

OREGON COMMENTATOR

Volume 25, Number 7

Friday, February 22, 2008

ASUO Green Tape Notebook
INTRODUCTION
WHAT IS THE GREEN TAPE NOTEBOOK?
The ASUO Constitution states, "The President shall publish an annual compilation of rules, resolutions and other policies established by the Executive Office, the Student Senate, ASUO Programs Finance Committee, Athletic Department Finance Committee, ASUO Court, EMU Board, and other agencies which may from time to time issue rules, resolutions or

policies affecting the student body and its programs."
The ASUO's Green Tape Notebook is the collection of governing rules that apply to all ASUO programs. Beginning with the 2005-06 academic year, specific procedural information related to ASUO policies that was previously included in the Green Tape Notebook will be included in a separate publication called the ASUO Programs Finance Committee, the Athletic Department Finance Committee, the EMU Board, and the Student Senate must be reviewed and approved by the Constitution Court for compliance with the ASUO Constitution before going into effect. All such rules, resolutions and policies shall take effect as promulgated unless declared unconstitutional by the Constitution Court.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
The Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) exists to provide for the social, cultural, educational and physical development of its members, and for the advancement of their individual and collective interests both within and outside the University. (ASUO Constitution, Section 1.2) The ASUO, through the Executive, administers more than 100 student programs from the African Student Association to the YWCA.

All students at the University of Oregon who have paid the current term/semester's incidental fee are members of the ASUO and generally have access to all ASUO programs and services. (People who are not enrolled as full-time students may not be eligible for all services.) The ASUO Constitution establishes three student governmental bodies: the ASUO Executive, a Student Senate and a Constitution Court. In addition, the ASUO Constitution established three major committees as part of the financial framework of the student government: the Programs Finance Committee (PFC), Athletic Department Finance Committee (ADFC), and the Erb Memorial Union Board (EMU Board). All members of the Senate and certain members of the

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Programs Finance Committee, the Athletic Department Finance Committee (ADFC), and the Erb Memorial Union Board (EMU Board). All members of the Senate and certain members of the

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Programs Finance Committee, the Athletic Department Finance Committee (ADFC), and the

EMU Board are elected. The other members of these committees, plus the Constitution Court are appointed. The following is a brief description of these six areas:
ASUO EXECUTIVE
Suite 4, EMU □ 346-3724 □ asuo@uoregon.edu
http://asuo/executive.php
The ASUO Constitution calls for a chief executive officer, the ASUO President, who is responsible for the administration of ASUO programs and acts as the official spokesperson for

UO students. The Executive consists of the President and Vice President plus approximately 15 staff positions.

The Constitution gives the ASUO President the authority to "make such rules as are necessary to insure the fair and efficient operation of

ASUO agencies and programs..." (Section 5.11). These rules are contained in the ASUO Program Rules.

STUDENT SENATE
Suite 4, EMU □ 346-3749 □ senate@uoregon.edu
http://asuo/senate.php
The 18-member ASUO Student Senate is responsible for allocating incidental fees and for representing the collective interest of students in all matters considered and acted upon by the University Senate. The ASUO Student Senate allocates incidental fees, collected from each student, through the annual budget process and through Special Requests. Senators also serve on student/faculty committees. Reflecting its dual functions, nine members of the ASUO Student Senate are elected by academic major to represent the university's schools and colleges and are known as "Academic Senators." Per 9C.C.1 (2006/07) ruling by the Constitution Court, the distribution of Academic seats for the elections of 2007 and 2008 are as follows: Seat 10 - Schools of Education, Journalism, Community Education, & National Student Exchange. Seat 11 - Undeclared. Seat 12 - AAA, Psychology and School of Music. Seat 13 - Business Administration. Seat 14 - Arts and Sciences Group 1. Seat 15 - Arts and Sciences Group 2. Seat 16 - Arts and Sciences Group 3. Seat 17 - Graduate and Law. Seat 18 - Graduate and Law. The other nine senators are elected to serve on finance committees and are known as "Finance Senators". Their assigned seats are delineated in Section 6.1 of the ASUO Constitution.

Executive. The ADFC's operating rules and guidelines are contained in the ADFC Bylaws. ERB MEMORIAL UNION BOARD
Mezzanine Level, EMU □ 346-372
http://emu.uoregon.edu/
The EMU Board (EMUB) is a 15-member committee consisting of students, faculty and EMU staff. It is responsible for allocating a five million dollar budget to programs and service areas and for allocating space in the 200,000 square foot EMU facility. Any matter dealing with renovations of the building, reassignment of space or changes in EMU program budgets must be approved by the EMUB.

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The Erb Memorial Union is houses a multitude of services and programs which serve University of Oregon students, including administrative offices, meeting rooms, a copy center, US post office, retail food services, and a variety of ASUO-funded programs.

