

Students deserve right to make their voices heard

Many of you are aware that the special election that was to take place this week has been postponed by the Constitution Court, which is questioning its legality. The ASUO and OSPIRG in particular have come under fire.

The Emerald published the recommendation that all students who vote in the special election vote no on every measure. I do not appreciate being told how to vote on any issue, and I'm angry because the Emerald and the Constitution Court have acted irresponsibly.

While their scrutiny seems to be aimed at our student government and OSPIRG, they have completely ignored the other measures that were to be presented at the special elections.

Perhaps the very few people who have made this decision do not realize how unfair and damaging their comments can be to the ones they have ignored.

I am a parent. My son, along with 110 other children, attends

day care at the Spencer View Co-op Family Center. The co-op has provided day care and support to student families since 1979. This year the co-op will be celebrating 20 years of service to University students. Besides quality day care and community support, the co-op employs approximately 50 students.

The typical budget for a day care this size is \$600,000 a year. The co-op runs on a budget of \$100,000 a year and still maintains a quality day care. About 20 percent of our funding comes from student incidental fees. We do not receive support from the administration or from the Child Care and Development Center.

The co-op was preparing a ballot measure for the general election requesting that its budget be increased by \$79,000 a year. This is to stabilize staff, hire more student employees and pay teachers comparable wages. This entails an increase in student incidental fees of \$1.65 per term.

Without access to day care, student parents could not receive

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Mandi Cox Eden

the education they have a right to. They also pay student incidental fees. When the co-op was notified of the special election, we were given the opportunity to add our ballot measure. Many other ballot measures were added to the special elections, but the Constitution Court, and until now, the Emerald, have chosen to ignore the other measures.

Their main focal points are obviously on OSPIRG and the ASUO. Until I had been given this opportunity, I had not seen any in-depth coverage in the Emerald on any of the other ballot measures.

It is apparent that the Constitution Court has not shown consideration to these other ballot measures, which translates quite simply: They either didn't know, or they didn't care!

It's their job to know, and they should have made a more informed decision. It's their responsibility to represent the entire student body, which means they are responsible for getting all their information before they make their decisions.

The Constitution Court has clearly not done this. Let me emphasize that as a student parent, an already under represented student body, I do not feel that they have represented me.

I would like to challenge the court's decision to hold up a democratic process. The Constitution Court is made up of only five appointed University law students. Since when do five law students represent a very diverse 17,000-plus student body? Are any of those law students parents? Are any of them women? Do they all come from similar or different backgrounds?

Why are they all law students? And why did they base their decision on a grievance from only one person? The ASUO based its decision to call a special election

on their receipt of more than 80 grievances. Call me crazy, but I did, the math, and it doesn't make sense to me at all. The Constitution Court has ignored me and other students thus far.

The public hearing that is to be held to decide the fate of the special elections will be a perfect forum for the Constitution Court to answer for itself.

I'd like to close by thanking the student body for their continued support. The co-op has a lot to offer students and their community, and the sooner we receive the very, needed budget increase, the better for our children.

I'd also like to thank the Emerald for this opportunity. At least now the students who exercise their right to decide how their money is spent can make a more informed decision.

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Athletic Department needs to remember most important fans: students

Recently Sandy Walton, senior associate athletic director, issued comments to The Register-Guard pertaining to University students not paying their "fair share" for student tickets at football and basketball games. I'd like to think that Walton was misguided in her belief that we, as students, don't pay our "fair share."

What we do and what we have done for this University is suspiciously being forgotten over in the halls of the Casanova Center.

Let's talk for a minute about the mystique of McArthur Court, and the once "best sixth man" in the country. The aura is gone. Plain and simple. It left the building when Chairman Bill Moos found a reason to expel students from valuable seats after the 1997 UCLA game.

What disappoints me most about that decision was that our biggest recruiting advantage was the crowd at Mac Court, and to take that away hurts the University in the long run.

What amazes me about Walton's comments was her reference to football games

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Al Dickson

at Autzen Stadium. I don't know what line she waits in for her tickets, but she obviously has never had to wait on a Monday morning at the EMU for a game against Washington. For every Pacific-10 Conference game at Autzen this year, I was in the student section, and it was full.

The reason Walton's perception of how full the student section is differs from mine, is because from the press box she can't see the top of the student section: The catered lunches and stacks of free programs block her line of sight.

Another more important reason for this misperception of student attendance is the fact that three home games occur before school even starts, and for those games, with the exception of Michigan State, I will be the first to admit that the section wasn't full.

The Athletic Department should stop trying to play politics and messing with

numbers to send the message to the community that we, as students, don't care about our school. That is a lie, and they should know that this school's athletic programs couldn't survive without the support of its students.

I urge the student leaders and administration to find a solution to this problem quickly. Here's an idea. Take a certain percentage of student tickets from the home football games before school starts and sell them to the community. Then for basketball season, maybe you can persuade the students to give up the third balcony for the preseason games, while allowing them to keep it for the Pacific-10 Conference games. We know, from this season, we need as many excited students as possible to bring the aura back to Mac Court (read Bill Penny's Jan. 31 letter to editor in The Register-Guard). Look what the Beavers have done since moving the students back down onto the floor; they're 11-1 at home.

I think that the Athletic Department needs to remember who built the reputation of creating the most hostile environment possible for opposing teams to play

in. It's not the fans sitting in their comfortable and expensive seats who intimidate the opposing players. It's the students who are loud and sometimes wrongly obnoxious, who refuse to sit and who are responsible for giving Mac Court the reputation it once had.

What happens when the Ducks have a losing season? Are we that quick to forget the last 20 years? Has success gone to our heads that quickly? What happens when they can't sell those tickets? Are the students going to bend over backward and save a program that once stabbed them in the back?

Does the Athletic Department realize or remember that the students of today are the alumni of tomorrow? I strongly urge the Athletic Department to remember the losing years and urge them to think long term and reward loyalty, and not sell out those who helped build this program to where it is today. Bring back the sixth man!

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