

**Action inappropriate**

I salute the ASUO for their good intentions, but I disagree with its methods. By withholding floor-level student seating, the ASUO will be distracting Coach Jerry Green and the men's basketball team during one of their most important games of the season and punishing well-behaved fans. While the visibility of the ASUO's action will raise awareness, the students who are responsible for the unruly behavior will go unpunished.

The ASUO should have considered a less controversial, more accurately targeted course of action. Rather than withholding seats, the ASUO could have volunteered to help security personnel identify and remove fans exhibiting inappropriate behavior. This method may not have resulted in television interviews for ASUO executive officers, but the offensive fans would have received the message.

**Justin Holman**  
Geography

**Fan focus**

As a former front row fan during the late 1970s, we also had some discretions that had to be managed. The best method came directly from the coach and team themselves in the form of a business card that not only described the fans as the best, but what actions would make them better and what actions were unacceptable.

Visiting players have also demonstrated the lack of discipline to refrain from taunting the fans. Celebration is disciplined in football, why not basketball?

Though I think this action is a decent reminder, sportsmanship and team support should be emphasized even more. Mac Court is one of the greatest places to watch basketball in my mind when the fans are focused on supporting the team and not targeting the opposing players with direct slurs and discrimination.

**Jim Aiken**  
Alumni '81

**OSPIRG project**

OSPIRG's Streamwalk group is enthusiastically looking forward to a large-scale work project next Saturday, Mar. 1. However, we are still looking for an extensive number of volunteers. The project will be conducted at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum and will include trail restoration work and a children's nature walk.

Most student groups on campus have already received a letter or phone call asking for volunteers. We requested that our project be brought up in meetings in order to get a list of people who are interested. We are very excited to include other groups in our work party. We are now inviting the readers of the *Emerald* to become part of this group as well.

We hope to see many students, parents, and children at the event on Mar. 1. OSPIRG's environmental education team has been taking flyers to elementary schools throughout the Eugene area. Streamwalk members had a fabulous time working with children on a similar project last year, and we are looking forward to another opportunity.

So if you are part of a group you think may be interested, or you would like more details, come by the OSPIRG office in Suite 1 of the EMU. Come get your hands dirty and have fun too!

**Rachel McCormach**  
Co-leader  
Streamwalk

**Support corridor**

The Willamette Scenic Corridor is an area of the Willamette River that spans from the Autzen footbridge down to EWEB. It is a scenic, natural environment enjoyed by the public.

The Waterfront Urban Renewal District is calling this undeveloped region an area of "economic blight." They want to "remedy" this by paving and developing it, and they plan to afford this through tax increment financing. This means that property taxes from a zone of high in-

come agencies are funneled into a special fund that goes toward developing this area.

Developing the Willamette Scenic Corridor is more than an environmental issue; it is a social issue. This is an area in town where students and working class citizens, who can't afford to go out of town very often, can go and enjoy nature. The footpath is used by hundreds of people. Why would anyone want to develop a natural and scenic public area?

Eugene is being eaten bite by bite by people who want more development and who have money. Maybe a couple bites here and there won't make us realize what's happening overall...must we watch all our natural areas get eaten by expansion before we wake up?

The Taxpayers Urban Renewal Reform Act is currently in the making. Please support it when it comes out and call for a stop to more urban development without permission by the people.

**Robin Retherford**  
Eugene

**Fire starters**

The ASUO plan to rope off student seats is completely ludicrous. When an arena such as Mac Court only holds just over 10,000 fans, the University and the Athletic Department cannot afford to have that happen, and should not let that happen. Fans like me, who are now alumni and no longer students, cringe to see good seats go to waste, especially when we have to get some of our tickets through other means, without the assurance of getting to watch a game against a top Pac-10 team.

Unfortunately, we live in a racially divided society. But why should we let the ASUO punish the students (and the fans), and allow them to add more fuel to the fire?

**Todd Helton**  
Alumni '94

**Salem: Kitzhaber speaks on capitol steps**

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and given tips on how to lobby.

Issues the students were trained about included advocating for the proposed tuition freeze, getting students back on the Oregon Health Plan, increasing the Oregon Need grant, reallocating funds for student child care and keeping the collection and allocation of student incidental fees in students' hands.

"We want to see that each student learns the basics of each issue, but we also want the students to focus on their own experiences and daily lives," said John Isaacs, field organizer for OSA.

For many of the students participating in Lobby Day, it was their first time visiting the capitol.

"I came to Lobby Day to gain first-hand experience and promote student issues," said Emily Robertson, a sophomore political science major and a member of the EMU Board.

One highlight of the day was the

rally on the capitol steps that featured Gov. Kitzhaber. Also speaking were State Senators Eugene Timms and Susan Castillo and State Representative Ryan Deckert.

"Tuition has gone up 80 percent since 1990. That is unacceptable; it is time to turn it around," Kitzhaber said.

Kitzhaber was positive about the future of Oregon and has plans to invest in education, transportation, health care and the environment.

Timms, co-chair of the Ways and Means committee, said he was optimistic about the tuition freeze and felt that many other legislators felt the same way.

"We all know the value of a college education," Timms said. "Most of the leadership agrees with the tuition freeze."

University graduate and new member of the Oregon House Ryan Deckert sent the crowd into cheers as he announced that the state legislature should "show me

the money" for education.

"The rally was great. Kitzhaber always has great ideas on education," said Teresa Tobin, a University sophomore majoring in history.

"But I think Ryan Deckert had the right idea with the 'show me the money' theme," she said.

The afternoon was spent meeting with 90 individual legislators in their offices sharing personal stories and concerns on higher education issues.

Ed Dennis, executive director of OSA, explained how legislators are tired of seeing the same higher education lobbyists on every issue and how beneficial it is for students to go in and explain the hardships they face themselves.

"Grassroots organizing events (including Lobby Day), are a great way to get students involved in government activities," Isaacs said. "It is one of the rare times that students can be heard at this level."

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