The EMU's mission and organizational structure are outlined in the EMU Governance Document.

ASUO Green Tape Notebook
Incidental Fee Guidelines
University of Oregon
Clark Document
Revised 11/03/05
A. Introduction
The student Incidental Fee has been authorized by the Oregon Legislature to provide for the "cultural or physical development" of students. In authorizing the Incidental Fee, the Legislature

relationships of major programs funded by student incidental fees resides within the University

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Administration. Any recommendations for realignment of major programs or other considerations of what constitutes optimal reporting relationships should be the outcome of proper consultation and wide support between student government and the University President. Such modification requires approval of the President.

The ASUO recognizes the legitimate interest of both the OSBHE and the University administration in maintaining an efficient fee recommendation and establishment process. The administration and the ASUO, therefore, agree that unless disagreements arise, the normal transmittal process will be for fee recommendations to be provided to the University President in writing for the President's approval and transmittal to the Chancellor for compilation and to the OSBHE for approval. The ASUO retains its statutory right (OAR 580.10.090) to make recommendations directly to the OSBHE. Applicable provisions of state law and OSBHE regulations will be followed in the development, transmittal, and expenditure of incidental fees.

C. Procedures: Meetings and Student Membership
All meetings of incidental fee committees and subcommittees thereof shall be conducted in accordance with the Oregon Public Meetings Law. For purposes of determining application of public meetings law, a subcommittee of the

must submit a goal statement which allows each Finance Committee to determine for itself whether the program or activity meets the statutory standard of ORS 351.070(3)(d) which authorizes the OSBHE to collect fees to fund programs for the cultural or physical development of students. Any request for one-time or limited-duration funding for programs or projects must also be accompanied by a statement of goals which allows each finance committee to consider the appropriateness of that request under ORS 351.070(3)(d). The Student Senate and all finance committees will only consider funding programs or projects they believe meet the statutory standard.

Other hearings procedures shall be at the discretion of the Student Senate and finance committees, and shall be made available in writing to all hearing participants prior to the beginning of the annual budget hearing process. The Student Senate and finance committees may each, at its own discretion, hold preliminary hearings for, among other things, seeking information or clarifying goals. Documents submitted to the Student Senate and finance committees and their decisions regarding approval of both programs goals and levels of funding shall be forwarded to the ASUO President and then to the University President (or his or her designee).

There shall be no direct allocation or introduction of fees through use of the referendum process. However, in some cases, it may be appropriate for the ASUO to use ballot

building reserve.
5% Prudent Reserve Fund. An unappropriated Reserve fund shall be maintained with Incidental Fee income. The unappropriated Reserve fund shall be created at the beginning of the fiscal year at a level equal to at least 5% of the current fiscal year's total Incidental Fee budget to insure against shortfalls due to under-realized enrollment and/or other unforeseen contingencies. This fund may be used only to address emergency budgetary shortfalls, or other compelling prudent fiscal actions. In all cases, requests for use of the 5% Prudent Reserve Fund should be identified in specific written transmittals to the University President.

Over-realized Fund (ORF). Funds accruing in the unappropriated Reserve Fund in excess of the mandated 5% Prudent Reserve due to over-realized enrollment income shall be identified as "over-realized funds" (ORF). Allocation of ORF must only be used in accordance with the following criteria:

(1) Address one-time, non-recurring expenses for which other funding sources are not available or are inappropriate;

(2) Benefit large groups of students or to support projects with a broad base of student support;

(3) Address issues of an emergency nature that have an impact on students;

(4) Respond to special or unique targets of opportunity, where investment of resources will result in substantial savings of student fees;

(5) Reduction of fee collections. Currently enrolled students, ASUO recognized student groups, and any programs or departments funded as a supplement to the following year's fee collections or as a source for student-recommended fees are eligible to request and receive an allocation of over-realized funds.

10.
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An emergency allocation from the 5% Prudent Reserve fund or allocation of ORF funds must include certification of the unusual nature of the proposed expenditure(s) and have the recommendation of the Student Senate and the written approval of the ASUO President as well as the formal approval of the University President or his/her designee.

H. Recommendation Format and Criteria
Incidental fee allocation recommendations shall be aggregated by three major categories: (1) EMU; (2) ASUO programs and services; and (3) Intercollegiate Athletics. Each of these categories is considered a Major Program. For the purpose of this document, EMU shall include EMU activities and services; the ASUO Major Program shall be comprised of educational, cultural, and student government activities, registered and recognized student organizations, and all other non-EMU or non-Athletic department programs and services funded in whole or in part with incidental fees; and Intercollegiate Athletics shall be known as the Athletic Department Program.

A distinct activity within a Major Program that has been funded for six consecutive years is considered a Traditionally Funded Program (TFP). Funding recommendations for major programs and any sub-component of a major program is limited to one fiscal year, and all budget recommendations will be for fixed sum amounts only.

