

Oregon Daily
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Perspectives

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That's the ticket

There's nothing worse than standing in line. But for some Duck football fans, there's nothing worse than missing a game at Autzen stadium.

Camping out like 12-year-old girls waiting for 'N Sync tickets, the fans probably don't realize that the 6,098 football tickets available every home game for students cannot sell out in one day.

They probably realize the irony of waiting in line for something they've already paid for, but they also probably know it's better to compete with some 17,000 other students than to compete with everyone in Eugene for football tickets.

Let's face it: The student ticket system isn't all that bad.

But it could get a lot better. Starting from the top, here are some ideas and suggestions.

1. Those lines are crazy. If the EMU ticket office only has the capability to use two operators at one time, then maybe the EMU ticket office shouldn't be the only place on campus to get tickets. The Casanova Center is a hike, not to mention out of the way. But what about McArthur Court? When the other ticket office is closed or when students don't want to go to the EMU, this is a perfect place to sell athletic tickets. Another idea might be setting up stations in the dining halls on certain days. The ASUO does polling booths there at times, so we know that computers can be hooked up — say, only on the first few days tickets are available — to make this spot an alternative to the EMU. Another place with a lot of computers that's already hooked up to the University server is Oregon Hall. We could pay our bills and get our tickets.

2. Publicity! People who want tickets need to know the system. Although the Athletic Department often publicizes when and where and who can get tickets at the beginning of the year, subsequent information is necessary. Students are often confused about what happens if not all tickets are picked up or don't know that they have the chance to pick them up at all. A letter to each student could clear up the rules and provide a piece of paper that students could refer to in the future. Before each tickets-available date, the AD needs to remind us students what our ticket rights are. We paid for them — sort of — so let's pick them up.

3. What happens if we change our minds? This is key. If a student who picks up his or her ticket cannot go to the game, there should be a way to give that ticket to another student. Well, there already is a way to do this! The Athletic Department Finance Committee holds a ticket swap in the ASUO office from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday before a home game. Students are encouraged to bring any tickets they won't use, and students who want to pick up these tickets should bring their student identification. This type of exchange is an excellent way to ensure that every ticket picked up



at the EMU ticket office will mean a person sits in the stands. But students who know they won't use their ticket MUST participate.

4. Even with all the efficiency issues, this is still the best way. Other schools such as Arizona have gone from taking money from student fees to cover tickets to asking students to pay full price for games they wish to attend. On one hand, this eliminates the burden on students who never go to games but still end up paying for tickets out of their fees. On the other hand, tickets are just one of the many student-funded programs and groups on campus that not all students take advantage of. In the marketplace of ideas, there is room for football fans. And besides, the "student section" is a formidable ally of the Ducks. If we paid for tickets as other fans do, we would not sit together.

5. The lottery system is still the fairest way to implement the student-fee paid athletic tickets system. At the ADFC meeting earlier this week, the idea of student season tickets came up. In this sce-

nario, about 500 of the 6,098 student tickets available for each game would be grouped for student season-ticket holders. Students could apply to get season tickets, and a lottery would determine the season-ticket holders. The idea is to give a few students the chance to go to all the games, but it just cuts the number of tickets available to the general student body. And besides, all students should have equal opportunity to pick up those 6,098 tickets.

The bottom line is that sports fans are a great asset to the University, and we are lucky to be a University that tries to keep student tickets an option. The catch is that students who go to games should have an efficient and easy to understand system for picking up their tickets. And for you lucky ones who do get a seat, be kind to your fellow Ducks — make each ticket count.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Letters to the editor

Fees vital to support free speech

On Nov. 6, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments on Southworth vs. Grebe, a case that will have a huge impact on college students and their right to free speech. Southworth vs. Grebe challenges the constitutionality of the student fee system.

On this campus, democratically elected students allocate student fees to student programs, campus groups and resource centers that exist for the benefit of the student body. Southworth vs. Grebe challenges the right of universities to use incidental fees to fund student groups and programs that advocate particular political ideologies. While this may seem like a harmless and reasonable objection, it really attempts to limit free speech

and deny students the right to political involvement on campus. The student fee system allows the University to maintain a forum where no student group is discriminated against based on its political views, and all students are empowered to participate in the dialogues that enhance our education.

Ruling in favor of the plaintiff in Southworth vs. Grebe would impose strict censorship on student groups, newspapers, speakers brought to campus by fee-funded programs, resource centers and all other student services. Such censorship would deny college students exposure to diverse ideas and would prevent all of us from learning to communicate effectively and from being prepared for living and working in a global society.

Student fees enhance the experience of all students. In the days ahead, we encourage you to take a look around our campus and see all the

great things student-fee funded programs do for our campus community. Celebrate freedom of speech!

Robin Miller
ASUO federal affairs coordinator
Matt Swanson
ASUO state affairs coordinator

Mayor thankful for safe Halloween

Like many other people in the community, I was pleased to learn that the Halloween weekend passed quietly and peacefully.

The success of this weekend can be attributed to a number of factors. Many people worked hard to get the word out on how to celebrate without creating a problem or forcing a police response. The University, the ASUO and many other organizations came together to offer a number of constructive alternatives for the weekend. The Eugene Police Department was also out in the community talking about

ways to prevent the violence and destruction we have seen in the past two years.

For all those who worked on these efforts, let me publicly offer you my appreciation. But, there is one more important factor that we must all recognize and acknowledge.

One of the main reasons we had a quiet weekend was that many of you made a decision NOT to encourage, support or engage in violent behavior. I am grateful to all of you for your choice and, speaking for the City of Eugene, I offer all of you my heartfelt thanks.

I hope that, as we move into the future, we can continue to find positive ways to work together in our efforts to keep Eugene and the University a wonderful place to live and learn.

Jim Torrey
city of Eugene mayor

THUMBS



A step closer to freeing "Willy"

Keiko, the killer whale who was moved to Iceland from Oregon earlier last year, will return to his natural environment for the first time in 19 years by the end of the month. Keiko has been living in a floating sea pen but will soon float freely in an Icelandic bay.

To taking the first steps

Researchers at the University Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior have received a \$500,000 grant from the Legislature to implement an early childhood prevention program, First Steps, in public schools.



To making first steps difficult

The Department of Education will implement a new rule for the Pell Grant next year: Students who drop out may have to repay their grant. Although accountability is always a good idea, this policy may scare away needy students who would benefit from the grant but who find higher education frightening in itself.

To taking steps backward

OK, we're not sports experts, but no one is pleased that the Oregon Volleyball team has broken the school record for consecutive match losses with 16. With football, soccer, men's and women's basketball and other teams doing so well, the volleyball team's skid is all the more out of place.