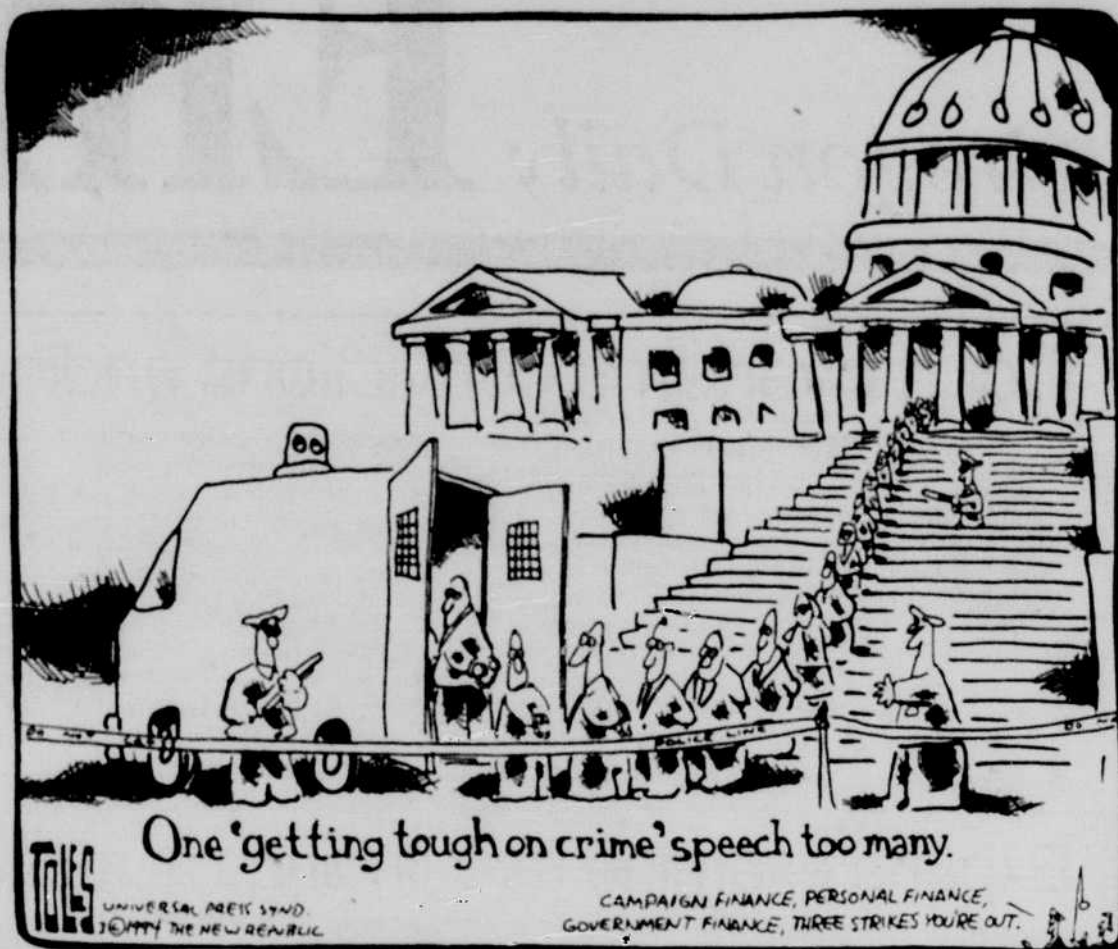
To achieve the goals the Women's Center hopes to reach in the future, the director and office coordinator are relevant positions that deem the budget increases the center is looking for. However, money can be cut from the budget and the effects would not be detrimental to the center's needs.

One area where cuts could be made are in the student leadership positions and the support group facilitators, 14 positions total, all of which are work study and stipend positions. Rather than stipends, University credit could be awarded. The argument in favor of providing stipend positions would seem to be: Stipends increase interest in the positions therefore pooling the best candidates who will stay with the position for the full duration of the job description.

