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COMMENTARY

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Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Editorial

Football ticket distribution plan needs revamping

Hundreds of die-hard Duck football fans filled the hallways of the EMU and surrounded the Autzen Stadium ticket office on Nov. 19, eager to get tickets to the Civil War game on Dec. 1. The Civil War is one of the most highly-anticipated games of the season, and students were willing to camp in the rain, deprive themselves of sleep and skip classes in order to receive a tiny piece of paper that would allow them access to the event.

Ticket distribution problems have been mounting for years, and last week's episode at Autzen and the EMU only proves the issue is worsening. Phone calls flooded ASUO and University President Dave Frohnmayer's office, because parents were angry that their children skipped their classes to stand in line. Now rumors are running rampant about student groups misusing their EMU keys to enter the building early to be at the head of ticket lines.

There has to be a better way to distribute student tickets, without wasting time in lines. A few more effective distribution models that we came up with:

- Tie the distribution in with ASUO elections. Create a modified lottery where students who vote on ASUO issues have a chance at being selected, at random, for football tickets in the fall. Admittedly, this model means students would be bribed into voting, but it might spark more interest in campus issues.

- Using DuckWeb, each student could register their intent to attend a game in the fall. A lottery system would randomly chose from the pool of ticket seekers, and an e-mail sent to University accounts would notify the winning students of their ticket number and a date when they could pick it up at the ticket office. This would save many from the hassle of long lines and skipping class if pick-up times are incremental.

- Sell season tickets to students at a reduced price and take money out of the incidental fee. Many other schools in the Pacific-10 Conference sell their student tickets instead of using a portion of the fee to pay for a student seating section. If the Athletic Department Finance Committee's cut of the incidental fee — which this year totaled \$1,042,252 — was removed, it could lower tuition overall. The money students save could then be used to purchase individual or season tickets.

Any of these models would work, if the University was willing to change the current structure. If students want tickets to be included in the cost of the incidental fee, there should be equal opportunity for all students to obtain them. However, if students want to pay for tickets on their own, the \$1,042,252 from the annual incidental fee should be returned to students — especially since a lot of them don't attend games, and shouldn't have to pay for their peers who do. This is not to say that we don't support the incidental fee; but rather, that programs that receive funding from the fee should make sure students will have equal access to those programs and benefits that their funds go toward. The current setup for ticket distribution doesn't allow equal access for all students, and needs to be replaced. As Duck football's popularity increases, so should the availability and abundance of student tickets. After all, if we're paying for the tickets to begin with, there should be enough to go around.

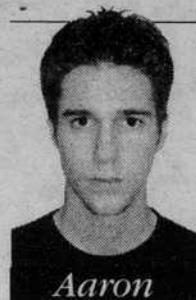
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HUSH, GEORGE: THINK NATION-BUILDING

The state of affairs in Afghanistan is changing by the hour, it seems, so as this is my last column 'til January, I'd like to squeeze in a few unsolicited opinions. Lord knows what the situation will be by the time winter break ends, and people start reading my rants when they should be listening to their professors' lectures again.

First off, Bush needs to stop with this "with us or against us" stuff. It's high time he comes to grips with the fact that much of the world does not like us, let alone agree with our policies. An "us or them" position will only back our Islamic allies against a wall, forcing them to choose between America's friendship and support from Muslim religious leaders. Many of these countries have



Aaron Rorick
Columnist

shaky governments at best, making religious support essential to their survival. What's more, if enough predominantly Muslim countries take the "them" option, which is possible if their populations demand it, we will have a real war on our hands — and this is precisely what bin Laden wants. So shut up, George, and let other countries say they oppose us if they like. So long as they stay out of our way, which they most likely will, what harm can it do?