For fee allocation purposes, programs and services previously funded through indefinite or multiple year referendums will become a part of the Major Program titled ASUO. Such programs and services will be established as Traditionally Funded Programs (TFP) after completion of six consecutive years funding.

A proposed decrease in the level of fee support for any Major Program shall not exceed 10% of the preceding year's allocation unless the Program voluntarily requests such a reduction.

A recommendation to reduce a major program by more than 10% requires a unanimous vote of the Student Senate, and must be approved. The same process shall be applied to recommendations concerning TFP's, except that the allowable reduction shall be 25%, and a unanimous vote of the appropriate Finance Committee is required.

The ASUO and the University President recognize that fiscal stability is essential to long-term planning. These offices agree that in any situation involving substantial budget decreases in Major Programs or TFP's, both the ASUO and the University President shall assist the affected

edu
http://asuo/adfc.php
The Athletic Department Finance Committee (ADFC) acts on all matters relating to the allocation and appropriation of incidental fees for the UO Athletic Department, for the purpose of recommending a budget to the Student Senate. The goal of the ADFC is to provide UO students with an opportunity to attend Intercollegiate Athletics sporting events at a reasonable price, and for the affordable use of MacArthur Court for student-sponsored events.

The ADFC consists of three Finance Senators and one member appointed by the ASUO

requesting notification, the President, the Director of the EMU, and the Athletic Director where affected.

Scheduling of hearings shall be at the discretion of the Student Senate and Finance Committees, except that hearings on allocation requests from the EMU and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics shall be held at a time mutually convenient to those departments and the Finance Committee.

E. Hearing Format
Within the context of the ASUO Programs Finance Committee, the Athletic Department Finance Committee, and the EMU Board hearings process, each program within a Major Program

budgeting process. The EMU Building Reserve will equal 3.5% of the total estimated incidental fee budget, and this reserve allocation will be excluded from ASUO calculations determining compliance with EMU major program growth limits. Such appropriated reserve funds have the status of allocated monies that have been approved by student government, the UO President, the OUS chancellor and OSBHE and may be spent by the EMU director without further approval or authorization by the EMU Board or student government. The EMU Director will notify the ASUO Executive, ASUO Senate, and the EMU Board of all expenditures from the EMU

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We reserve the right to edit material we find obscene, libelous, inappropriate or lengthy. We are not obliged to print anything that does not suit us. Unsolicited material will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Submission constitutes testimony as to the accuracy.

E-mails sent to individual authors that are directly related to the Oregon Commentator may be reused by the Commentator as it sees fit.

Mission Statement

The Oregon Commentator is an independent journal of opinion published at the University of Oregon for the campus community. Founded by a group of concerned student journalists on September 27, 1983, the Commentator has had a major impact in the "war of ideas" on campus, providing students with an alternative to the left-wing orthodoxy promoted by other student publications, professors and student groups. During its twenty-four year existence, it has enabled University students to hear both sides of issues. Our paper combines reporting with opinion, humor and feature articles. We have won national recognition for our commitment to journalistic excellence.

The Oregon Commentator is operated as a program of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) and is staffed solely by volunteer editors and writers. The paper is funded through student incidental fees, advertising revenue and private donations. We print a wide variety of material, but our main purpose is to show students that a political philosophy of conservatism, free thought and individual liberty is an intelligent way of looking at the world—contrary to what they might hear in classrooms and on campus. In general, editors of the Commentator share beliefs in the following:

- We believe that the University should be a forum for rational and informed debate—instead of the current climate in which ideological dogma, political correctness, fashion and mob mentality interfere with academic pursuit.

- We emphatically oppose totalitarianism and its apologists.

- We believe that it is important for the University community to view the world realistically, intelligently, and above all, rationally.

- We believe that any attempt to establish utopia is bound to meet with failure and, more often than not, disaster.

- We believe that while it would be foolish to praise or agree mindlessly with everything our nation does, it is both ungrateful and dishonest not to acknowledge the tremendous blessings and benefits we receive as Americans.

- We believe that free enterprise and economic growth, especially at the local level, provide the basis for a sound society.

- We believe that the University is an important battleground in the "war of ideas" and that the outcome of political battles of the future are, to a large degree, being determined on campuses today.

- We believe that a code of honor, integrity, pride and rationality are the fundamental characteristics for individual success.

Socialism guarantees the right to work. However, we believe that the right not to work is fundamental to individual liberty. Apathy is a human right.

