

Senate should heed vote against USSA

The students have spoken. Let's hope student government actually listens this time.

In last week's general election, a clear majority of student voters decided not to fund the University's chapter of the United States Student Association. The vote was a binding one, legal and fair, and there should be no getting out of it.

But you can almost bet that someone will try.

Although the voters decisively rejected USSA's funding in the election, there is absolutely no rule which would keep the organization from going before the Student Senate next year and asking to be given that money anyway. And there is also no rule which would prohibit the Senate from fulfilling such a request.

In other words, the Senate has full authority to completely ignore the students' wishes, as expressed in the election. The only question is whether the Senate will choose to exercise that authority. It is up to students to see that it doesn't.

The possibility of the student government overruling the students is a real one, as recent history has shown. During last year's general election, the voters rejected a proposal to fund a new multicultural center in the EMU. But when the fall of 1993 rolled around, the supporters of the center went before the Incidental Fee Committee and requested a portion of the money anyway. The IFC, apparently unconcerned with the students' wishes, granted the request. And the multicultural center was born.

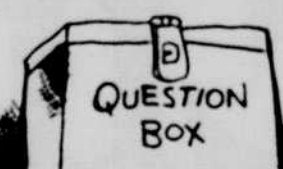
The new ASUO constitution has replaced the IFC with a subcommittee of the Student Senate, but that new body is no more constrained by the voters' desires than the old IFC was. So if the lobby-minded USSA tries to ask for partial funding next fall, it is just as likely to find success.

There is more to this issue than the USSA, however. It is important that the precedent set by the multicultural center last year is not perpetuated. If the voice of students continues to go unheard, then having ballot measures in the first place is a waste of time and resources, and an insult to students' intelligence.

Going on the ballot would be a no-risk proposition under such a scenario. A group which was approved in the election could claim to have a mandate from the students; a group which was rejected need not lose its funding, so long as it enjoys support from the Student Senate.

And if the makeup of the old IFC is any indication, the Student Senate will definitely support the USSA. This year's USSA delegation to Washington, D.C. includes several members of the IFC. In other words, the people who decided to fund the USSA are the very same people who reap the benefits of that funding.


The Student Senate will probably be faced with a USSA budget request next fall. If and when that happens, the newly elected members of the Senate will have a chance to improve upon the performance of the IFC. If students insist that their wishes be followed, perhaps the Senate will take advantage of that chance.



QUESTION BOX

Q. Where are all the heroes these days?
-D.H., Buffalo

A. Nelson Mandela



- PUT A PRINCIPLE AHEAD OF PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS.
- WENT FROM JAIL TO THE PRESIDENCY OF HIS NATION.
- JUST ABOUT THE REVERSE OF THE AMERICAN PATTERN.

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PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS IS OUR PRINCIPLE. -

LETTERS

Don't condemn

I am writing in response to Keith Cunningham's commentary (*ODE*, April 25) "Judging Cobain not that simple."

Thank you, Keith. When I first glanced at the article I expected it to be another bashing session on suicide, but I found a different approach which prompted me to tell my own story.

On March 20, 1994 my father took his own life with a gun. He died on his 48th birthday. He was addicted to alcohol, gambling and cocaine. I have been reading the various articles and letters people have written in and have been saddened by each of them. I'm sure that in a week or so when another senseless act occurs these same people will be writing in making the same weak remarks about something that, God forbid, has or never will happen to them or their family. My father was not famous nor was he the richest man materially, but he had three grandchildren, a wife, several brothers and sisters, and so on who loved him very much. But it is not up to any of us or anybody else to judge or second guess his or anyone's actions.

I don't see my father (or Cobain for that matter) "writhing in flames" as some would believe. Because of his addictions my father was starting to perform poorly at work, experiencing family problems, and sinking further and further into debt. He saw how saddened we were at our failed attempts to reach out to him and help. Like Cunningham, I in no way advocate suicide, for I personally know the pain and suffering associated with it, but perhaps it was the only way he could give us and himself peace. This is not something I even pretend to know or understand, but it is the only thing that let's me and my family wake up and get through the day. So please do not condemn because you don't know the answer to the question "Why?" I know that it will never be answered.

Brenda A. Foresee
Spanish

Be warned

A forewarning to those University students who will register for fall or summer term this year. Did you recheck your schedule for insuring the corrections you made on Duck Call earlier this term?

I didn't recheck my schedule for winter term. Unfortunately, I received a failing grade for a class I had dropped previous to class winter term. I went directly to Oregon Hall (who all know me by first name now) fighting to get the error removed. I spent five weeks going through unnecessary distress working with the academic advisers, the teacher of the class and members of Oregon Hall. Luckily due to the great understanding by all who were involved, we were able to compromise. However, not all endings are happy! So please remember to recheck your schedule.

Andrea Hummon
Sociology

Punk

Enough! Robbie Reeves is a loud mouth punk with a pen! How can an "objective" columnist speak with such disrespect for someone he doesn't even know? Robbie, if that is indeed your real name, how about a little regard for the Office of Presidency, an office defined by everyone who has held it. The man paid the price for his mistake, let him rest in peace already. I could understand your bitterness if Nixon had let you down, but when this administration fell your thumb was still in your mouth. Come to think of it, your thumb is the best thing to come out of that hole.

Oh, and guess what, Robbie, even your political heroes Barbara Roberts and Vice President Hillary Rodham Clinton are mourning the death of this man. If you want to talk scandal, let's talk about your boy Bildo. Some are calling it Whitewatergate. And you know what else? It appears Slick Willy didn't do the dirty deed himself. Vice President Hillary is the culprit here, and Bildo's taking the short end

of the stick. Hmm... It seems Dick and Bildo have more in common than you would like to believe.

If you need to write so much, send a letter home to the family. Hopefully Mommy and Daddy appreciate what you write.

Kyle J. Sexton
Business

Lucky state

This state should feel extremely lucky to have a man in the governor's race with the business sense, honesty and sound judgment Craig Berkman possesses.

Craig is no regular politician. He has a specific, detailed plan on where to guide this state in the years ahead. What other candidate has such a plan of action?

Oregon's government, and the red-tape bureaucracy it has created, is very detrimental to the life and individual freedom of every tax-paying citizen.

Craig's leadership has put the climate for better business, improved land use and a priority to fund education first before any other item in the budget. This will result in a higher standard of living and quality of life for all Oregonians.

The time is right for someone like Craig Berkman to be Oregon's next governor.

Donny Bergen
Political Science

Ignorant

I don't care about Jack Orozco or his remarks to the *Emerald*.

My question is, why do you allow ignorant people like Aaron Ray (*ODE*, April 25) have their letters published in your paper if all they are going to do is use the word "fucking"? I enjoy reading your letters section, but I think the profanity can be left out. I mean, what if a little kid picked up your paper and read that crap? Anybody with the ignorance level of Aaron Ray should not have their letters published.

Noah Bloodgood
Christian musician

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