Secondly, Bush repeatedly stated that he is against "nation building" during the 2000 presidential campaign. If he has any desire to truly make the world a better, safer place, and not just avenge the deaths of the American citizens in New York, he'll renege on this promise. I plead with conservatives and liberals alike: Let him renege. Don't give him a hard time should he choose to take an active role in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

The "enemies of our enemies are our friends" policy of throwing financial support behind one side in a



Steve Baggs Emerald

conflict has come back to bite us too many times to count. The Afghans will not set up a fair, representative government on their own. There are too many different tribes. Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Aimaks and others will all want a hand in a post-Taliban government. Pashtuns make up the majority of the country, but the Taliban are Pashtun, so there will be a desire to exclude them. The other tribes are minorities and won't have broad enough support to rule the entire nation. Any effective government must include all the tribes. How about setting up a two-pronged legislature, like our own, with the upper house consisting of an equal number of representatives from each group and the lower house consisting of representation proportional to population? It would work, but it would take some serious "building."

Thirdly, what is this garbage about secret military tribunals? Just a while ago I heard Ashcroft saying bin Laden and friends would not be tried in a real court. They won't be able to

drop through the cracks of the Afghan tunnels and caverns, he said, and they won't be able to "drop through the cracks of the U.S. judicial system" either. Our judicial system is part of what makes America great. If the attorney general doesn't have enough faith in our own judicial system to entrust to it the convictions of the most hated men in the West, what are we fighting for? As for bin Laden himself, everyone knows he's the sworn enemy of the United States, and everyone knows he's guilty of countless crimes. Shoot him on sight and be done with it.

There are a few other things I could complain about, but I haven't the space. I wish everyone a belated happy Thanksgiving, and a merry Kwanzaa, Christmas, Ramadan, Hanukkah, solstice, et cetera, too. I'll see you in the New Year.

Aaron Rorick is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. His views do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald. He can be reached at aaronrorick@dailyemerald.com.

Letters to the editor

Kesey service memorable, genuine

Wednesday afternoon, I attended Ken Kesey's memorial service at the McDonald Theater. I went downtown to participate in a tribute to Oregon's own distinct regional icon. Kesey inspired freedom of expression, imagination and the beauty of uniqueness through his own behavior, theatrics and written word.

At the memorial service, I discovered what I had hoped for and more. University President Dave Frohnmayer delivered the opening remarks. His speech struck me as a well-articulated and wonderful blend of stories, with thoughtful remarks on what Mr. Kesey meant to the University and how he'd impacted Frohnmayer himself.

Frohnmayer clearly stated he was never active in any of Kesey's many pranks. Instead, he spoke of wonderful

occasions, such as when Kesey sent the Frohnmayer family a box of books written by himself, with his own psychedelic signature, when Frohnmayer's daughter was seriously ill. I was reminded of how we lost one of our greatest Ducks this week, but I was also reminded of how fortunate we are to have Ducks like Frohnmayer to give genuine time and effort to those around. This was a very fitting tribute to the spirit of Ken Kesey. Kesey founded lives on his movement, and Frohnmayer is very much a part of that.

Scott D. Doyle
Rochester, N.Y.

Pornography enables sexual addiction

It has come to my attention that the University of Oregon recently sponsored a speaker, Annie Sprinkle, who promotes herself as a feminist. This "feminist" supports pornography and promiscuity as means of sexual self-expression rather than the exploitation of

women. I wonder if this is truly exercising our First Amendment rights. Or is it enabling sexual addiction?

The University has made efforts to curb alcohol addiction/abuse and the violence, unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases that may result from engaging in the above behavior. Sexual addiction may have the same results. By sponsoring this speaker, the University is sending mixed messages. Are some addictions more allowable and acceptable than others?

Eugene Weekly advertised this event. As an advertiser in the Eugene Weekly, I am concerned about the flavor this partially unclothed female gives to the publication. I am registering my complaint about the explicit and implicit messages promoted by this advertisement. Thank you for considering my concerns as a consumer and a health care provider.

Michele Bouche, CNM
Eugene