

EMU tobacco sales come under fire

■ Professor Pat Lombardi is aiming to have all tobacco sales banned at Erb Essentials

By Kara Cogswell
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The sale of tobacco products earns the EMU thousands of dollars in revenue each year, but one University professor says it's not right for the school to profit from smoking.

V. Pat Lombardi, a professor in the biology department, said he was "appalled" when he learned that Erb Essentials, a convenience store in the EMU basement, sold cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.

"Cigarette smoking is the number one cause of premature death in the U.S.," he said. "For the University to profit from (tobacco sales) ... is absolutely a tough thing to swallow, to say the least."

Lombardi intends to ask the EMU Board to ban all tobacco sales in the EMU.

EMU Board Chairwoman Christa Shively said the students, administrators and staff members who sit on the board want to find out whether students support selling tobacco products in the EMU before they make a decision.

If the EMU lost tobacco revenue, she said, it could mean more student fee money would have to be spent on EMU expenses such as utility and maintenance.

EMU Food Services Director John Costello said tobacco sales accounted for 7.5 percent of total EMU food service sales last year.

Of the \$317,360 Erb Essentials

brought in last year, more than one third of that money — \$103,686 — was from tobacco, he said.

But those figures don't reflect corollary purchases by tobacco customers, he said. If Erb Essentials stops selling tobacco products, the store may lose those non-tobacco sales as well, he said.

Senior Shari Takara, who works in Erb Essentials, said banning cigarette sales in the store wouldn't discourage students from smoking because students would still buy them somewhere else.

"If we don't sell them, they're just going to walk to 7-11," she said.

Regardless of whether students buy cigarettes elsewhere, Lombardi said, it is not ethical for the University to indirectly support the tobacco companies and profit from tobacco sales.

Lombardi, who has several relatives who have died from smoking-related illnesses, said tobacco profits are "tainted money" because they are made at the expense of people's health — smokers directly and non-smokers indirectly from secondhand smoke.

"I feel bad for students if they lose funds," he said. "But the University should never have gotten into (tobacco sales) in the first place."

The EMU Board will meet at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the EMU Board Room, located on the third floor of the EMU. The meeting is open to the public, and students are encouraged to come, Shively said.

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and firing power, he said.

"We don't trust them," Sifuentez said. "It's frustrating."

Morozumi said he feels the University is 20 or more years behind other universities when it comes to diversity. He said the University's excuses for this are Oregon is a "white state" and teachers' salaries aren't as high as other universities to attract a more diverse population. Morozumi does not think these are good excuses.

Sifuentez agreed, adding Oregon State University is "light years ahead" of the University in matters of diversity, and he attributes this to their president.

"We've lost students to OSU," he said. "Not to say they are doing a great job, just better."

Floyd believes an answer to students' concerns would be to hire someone that holds a senior position that deals with matters of diversity. He said a problem is there are a lot of units on campus focusing on different aspects in the diversity issue, but they aren't integrated. Creating this position would fill in this gap, he said.

"Students work closely together, but administrators don't," Floyd said. "There must be someone in (Johnson Hall) to work on it."

He added there needs to be someone to serve as the "champion" who will always keep diversity initiatives at the forefront. He said a student serving as the "champion" works in the short run, but not in the long run. This is because students eventually graduate, and there needs to be someone to keep the initiatives going, he said.

"Your student body is very unique," Floyd said. "Unlike so many student bodies, this student body will have an initiative, a focus and is willing to produce the funds to back it up."

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Statistics for the Fiscal Year, July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001

Total EMU Food Service Sales
\$1,349,331

Total Erb Essentials Sales
\$317,360

Tobacco Sales
\$103,686

Source: John Costello, Director of EMU Food Services

Morgan Dethman Emerald

It's about
roadtrips...
without crashes
or injuries



It's about
GPAs...
not DUIs and MIPs



It's about
**keeping
our friendships
alive...**



not having our friends die



It's about
**preserving
our community...**
not destroying it



It's about
**drinking alcohol
responsibly**
or **NOT drinking
at all....**

Office of Student Life
University of Oregon