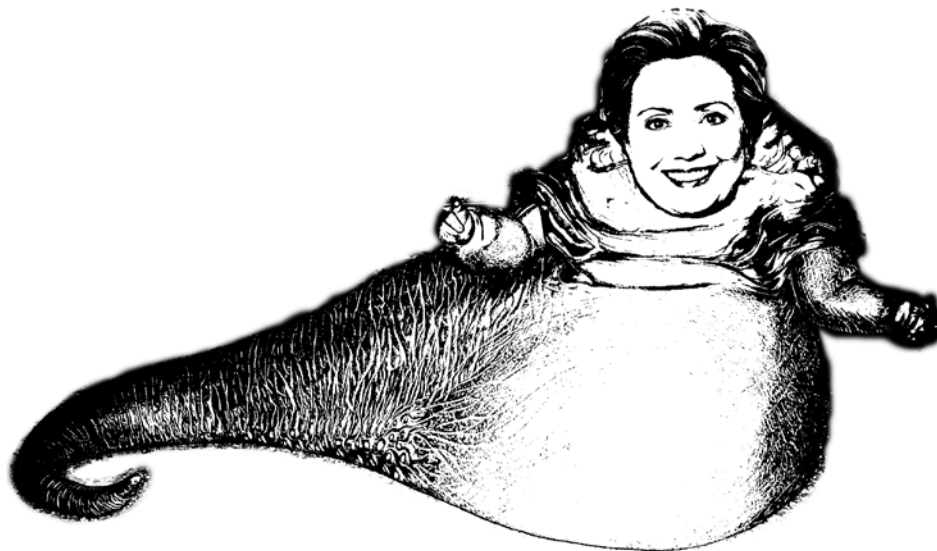
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THE OREGON COMMENTATOR
FREE MINDS, FREE MARKETS, FREE BOOZE

VIEWPOINT NEUTRALITY, SCHMOOPOINT NEUTRALITY

The lifeblood of the ASUO is the language and hot-topic phrases debated each year by the student government. By the end of the day, it is more about ego than it is about money. Last year it was “institutional racism” and this year it is “viewpoint neutrality.” A good, concise explanation of viewpoint neutrality can be found on the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education’s (FIRE) website, www.fire.org. Two major court cases defined the role of viewpoint neutrality in the allocation of student fees at state colleges and universities: *Rosenberger v. Rectors of the University of Virginia* (1995) and *Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth* (2000). According to Fire:

Together, the rulings show clearly that (1) any student organization at a state school that is denied funding because of its views can sue claiming viewpoint discrimination; and (2) students may opt out of funding an objectionable group only if that state university does not distribute its money in a viewpoint neutral manner.

Thus, the ASUO cannot deny funding, or give less money than needed, to a student group for reasons regarding the speech and messages that group provides to the cultural environment of the university. Furthermore, FIRE writes:

Viewpoint discrimination occurs when the government uses its power to advance one person’s opinion over another’s in such matters as religion, politics, and belief.

Let’s look at an example from the last few weeks where viewpoint neutrality was said to be violated – at least questioned – by the PFC. Last month, after much debate, the PFC decided to give the Oregon Students Public Interest Research Group a small increase in its budget. During the hearings, some committee members talked about concerns that the group spends too much student money off campus. From a news story in the Oregon Daily Emerald (1/28/08):

But one volunteer shot back at Wilsey, “I think you’re right that it is very difficult to quantify something like OSPIRG. OSPIRG gives me hope that I can change the world. We are educating young people who will enter the workforce to believe that they can change the world.”

“I agree with you,” Wilsey replied, “but this body has to quantify it.”

By the final vote, however, Sen. Nick Meyers was the only one to vote against the increase as the others were too afraid of being viewpoint discriminant. From the ODE:

Meyers questioned why, after so many years, so many people dislike OSPIRG and mentioned negative articles in the Oregon Commentator.

ASUO President McLain, who had attended the entire hearing, interrupted. “I think we are verging very closely on a breach of viewpoint neutrality,” she said, accusing Meyers of questioning “how they are perceived politically.”

To look at “viewpoint neutrality” fairly, take the above example and flip flop it: what if funding OSPIRG as a contracted service is not viewpoint neutral. The definition of contracted services, as defined in the PFC Budget Packet, is:

Non-University of Oregon entities that contract with the ASUO for specific services such as Lane Transit District, Legal Services, and the Oregon Daily Emerald. These programs receive their incidental fee funding in 3 or more lump-sum payments, in accordance with the conditions of a signed contract.

Arguments made by its members regarding how OSPIRG provides to the social, cultural, educational and physical development of the ASUO makes OSPIRG sound like a collection of services – most of which are backed with a liberal viewpoint – unless you consider the service of “changing the world” adequate to the definition. What is the “specific service” the group provides? The OC presents the University students with a much more clearly defined service. We print, they read. Simple as that.

When Meyers brought up articles written by the Oregon Commentator, he is referring to this publication’s ongoing opinion that OSPIRG has historically been given special treatment because of its viewpoint. This has nothing to do with us trying to advance our opinion over theirs. We are arguing for a fair playing field. If a student body cannot discriminate against a group, it should not be allowed to do the opposite, by privileging a student group because of its viewpoints. This has been happening for decades in the ASUO and the current student leaders are allowing this to continue, even though most of them are unaware or are not meaning to do so.

