

Perspectives

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TRUTH and CONSEQUENCES

While political corruption often seems to go unmolested, at least there are consequences for University Senators who do not follow the rules of their office.

On Wednesday, former Student Senator Autumn DePoe filed a grievance against four summer-session senators. DePoe claims summer-session Sens. C.J. Gabbe, Jerome Grzybowski, Spencer Hamlin and Jessica Timpany did not hold their office hours and, therefore, should not have received their stipends. Each received his or her \$25 per month stipend over the summer.

All offending senators should pay back their stipends, but no drastic actions should be taken because history has shown that far more serious actions have received relatively minor punishment.

While there are rules that explicitly state that senators will not be paid if they don't hold office hours in Eugene, there is a more general guideline society already has in place governing the relationship of work to pay. For the most part, it is a given that those who do the work they agree to do should receive pay, and those who break a job commitment should not get the agreed-upon sum. ASUO President Wylie Chen agreed, saying in the Nov. 5 Emerald, "Regardless of the rules, it seems to fall in line with non-fulfillment in a job that requires them to be accessible to students."

While it may seem harsh to take away the small amount of money the senators received, the rules of society must be held to politicians who serve a given constituency. It's the reason former Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood and former President Richard Nixon were shamed out of office. Imagine a place where politicians are not supposed to set the example for the rest of their population. Everyone would believe back-room deals and the permanent waffling on personal values are acceptable.

Having the offenders repay the money is the fairest and most reasonable method of setting things right

and putting the predicament behind everyone as quickly as possible without going overboard.

But anything past repayment of money by the others would be excessive.

It isn't as if the senators were embezzling funds in a master plan to retire to Aruba. They didn't hold office hours and got about enough money to buy dinner for one at a decent restaurant. While there is no doubt they need to pay the money back as a matter of principle, there is no need to further punish them and possibly damage their reputations unnecessarily.

When examining the punish-

ment, or lack thereof, of a previous senator, it is apparent that the offenses of those not filling their office-hour requirements are small by comparison and should be dealt with as a minor incident. Last year, Sen. Michael Dixon was sentenced only to probation by the courts after pleading guilty to burglary and theft of University property and received no punishment from the senate. After being sentenced to probation, community service and fines, Dixon continued to hold business seat No.

17.
If Dixon was al-

lowed to remain after willfully breaking the law and stealing from the University, summer-session Senate President Gabbe should definitely not be removed for failing to keep office hours himself or for failing to make sure others were doing so. Making the senators repay their stipends would fall in line with the decision to give a slap on the wrist and a second chance.

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



Giovanni Sallimena Emerald

Letters to the editor

Senators do more outside offices

I am writing the student body in regards to the devious attempt for character assassination in the grievance filed by an erratic student against certain members of the Student Senate. As a member of the summer senate committee, I feel that this particular grievance is a misguided attack on hardworking, dedicated individuals and on the integrity of the Student Senate as a whole.

The complaint accuses these senators of not being accessible to the student body by not holding regular office hours. These senators are far from not being there for the students they represent. As a member of the

Student Senate, I can proudly say that these individuals are proven fighters to the needs of the student body. This past summer (during which the complaint is filed for) these senators won tremendous victories for the students here at the University as well as for campuses around the state. Winning the battles to freeze tuition, keeping students on the Oregon Health Plan and working on campus diversity are just some examples of what C.J. Gabbe, Jerome Grzybowski, Spencer Hamlin and Jessica Timpany have achieved. These victories are far from a "non-fulfillment of duties."

I am disheartened that a grievance would be filed to impede the progress of a committed group of individuals who diligently work to provide a positive and enjoyable campus

atmosphere for all students. So what is more important, sitting in the EMU or keeping all of us on the Oregon Health Plan?

Andrew Schneider
student senator

Tandam Taxi: excellent alternative

I am writing in response to Mr. Collier's article on the necessity of funding services like Saferide. While I am in total agreement with his opinion, I would also like to point out that in addition to Saferide, there is another excellent alternative called the Tandem Taxi. The Tandem Taxi is a program run through the University to help ensure the safety of both women and men at night through alternative transportation: biking. With

the Tandem Taxi, one can either chose to ride and pedal on the tandem bike (a two-seater bike) or be pulled along in the petty cab.

This is a great way to go short distances around campus or anywhere within a three mile radius, including Ducks Village, The Commons and Chase Village apartments. Plus, the Tandem Taxi is really fun to ride, it's free and you get where you are going quickly. The Tandem Taxi runs every night Monday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. And then again on Sunday from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The phone number is 346-TAXI. Like Saferide, the Tandem Taxi is another great way to go safely.

Alyssa Aaby
biology

THE WEEK IN THUMBS



To a prodigal prez

University President Dave Frohn-mayer returned to Eugene Friday after a heart arrhythmia kept him in a Maryland hospital since Oct. 22.

To astonishing forgiveness

Judy and Dennis Shepard, the parents of slain gay college student Matthew Shepard, brokered a deal with convicted killer Aaron McKinney to spare the young man the possibility of the death penalty. The deal disallows any appeals and ensures the killer life in prison.



To Kia car carnage

A deputy Eugene fire marshal said that the intensity and rapid speed of last month's fire at Kiefer's Eugene Kia automobile dealership were partially aided by fire code violations. The company did not have a permit to do the repair work and auto detailing that it performed.

To money up in smoke

Health officials say that almost one in four adults smoked in 1997, about the same as in 1990. Rates among adults declined slightly, but the smoking of ages 18 to 24 increased to almost 29 percent.