

LETTERS

Keep lobbying

The staff of the Oregon Student Lobby would like to thank all of the students who attended our recent Lobby Day at the Capitol in Salem on Thursday, Feb. 23. Over 300 students from around the state attended and made appointments with legislators. Because of your efforts, just about every lawmaker's office had a visit from students who discussed the importance of higher education and why access to that education needs to be maintained and enhanced.

Meeting with constituents and the people who are actually affected by the programs the legislature funds are vital to our success. Please keep up the good work. Follow up on your visits with letters and phone calls to legislator's offices on matters pertaining to higher education. The budgets for the Oregon State Scholarship Commission and the Oregon State System of Higher Education will be receiving hearings during finals week and spring break. If you have the chance, stop in the Capitol during the hearings or make another appointment to visit with a legislator.

Robert Nosse
Executive Director,
Oregon Student Lobby

Not familiar

This letter is in response to Primo Fontana's editorial "Incidental fees must be voluntary." Fontana makes some factual errors that need clarification. He also makes some statements that

clearly demonstrate that he is not familiar with the nature of Students for Choice (SFC) and did not try to familiarize himself with us before writing this editorial.

The Student Senate is not responsible for allocating money to groups, or reviewing their budgets. These jobs belong to the UO Programs Finance Committee.

Because the Student Senate does not perform these functions, the statement "Students for Choice received the funding it had previously been denied" when we went before the Student Senate on Feb. 20 is incorrect. When we went before the Student Senate, their job was to evaluate our goal statement, largely because the legal professionals who were present at the meeting stated that we are fundable based on a 1985 opinion of the Oregon Attorney General, Dave Frohnmayer.

We do not infringe on students' First Amendment rights because SFC does not use incidental fees to fund our political activities. We use incidental fees in order to maintain legal information about legal reproductive health services. Maintaining this factual information does not go against the moral beliefs of any student on this campus.

While Fontana states that the "offensive principle" of our group still remains, I ask him what is offensive about wanting students to know about their legal rights?

I would also like to explain what pro-choice means to any student on this campus who

might be confused as to the nature of a pro-choice group. We believe that individuals have the right to make informed choices about their reproductive options and their lives. Part of making informed decisions is finding out the options that exist under the law. Because we are pro-choice, no member of our group advocates abortion. We advocate the rights of the individual.

If a pro-life group did start on this campus, we would not stage protests or sit-ins. Because our group firmly believes that the expression of diverse opinions enriches students' experiences, we would instead welcome the group and hopefully co-sponsor events with the group in order to further educate students about their rights and about the issues that are central to the controversy surrounding abortion and other reproductive health care issues.

In fact, on March 8, SFC is sponsoring a panel of anti-choice and pro-choice individuals about the recent Congressional elections and how they will affect reproductive health care.

We welcome all students to take advantage of the information we have and to take part in the educational and cultural events that we sponsor. Feel free to call us and talk to us at any time. If you support students' rights to create a "marketplace of ideas" (the right to create a forum of diverse voices on campus), please call 346-0649.

Jennifer Carter, Co-Director
Mandi Hood, Co-Director
Angela J. Housley
Students for Choice

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