A simple solution is to make OSPIRG into a student group, like the rest of us. If the proposed changes to the fee process are passed (see page 14), OSPIRG should have a line-item budget that is still overlooked by the PFC, not the Athletics and Contracts Finance Committee, and visible to the students who pay for it. If it doesn’t, we believe the ASUO is distributing student money in a viewpoint discriminant matter.

Dear Mr. Commentator

I thoroughly enjoyed J. Herman Feinberg, PhD's piece, "The Economics of Finding a Mate at the Bar" (OC: 2/1/08). I would like to take Dr. Feinberg's arguments further. He provides an excellent understanding of the basic microeconomic tools required to obtain a substantial portion of this scarce resource. By bringing a more macro and long-term perspective, one can gain a further understanding of "game." I contend that by using Keynesian counter-cyclical policies one can ensure a more stable supply of poon.

Getting laid comes in waves, not unlike the business cycle taught in high school economics. Through extensive empirical research, I concluded that, much like the markets, one gains confidence in oneself and that confidence builds itself, which in the market leads to economic expansion and in college leads to fornication expansion. When this economic expansion reaches a peak, the economy overheats, inflation sets in, and a recession begins. When you reach your personal peak, your hubris catches up with you and you are going home to watch Wedding Crashers by yourself again.

Now, how can a homosexual economist help you never sleep alone again? John Maynard Keynes argued that a government can mitigate the adverse effects of this unstable business cycle. By deficit spending during recession and by surplus spending during ascension the government can counter the natural fluctuation of the economy to bring about stability. Using the logic, if you deficit spend (raise your standards) during recession and surplus spend (lower your standards), your sex cycle should flatten out. This kind of policy would end the rare occasions where you are struggling to balance at least two women, but would practically end your lonely nights - A tradeoff most are willing to accept.

Keynesian economics faces harsh criticism and is hard to implement in reality. Legislatures do not like cutting spending or raising taxes; much like most people do not like turning down attractive men or women or hooking up with fatties. But, damnit, sacrifices must be made. I hope this will provide a complement to Dr. Feinberg's analysis and show how long-term perspectives can facilitate short-term goals or help you get laid more.

Sincerely,

Dr. W. Mikhail Bittenweuser
Visiting Professor of Economics
Northwest Christian College

"Damn Hippies" Response

There is so much to argue with in this article that it would take months to cover every topic in our weekly Rogue Trivia routine.

Good Job! Now where do I begin?

Capitalism requires rules and restrictions to maintain the stability and integrity of the system. I refer you, sir, to your own beloved Friedman, "... government is essential both as a forum and for determining the 'rules of the game' and as an umpire to interpret and enforce the rules decided on." (Capitalism and Freedom) The reason why capitalism needs to be kept on a leash and obedience trained is our own inherent temptation to seek short term profit over long term growth.

For instance, if Frog were looking to maximize his short term profit, he could save the cost of the joke book and make a lot more than \$3 by sneaking up, clubbing you in the back of the head with a rubber chicken, and taking your wallet. In your ideal of an unrestrained capitalist economy, wouldn't it then be up to you to be smart enough to watch out for your own survival?

Yes, to consider mugging someone a free and fair business practice would be an extreme case of deregulation. But let's look at the under-regulated financial industry. The current sub-prime mortgage crises is, in part, due to underwriters seeking the short term profits on risky, high-rate loans that can be bundled

up and sold on the securities market. Profit incentive combined with deregulation led to predatory lending practices. What little regulation we had left after 30 years of the reaganomics scourge was of little use. Our enforcer of lending standards, Alan Greenspan, was content to sit idly by while millions of people were suckered into loans that they couldn't afford.

While predatory lending practices were very profitable in the short run, they could only last while housing prices kept rising. They didn't keep rising, and what's more, it was inevitable that they wouldn't. Now that the unnecessary equity bubble has burst, our economy is on the brink of recession. We would have been much better off had we never gotten rid of Glass-Steagall since all that beautiful regulation would have kept that bubble from getting so large as to threaten the entire economy.

If we 'hippies' demand increased regulation, it isn't born of an anti-capitalist lust for control and conformity. It is simply the desire to protect ourselves from the chicken-wielding Frogs in the financial world. The 'rules of the game' must be elaborated and enforced in order to maintain a healthy and stable economy.

