

Mandatory student fees provide services students take for granted

David Kellet wrote about the ASUO wasting mandatory student-fee money on phone bills and conference trips, which don't bring back information (ODE, Nov. 15). As a former fee committee member, and in a historical sense, he is correct. I hope things will change.

He complains about the money students are forced to give to ASUO programs, such as the ASUO Multicultural Center, where I work. He implies that a majority of students don't use or care about ASUO programs. I'd like to share with David and fellow students some of the things the ASUO Program fee provides.

Students pay about \$31 a term toward ASUO programs. The other \$90 odd dollars goes to the EMU, athletics and ballot-funded groups such as the Mentor Program and Campus Recycling.

COMMENTARY

JOEY LYONS

They receive: The Oregon Daily Emerald, campus radio 88.1 FM, advocacy and referrals from the ASUO Women's Center, Office of Student Advocacy, Legal Services Office, ASUO Multicultural Center, Survival Center, OSPIRG, and the ASUO Executive.

In addition, there are programs with specific ethnic, cultural and other social focuses that all students can join to experience a safe community, receive peer support, and learn life-building leadership development skills.

Also, our \$31 supports the Sexual Assault Support Services, Crisis Center, student-run campus publications such as the Student Insurgent and Oregon Voice, Project Saferide, Oregon Marching Band, Debate Team (forensics), Gay

and Lesbian Support Services, University Theatre, Pocket Playhouse and the Whitebird Clinic.

Lastly, this \$31 helps provide a child care subsidy for University students with children, supports the Family Housing Tenants councils, YWCA, ESCAPE and practicum leadership accredited programs, Disability Services, the award-winning law school publication *Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation*, and programs for students at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology.

It amazes me that David, considering his experience with the ASUO, would feel the need to trash these programs. Students give a relatively little amount considering the benefits they receive. At the ASUO Multicultural Center, we have a \$25,000 budget, are open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and have an average of five new drop-ins daily.

In addition, we organize racism and homophobia workshops, show videos such as the *Color of Fear* with a facilitated discussion, bring and support major speakers such as Howard Zinn, Chicana Activist Dolores Huerta, musical theater group Las Cucarachas, the Black Student Union's Kwanzaa Celebration, the Coalition Against Environmental Racism conference, and much more.

So if David, or anyone else, is ever bored and feels like developing some leadership or organizing skills, getting more education on cultural, ethnic and socio-political issues, or needs help with legal, personal or academic matters, remember that the program or person helping you is probably supported by your student mandatory fees.

Joey Lyons is the program director for the ASUO Multicultural Center.

LETTERS

Saferide needed

This is written in response to David Kellett's letter (ODE, Nov. 15) in which, among other things, he suggests that Saferide is not used by many students and is therefore a waste of student fees.

Saferide gave rides to 86 women one night last week. On the weekends that number has gone as high as 120 passengers per night. Many nights we have to turn a few women away because of the high demand.

Saferide is an essential program that gives University

women equal access to night classes and studying. Without Saferide, many women would not be able to attend after-dark functions for fear of sexual assault.

Furthermore, if David Kellett finds student programs unimportant, he is missing out. If a college student only attends classes and parties, he or she is missing out on a real education. I encourage David and all students to get involved in a student program and expand their minds.

Jenna Wasson

Director of Project Saferide

Pro-Hyundai

Whether I open the newspaper or flick on the television, I cannot escape the Hyundai story.

Though I'm sick of hearing from high-tech specialists, the environmentalists or the anti-expansionists, this issue scratches the surface of a much larger issue. Does Oregon want to compete in a shrinking global economy?

Oregon is on the brink of becoming a high-tech mecca. Daily we hear about new com-

panies breaking ground for new, state-of-the-art facilities. The high-tech industry is introducing millions of dollars into Oregon. Eugene should be flattered that Hyundai is considering Eugene for one of its plants. Instead, we have told them to go home. And we wonder why we have unemployment.

If Oregon is going to compete in a global economy, our leaders are going to have to take an active role in the development of new industry. So far, Peter DeFazio has sat back and played political games; he

wrote a letter asking that Portland be considered for the Hyundai plant.

His inability to skate this issue is unacceptable. When you go to ballots, don't forget about Hyundai. Furthermore, remember DeFazio's lack of commitment to this issue. Otherwise, Hyundai may move to Portland where they will be welcomed by Congressman Ron Wyden, who is committed to economic growth and environmental preservation.

Kevin Cohen

General Science and Accounting

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