

Monday, November 17, 2003

EDITORIAL

Committee co-operation key in arena site selection

University professors, administrators and student representatives converged Wednesday for the monthly University Senate meeting. But something was amiss; in a rare criticism of University administrators, senators passed a resolution condemning the process that sited the University's new sports arena. The bill asserted that:

"Be It Resolved that, the University of Oregon University Senate

Hereby expresses its strong opposition to the siting process for the arena and associated facilities that has taken place to date, and

Hereby urges and expects the University administration to submit its proposal to the Campus Planning Committee for review, and to follow other established campus planning procedures for the siting of the arena and associated facilities."

Biology Professor and former Senate President Nathan Tublitz echoed the resolution's concerns:

"When one group decides that they can circumvent processes, it alienates the entire University community."

While Tublitz's accusations are strongly worded, and while the resolution wields no actual policy-making power, the Senate's pithy message is nonetheless a most important one.

The site selection process violated the University's Policy Statement 7.000, titled "Facility Improvements Financed from Donations": After the relevant administrator approves plans for donated funds, he or she must pass plans to the appropriate vice president, who will "forward (the plan) to the Campus Planning Committee for analysis and recommendation in accordance with established procedures the statement of need, project description, and budget."

The Emerald Editorial Board strongly approves of the selection itself: the location is easily accessible, the siting costs should be less than a quarter of the cost of building the arena on land not currently owned by the University and the arena will bring along with it (in accordance with city code) badly needed expanded parking. Faculty members said they were not necessarily opposed to the site, either. And while administrators did consult the committee "on, I think, two occasions," University Vice President for Administration Dan Williams said, the selection process largely violated the University's longtime and critically important tradition of shared governance.

In the larger scheme of things, it's fortunate that the arena siting issue, rather than a more controversial one, prompted the discussion about shared governance. The University decision was a logistically sound one, and the Campus Planning Committee would likely agree with it, anyway.

Better yet, the administration has already resolved to better integrate the Campus Planning Committee, and thus, by representation, an appreciable fraction of campus voices.

"What the president is trying to do is include the Campus Planning Committee from this point forward," Williams said.

And any plans for even tighter shared governance is good news for everyone in the campus community.



Steve Baggs Illustration

Waterfowl on the wish list

The holidays are fast approaching. As you search for the perfect gift, I offer this newly discovered tidbit for your amusement and edification: You can send ducks through the mail.

That's right. The United States Postal Service accepts live ducks. Be they crested, canvasback or mallard, just slap a stamp on their butt and drop 'em in the slot.

Just kidding. Had you going there didn't I? I'm sure those of you with any common sense realize that the stamp has to go up front with the — drumroll please — bill of lading.

(Brief pause for groans to subside).

So rather than dump a fortune at Valley River Center getting them something from a list of suggested presents, redefine the phrase "flying south for the winter" and send the folks back home something really special this year — you know, kind of a "Ducks from the Duck" theme.

Imagine the cries of delight and surprise as they open the door to the postman and he hands them their very own feathered friend. Mind you, that feathered friend will have just spent several hours cooped up in a pet carrier and, upon release from its confines, may harbor enough of a grudge to commit an indiscretion on the carpet. So, be thoughtful and send along a package of paper towels too — festively wrapped, of course.



Jessica Cole-Hodgkinson
 Huh? What? Really.

While not quite in keeping with the theme, your choices are not limited to waterfowl alone. Should a nice chicken or goose catch your eye, you may send those as well. I haven't checked on turkeys yet — but then, perhaps it would be in poor taste if you're planning on having a close relative roasting in the oven?

For reasons I have yet to fathom, the folks at the post office are also willing to let you ship snakes. So, here's your chance to get that budding herpetologist in your life a brand new boa constrictor. And, what dad wouldn't want a reticulated python? Don't forget mom. Wouldn't a colorful king snake draped over one shoulder really add that something special to the Christmas pictures this year?

With all continuing concerns over anthrax being sent through the mail, I can't help but wonder if this shipping of live animals has something to do with

the continuing discovery of white powder in post offices throughout the nation. I'd bet you a nickel (if I had one) that no one has thought to check these substances for the presence of dried duck droppings.

Come to think of it, I'll bet the postal worker's union hasn't fully investigated the potential workers' compensation claims that could arise out of inhaling the airborne effluvia of the various animals winging their way to and fro. Am I the only one who sees the potential for a great lawsuit here?

That's not even the only cause of action. Despite their willingness to transport fowl and reptiles, the people at the post office inform me that they are steadfastly unwilling to accept their canine and feline counterparts. Can you say "discrimination"?

So, while you can't send anyone a new Labrador or a Siamese, there is a whole world of critters out there that are sure to make your gift the talk of any family gathering and guarantee your place in familial legend for generations to come.

But do me a favor and keep all the credit for yourself. Really. I don't mind a bit.

Contact the columnist at jessicacolehodgkinson@dailyemerald.com. Her opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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ONLINE POLL

Each week, the Emerald publishes the results of the previous week's poll and the coming week's poll question.

Visit <http://www.dailyemerald.com> to vote.

Last question: Will the draft be reinstated?

Results: 92 votes

• No, it would never happen; it's too politically costly: 44.6 percent or 41 votes

• Yes, it is consistent with President Bush's agenda: 22.8 percent or 21 votes

• No, the U.S. military is large enough to handle any future conflicts: 19.6 percent or 18 votes

• Yes, if the Iraqi conflict sharply

escalated: 13.0 percent or 12 votes

This week: What does the Civil War football game mean to you?

Choices: A chance to party; A chance to show school spirit; A chance to watch some great football; A chance to remind Beaver fans of the Ducks' obvious superiority; Football is meaningless to me, I'm here for an education.