Robert Kirkpatrick

Undergraduate student of University of Oregon
Major in Accounting
Minor in Economics and Mathematics

Do you have an opinion about the Oregon Commentator? Let us know about it.
Send letters to the editor to ocomment@uoregon.edu

Three out of 50 U of O students have read the Oregon Commentator

On Feb. 6, Professor Misha Myogkov asked how many students in PS 491, Politics of Everyday Life, have read “this pamphlet,” holding up the Feb. 1 issue of the Oregon Commentator. Three students raised their hands, and one of those students was the OC’s Editor-in-Chief Ossie Bladine. When asked how he felt about the OC’s two percent readership, Bladine said it was just a polling error since a majority of students were in the “uninformed section of the equation.”

This Week’s Conspiracy Theory

The UO Foundation is negotiating with a man named Shivas Irons, Vice President of Apple’s UK sector, to a handshake agreement that will replace every PC on campus with an Apple. The story of Irons goes back to Fall 1954, when the Scotland native spent one term in Eugene as a foreign exchange student. It was then he struck up a friendship with Randy Papé, president and CEO of The Papé Group, Inc. – the two were golfing buddies. The agreement also entails a \$50 million investment into the new arena on the terms that the University agree to promote Apple products onto students for 100 years and that Apple CEO Steve Jobs gets to name the new arena. Rumor is, he likes the name Kidpix Arena.

OC challenges student publications to the gridiron

The Oregon Commentator challenges the staffs of the University’s other student publications — including the Ol’ Dirty, the Oregon Voice, and the Student Insurgent — to a game of schoolyard football. The rules will be as follows:

- 5 Mississippi blitz
- First down is midfield
- 1 blitz per set of downs.
- no crying

The time and place can be arranged if a challenge is accepted — the lawn between the cemetery and Gerlinger Hall seems appropriate. Yes, we mean tackle football, and no, we will not change the challenge to Ultimate Frisbee.

Booze on a Budget

THE ICECAPADE:

Start with a 40 of your favorite malt liquor, drink down to label, fill with Night Train and dump a Kool-Aid (or two) and stick in the freezer for about twenty minutes.

PRISON JUICE:

Cup of juice and some rye bread or whole wheat, shove into fruit juice and store under your bed for about two weeks. Open and Enjoy.

FERMENTED LEMONADE:

Add sliced lemons to large pot of water and boil for about an hour. Remove from heat. When water cools to 70 degrees, add sugar and yeast. Stir vigorously, cover and let sit overnight (or longer). Strain and enjoy.

Corrections in Feb. 1 OC Issue

~ L Ron Hubbard, was mistakenly spelled Ron L Hubbard. Either way, the guy’s loony.

~ The quote “Hear, Hear” was mistakenly spelled “Here, Here.”

~ Due to a reporter error, Ty Schwoefferrmann was labeled as a noted campus racists. His actual title is infamous campus racist.

~ In the headline for the Death Pool 2008, “Dying” was spelled “Dieing.” (pull your head out, Bladine)

~ The cover of the last issue was misleading. The new arena will not actually be placed on a foggy precipice. We apologize for any confusion.

~ Rennie’s Landing was misnamed as Rennie’s Tavern - for the 23rd time. Needless to say, we were drunk.

~ The caption under a photo of Residence Hall Association President Keith Bassett was incorrect. Bassett did not actually sing the National Anthem before the meeting, but he’d be a lot cooler if he did.

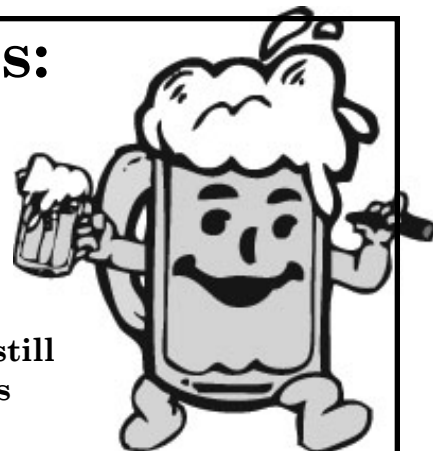
The Ernie Kent Fade Watch



Not quite as good as the 70s flat top but still looking sharp, coach.

Sudsy Says:

I think thumbs are fingers everywhere.
If you had no fingers and only thumbs you would still have two fingers



Odds By Drew

by Drew Cattermole

ODDs of Getting Laid
if for V-Day you
Bought Her:

A Box of Chocolates 1:4
Roses 1:2
A Bottle of KY Intrigue 1:50
40's of 2-11 1:1

If DPS Gets Tazers
ODDs 1st Tazing Will Be:

An Angry Hippie 1:3
A Drunk Frat Boy 1:2
Hilarious 1:1
Necessary 1:500

ODDs You'll Call A Girl Back
if she is:

From your dorm 1:2
In your class 1:3
From previous class 1:20
A Homeless person 1:1,000
A Hooker 1:1



asks ...

How do you think the OC has been doing
this year?