But the stipends awarded are not worth the money that is being spent, especially when other alternatives exist, such as credits offered through programs like Escape. The positions would still remain attractive, maybe even more so. If the credits were only awarded to those who fulfilled their positions fully then there would be adequate incentive to remain and money would be saved.

The Women's Center's requests, for the most part, are valid. The center would profit greatly, especially with a qualified director. There are other outlets that are available for funding, such as the administration and the state, but funds will not be granted in the midst of tight funding. That leaves the brunt of the load on students, but only temporarily.

With services available to the community and a director that initiates interest throughout the community, the Women's Center, in the future, would have an adequate argument to request funds from the community. For now the future of the Women's Center lies in funding. Unfortunately, the funding is taken completely from student money. However, the Women's Center needs a new start.



OPINION

It's time to get tough on crime



Marius Meland

Being tough on crime has become a prerequisite for everyone aspiring for political office nowadays. "Three strikes and you're out" is the mantra that every political wannabe has to repeat in front of the mirror each morning. It's alluringly simple: If a criminal commits a felony three times, he - and it is usually a he - will get to spend the rest of his life stitching together leather sandals and picking lice off his cell wall.

But why not go all the way? With one stroke of the pen, President Clinton could reform the whole legal system, so that those criminal vermin get exactly what they deserve, while we taxpayers save a bundle.

Here's how to do it.

First, let's speed up the judicial system. Instead of having criminals go through today's lengthy, bureaucratic court system, we'll televise their trials and let the viewers decide. First the prosecutor would get two minutes of air time to argue that the accused is guilty, then the defendant's attorney would get equal time to argue for his innocence.

After that, two phone numbers would flash on the screen: one for "guilty" and one for "not guilty." In accordance with the best traditions of American democracy, the viewers would decide the verdict. That way, John and Jane Doe would get first-hand jury experience without even leaving their living-room couches.

We'd get rid of a lot of lawyers, too.

And here's the beauty of the system: it doesn't have to cost the taxpayers a penny. It would be

sponsored by commercial advertisements, just like any other television program. Can't you just see it? "The Bobbit Trial - brought to you by EasyCut Scissors and Pliers." And "The Heidi Fleiss Trial - sponsored by Victoria's Secret."

Some felonies, such as murder and rape, would, of course, warrant an automatic death penalty. But the way the death penalty works today is too easy on criminal scum bags.

So I propose to turn down the voltage on the electric chair a few hundred volts. Ultimately, the result would be the same - it would only take a little longer. The worse the crime, the lower the voltage. A mass murderer such as Jeffrey Dahmer could fry for days. Our motto: Fry 'em, but fry 'em slowly.

Not all criminals would be sentenced to the death penalty. Many would, of course, get harsh prison sentences. But prison alone isn't enough to reform those criminal lowlife parasites of society.

Let's teach them a lesson they won't soon forget. Let's take up a good, old deterrent that has worked well in the past. I know a lot of you bleeding-heart liberals won't like this, but the ordinary, patriotic American will agree with me when I say: Let's torture them.

Let's whip them, burn them, twist their limbs, stretch their bodies and the whole shebang. And then let's see how many of them dare go back and hold up convenience stores and snatch little old ladies' retirement pensions.

This will be good for the economy too. Just think of the

Let's whip them, burn them, twist their limbs, stretch their bodies and the whole shebang.

increased revenue for producers of whips, stretching benches and fire poker.

And here's another way we can cut down on the expenses of the taxpayers: let the public perform the punishment - for a nominal fee, of course.

This is the way I picture that the system would work: You go to the police station and buy the right to torture a prisoner. You'd pay, say, \$10 per flogging, \$20 per burning and \$50 per hour for the use of more advanced torture equipment.

I'm sure you would pay, too, if your chemistry professor was caught driving too fast or your noisy next-door neighbor was arrested for failing to file his tax forms.

Moreover, people would be able to buy tickets to watch the show. Such tickets could be sold along with lottery tickets at the local Safeway and Albertson stores. That way, the whole family could go together to watch a criminal get what he deserves. The children would get a lesson in what would await them if they didn't behave, and the parents would get a well-deserved diversion from other pastimes such as bowling and television viewing.

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