

Letters to the editor

Saferide defense insulting

Project Saferide's preemptive defense for their sexually discriminatory practices given in their letter to the editor (ODE, Oct. 4) was extremely insulting for two reasons. Jessie Wofsy said, "Because Saferide is primarily a rape prevention shuttle, we are only able to accommodate female riders." This quote strongly implies that only females can be raped. Anyone who has read a newspaper or has seen the movie "Deliverance" knows that this is false. The second implication of Wofsy's statement is that by having males in cars with females, males are invariably going to attempt to rape the female passengers. Everyone should agree that this notion is ridiculous.

I have strong doubts that this letter will be printed because of the high risk of sparking a dialogue, which this paper obviously abhors. However, I would like to see some discussion on a safe service that is equitable to both sexes.

Dustin Preuitt

Computer and Information Science

Clearing up confusion

I want to clear up any confusion that a recent letter to the editor may have caused (ODE, Oct. 4), where a student senator misstated the amount of money that we spend on sports tickets. The letter said that we spend \$1,750,278; the actual number is \$1,075,278. Clearly it was an hon-

est mistake. Another piece of misinformation was the assertion that there are not enough sports tickets for everybody. The fact is that while over 2,600 student tickets were unused or sold to the public for the University of Southern California game this year, there are more than enough tickets each year for everybody at this University to attend two football and two basketball games.

Another important thing I want to share is that the Athletic Department (because of low student attendance) can sell any student tickets not picked up five days before the game. This arrangement has already made the Athletic Department a dollar amount in excess of six figures this year.

If you add it up, we as students pay about \$13 for each ticket that we get, and the Athletic Department in turn sells them for \$17 to \$25, depending on the game. This means that we are helping the Athletic Department make \$30-\$38 per seat that we don't pick up. Get the picture? I want to let everyone on campus know about this. If you have a suggestion or comment about how we can get this out to the masses, please get in touch with me via e-mail (spunser@gladstone.uoregon.edu). So use your tickets, tell your friends and Go Ducks!

Spencer Hamlin

ASUO Student Senate

Help protect financial aid

On October 6 and 7, the students of the University have a great opportunity to make themselves heard in the White House

and in the halls of Congress. Action is needed NOW to protect federal financial aid programs such as the Pell Grant, campus-based aid, the Perkins Loan, federal work-study and the LEAP Program. Our political power as students lies in our grass-roots strength — our ability to mobilize in large numbers and tell our political leaders that they need to protect our right to higher education by increasing funding for federal financial aid programs. At President Clinton's Web site, www.whitehouse.gov, students can e-mail the president and urge him to veto any legislation that cuts or freezes funding.

Also, students should tell the president to urge Congress to increase the maximum Pell Grant a student can receive by \$400 to \$3,525 in the fiscal year 2000 budget. These programs are vital to making college available to all students and helping students avoid overwhelming debt.

Oregon students can also call Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden and Congressman Peter DeFazio toll free by dialing (800) 574-4AID. In an era of budget surplus, Congress has no excuse not to improve funding for student financial aid programs. Education is a right, but it is under heavy attack by many members of Congress. I strongly urge all University students to send an e-mail to the White House and put in a call to the senators, urging them to keep the doors of education open to all.

Robin Miller

ASUO Federal Affairs Coordinator

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