Hank Hill:

Sudsy, Man Issue, Aroused America, Death Pool, Blog, and Hippy Jokes. All sounds like Goofathol to me

Ladybird Hill:

Woof

Gen. George Patton:

You goddamn slack-jawed ninnies, how do you think I think you've been doing? Fantastic!



Mr. Peanut:

You have a rapist's wit



Carlo Rossi:

I love you guys

Phil Knight:

Well, you didn't crown me "Asshole of the Month" like the Oregon Voice, so I'll say mediocre at best



Anne Coulter: You're about a drum circle and a patchouli sponge bath away from being the monthly Suite One newsletter, you liberal jerks

Robocop:

I don't think natural selection is working for humans anymore



THE OREGON COMMENTATOR

BLOG

NO COVER BEFORE 10; TUESDAY IS LADY'S NIGHT



www.oregoncommentator.com

The New Center:

Reform, Reconciliation and the Future of the ASUO

Ted Niedermeyer

The fuel of any political system is conflict, and the ASUO is no exception. The vigorous debates over policy and procedure which take place in the EMU boardroom and campus media serve to sharpen the focus of the Senate, and keep relevant issues at the forefront of its debates. Unfortunately, this usually reliable "marketplace of ideas" mechanism can, like any other market system, experience failure, and cease to produce efficient outcomes. With a special election looming which will fundamentally alter the form (and hopefully the behavior) of the Incidental Fee finance system, the time has come to re-examine the lines of confrontation in the ASUO, discard the distractions and zero-sum attitudes and forge a new centrist coalition to guide the incoming reforms and extend their benefits into the future.

Before establishing an ideological basis for broad, moderate reform, it must be recognized that the conflicts between ASUO factions are not artificial creations. Since time immemorial, conflict in the ASUO has centered on differences of fiscal policy, and can be characterized as a struggle between the student groups who receive Incidental Fee funding, and have

a direct stake in annual budget increases, and fiscal conservatives who over the years have made widely varying arguments against the steady rise of the incidental fee. For many years this conflict directly reflected the larger political divisions in this country, pitting social conservatives against funding for groups on the basis of ideological differences, and uniting a broad coalition of loosely "liberal interest student groups" which has essentially dominated the ASUO for decades. Under the leadership of this coalition and its salaried staff members, a climate has emerged in which common sense and responsibility have become tantamount to ideological opposition, and any attempt to monitor, let alone control spending is spun as hateful, ignorant or otherwise at odds with the well-intentioned goals of the groups in question. After decades of unquestioned power, this ideological hegemony had become so intolerant of any dissent that when a new generation of fiscal conservatives set a 2.5% PFC benchmark last school year, they were publicly attacked as racists.

Following this very public controversy, last spring's election generated an undeniable mandate for reform and responsibility, and a reform

slate, the Campaign for Change swept to victory in the Senate on a new form of fiscal responsibility characterized not by ideological opposition to the goals and agendas of student groups, but by a sense of responsibility to the 15,000-odd students who see their incidental fees grow every year without seeing any benefits. This redefinition of fiscal conservatives has helped create a more centrist Senate this year, as only Senators Gulley and Hernandez still demonstrate the sense of entitlement and irresponsibility of the old ruling coalition, but with the passage of higher budget benchmarks than last years, the few hard-core fiscal conservatives may well wonder whether their hard-fought resurgence in recent years has amounted to anything tangible.

The success of new-school fiscal conservatism in the ASUO will not, however, be measured by the benchmarks and final budget numbers of this year, the next year or even the year after that. Not only do significant reductions to specific budgets face enormous practical obstacles, but they keep the spectre of zero-sum politics alive and well, essentially feeding the programs coalition

TURN TO ASUO, PAGE 19

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Partying Like It's 1429

An intelligent glance at a complex geopolitical and cultural issue

Chris Holman

In case you're wondering if the title of this article has anything to do with the Golden Age of Islam, you should consult your Islamic calendar. You'll find that it translates to 2008 AD and even in this so-called 'Information Age' many people remain ignorant of what many Arabs are up to. Sure, some people have desert camps and you can still spot a herd of bedouin-led camels if you're looking for them, but even the tiniest desert encampment will usually have the characteristic satellite dish connected to a television of some sort and the electric generator required to run it all. I know, I know, so what? Right?

First off, it means that even a guy in BFE, no pun intended, can catch the latest Simpsons episode or watch the latest tally of voter turnout in the U.S. Presidential Primaries. More importantly, it means that 'western' culture isn't 'invading' places like the Middle East, it is pervading these places and only getting further entrenched and intertwined with whatever local cultures and customs it might run across. For instance, in a place like Kuwait City one can find Arab youth driving around the Gulf Road on a Wednesday night - their T.G.I.F. - and hear massive subwoofers in the latest cars money can buy providing the rhythmic, pounding bass for a Def Traffic Jam. Hanging out of windows, babbling incessantly on cell phones, and frantically seeking out their next rendezvous, Kuwaiti youth are as interested in a sensual seduction as Snoop Dogg. Granted, you have to be a bit more sly about it than in the United States, but it is only naivete that would lead one to believe that people aren't partying 'over there' like it's 1429.

