

Athletic ticket prices debated

■ The Athletic Department Finance Committee also is weighing the option of season tickets for students

By Jason George
Oregon Daily Emerald

Sometimes, even a little is too much.

At its weekly meeting, the Athletic Department Finance Committee, the committee that controls student tickets to athletic events, debated how much students should be charged for tickets to football games. Students are currently paying 52 percent of what the general public pays for their tickets, said Senior Associate Athletic Director Sandy Walton.

Contention arose when ADFC



Chairperson Spencer Hamlin said that last year's committee members agreed to pay 50 percent for the tickets, not 52 percent.

Walton said she did not recall agreeing to that exact figure: "It was an approximate value."

Both Walton and Hamlin said they would re-examine their notes from last year and discuss the issue again.

Every student indirectly pays for the tickets out of the incidental fee every term. For the 1999 football season, a total of 6,098 tickets per game are available for students.

Committee members also discussed the possibility of dispensing a limited number of season tickets for students next year. Hamlin suggested a lottery system for "about 10 percent or 500" of the student tickets.

"You could even charge an additional fee" for season tickets, suggested Jeff Kershner, commit-

tee member. He said students might pay more through the incidental fee or have the option of paying cash for season tickets, but did not speak in favor of either option.

The group will consider the season ticket system for the 2000-2001 football and basketball seasons in future meetings.

Walton said she has always been a fan of the season ticket system because it would alleviate some of the burden on workers at the EMU ticket office. She said fewer people needing tickets to every game would help reduce long lines such as the ones that have appeared this week as students wait to get tickets to the Civil War game.

The ADFC is composed of two student senators, Hamlin and Jennifer Greenough; a student representing the ASUO Executive, Kershner; and an athletic department representative, Walton.

Media Services makes one dam documentary

■ The film focuses on the music Woody Guthrie wrote and its relation to hydroelectric power

By Maggie Young
Oregon Daily Emerald

"Roll on Columbia, roll on. Your power is turning our darkness to dawn..." The song lyrics you belted out in elementary school have a powerful history behind them, and Media Services has the story covered.

"Roll On Columbia: Woody Guthrie and the Bonneville Power Administration," a documentary produced by Mike Majdic, TV producer and Director for Media Services, and journalism Professor Denise Matthews, has been under construction for a year and a half and is only an online edit away from completion.

Media Services is revisiting this story to inform the people of today about the history of our region, Majdic said.

"Most people don't know that this music came from the same time and the same story," he said.

The film centers on the relationship between the Bonneville Dam and folk singer Woody Guthrie in the 1930s.

At that time, every municipality was given the decision between public and private power. In order to sway people toward energy from the Bonneville Dam, the administration produced a movie entitled "Hydro" in 1939.

In 1941, a bigger version of the film was in the works. Guthrie was contracted to write a song per day. In the end, he produced 26 songs in 30 days.

Before the film could be assembled, the United States entered World War II and factories were put into overload. At this time there was no need to convince people of the need for power.

The project was canceled, and the music was forgotten. Eventually, the music seeped out though, Majdic said.

Woody Guthrie's songs, such as "Roll on Columbia" and "Grand Coolee Dam," became popular in the 1950s.

Copies of the film will be sold across the country to libraries, museums and schools, Majdic said. He also hopes to air the film on the History Channel and Oregon Public Broadcasting.

One of the intended uses for this film is a tool for history classes, Majdic said. The topics covered include the New Deal and folk music, he said.

The concept of using this film as teaching material is fantastic, English Professor Kathleen Karlyn said. She teaches film studies and would recommend this as a tool.

"For better or worse, we live in an age of moving images and visual narratives," she said. "This is how people learn."

This project both benefits University students in many ways, Media Services Director Tom Matney said.

Several students from the School of Journalism and Communication were involved in all aspects of production, Matney said.

"This will give them real-world experience and a product that will be used nationally," he said.

In addition, part of the money produced from the sales of the film will go right back into student support in Media Services. The funds will be used to provide a scholarship for a student in journalism or communications arts to work in Media Services.

A premiere showing for University students is in the preliminary planning stages and is tentatively scheduled for the end of January.

Hostage tells of kidnapping for first time

PORTLAND — An Oregon woman who was taken hostage in Yemen with her parents before being released last week has publicly described the kidnapping for the first time in public — in an e-mail to her hometown newspaper.

Last Tuesday, driving from the city of Ta'izz in the Republic of Yemen with her visiting parents, Marta Colburn saw a blue pickup speed past. Men, hunched over, were riding in the back.

"When they were approximately 50 meters in front of us, a number of them stood up and one pointed his Kalashnikov rifle at us," Colburn wrote in an e-mail to The Oregonian. "When I failed to stop, he shot a bullet at the asphalt in between the vehicles."

"I pulled the car onto the shoulder and before I knew it, they were at the door and one was hitting the window with the butt of his gun."

Colburn, 41, has been on leave from Portland State University's Middle Eastern program since early 1998. She currently is director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies in San'a, Yemen's capital.

Her parents, Donald and Gladys Colburn of Portland, arrived in

Yemen last month for a visit of several weeks. They plan to return this week. Don Colburn, 70, is a retired Methodist minister, while his 75-year-old wife is active in the Oregon Peace Institute.

Their daughter originally planned to stay in Yemen with husband Bruce Paluck and 6-year-old son Cody until December or January, but her e-mail said she will return to Portland at the end of November.

She said the kidnappers put the Colburns into the back seat of the vehicle and drove "at breakneck speed" for seven hours through mountainous, rural Yemen.

"When we arrived at the village where we were held, the family that 'hosted' us were very solicitous to our needs and treated us respectfully. We spent our time in the mufraj [living room] with the windows covered over. There we ate, talked, slept, wrote and kept up our spirits."

The next afternoon, at 3:45 p.m. (4:45 a.m. Pacific time), shells from government tanks blasted the mountains surrounding the village. The barrage lasted half an hour.

"When the shelling stopped, angry villagers gathered outside

the house, putting pressure on the young men who had committed this act to release us. This action also served to strengthen the support to us by our 'host' family and others involved."

About nine hours later, at 12:30 a.m., the captives were told that negotiations were concluding and they soon would be released.

"At 2:45 a.m. we were squeezed into a Toyota pickup and driven an hour to the Yemen Hunt compound outside of Ma'rib, where we rested, slept briefly and ate breakfast. The government helicopter transported us to Ma'rib at about 8 a.m. and we were taken by escort to do some sightseeing."

"We were fed again and given a huge bag of Ma'rib citrus fruit by Yemen government employees. The military helicopter then flew us over the amazing landscape of Yemen to San'a."

The Associated Press

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