If you head further south to the eastern province of Dammam in Saudi Arabia, you can find a similar scene jamming the bridge to Bahrain. This bridge, known

affectionately by many westerners as 'Johnny Walker Bridge', is so regarded because there are many people who head to Bahrain to take advantage of the more open atmosphere, the bars, and the prostitutes. I should note here that many Arabs only make the trip for vice-free fun, and many more are not happy with this reality or even to be associated with it geographically. However, it is an unfortunate fact for them that the King Fahd Bridge, the bridge's actual name, links them to these experiences. It's also a fact that Bahrain's hottest nightclub - BJ's - is always jam-packed with people and The Warbler has the best pub grub on the island.

Are you getting the point yet? Well,

for the record, it's not just in Kuwait City where this stuff is happening. You can apply the same scenario(s) across North Africa and the Middle East. Yes - believe it or not - Arabs are people too.

Surprised? Well, Nik Antovich is surely with you in that regard. I know that most non-active duty military Americans aren't going to have much experience wandering around the Middle East, but Antovich's best attempt to write about a complex geopolitical and cultural issue completely neglected the most fundamental building block of any worthy commentary - reality. (See: "U.S. Culture Has Given Al-Qaida Reason To Hate Us" ODE Issue January 15th, 2008). I understand that the Emerald is



only honoring his right to free speech, which I commend, but surely they can find someone who is more informed than Nik to be their opinion monger. I mean, lately it has been Nik this, Nik that, Nik, Nik....NIK. Did I mention that 'Nik' is the command form for "to fuck" in Arabic? An unfortunate coincidence for certain, but the ODE has certainly been Nik'ing itself by allowing this ignoramus to infect its pages with myopic, lumpish and shallow thought in regard to a particularly important issue that deserves far more attention to detail. I mean, Nik, give us a break already!

I'm spending too much time going after Nik though, so let's get to his argument. How he knows that "our culture is abhorred by many Muslims, extremists and moderates" is left unknown. Furthermore, he doesn't even bother to articulate what "extremist" or "moderates" mean in this context. I can only imagine what Arabs might think. Let's just go with the assumption that "extremist" only concerns who Nik characterizes as "Osama bin Laden and others sympathetic to him." I don't know how Nik is measuring sympathy but even if one is liberal with the term, the majority of individuals who fall into this category have stated in numerous press reports and polls (see: Google) that they are sympathetic with the message but do not agree with the violence and/or terrorism. Even liberal thinkers like Chomsky echo such concern, yet non-violent sentiments on similar issues that they are upset with. Nik, I'm pretty sure there was even some guy named Gandhi who prescribed to something that sounded a lot like that. So we've narrowed "extremists" down to an ambiguous group of Arabs whose opinions on the matter range from bin Laden to Gandhi to Chomsky...not necessarily in that order. Nik!

Nik goes on to tell his readers that they need to "take into account how different we are from them." Here he has resorted to the lazy tactic of reductionism because apparently there are only two groups at work here. This, naturally, begs the question as to how something could be so complex with only "we" and "them" at the table. Nik

elaborates how "in their world, religion is absolute." This may be true in places like Saudi Arabia where Islam's role in the government and legal system is more intense, but then Nik probably doesn't realize that Saudi Arabia is by and large the exception and not the rule in regard to this issue. Nik also doesn't tackle the fact that Saudi Arabians are humans and therefore exactly like "we," and if three decades on this planet have told me anything, it's that "we" are pretty Nik'ing complicated. Point being, that regardless of political system, culture, language and pretty much anything else you can think of — people are people.

Point being, that regardless of political system, culture, language and pretty much anything else you can think of — people are people.

We have our differences, but you don't have to dig too far beneath the surface to find raw, unadulterated humanity. Yes, even in Saudi Arabia. Nik!

As far as whether or not democracy is viable within an Islamic society, it is up to debate and dependent upon what one means by "viable," "Islamic" and "democracy." Many Muslims might point to the supreme authority of Allah (SWT) and that the Qur'an says Alif, Baa', Taa' and these are contradictory to what "democracy" means. I would suggest to them that the meaning of "democracy" is negotiable, even within Islam, and that while they are right that the Bush Doctrine won't likely succeed any time soon - or ever - change is ongoing and accelerated in the Middle East and it is hard to tell what will happen next. I might also add that there is plenty having to do with the supreme authority of Allah (SWT) and the Qur'an that would show how the vast majority of governments currently

in power throughout the region are illegitimate, corrupt and un-Islamic at their core. The debate rages on. Nik-sonian indeed!

Nik goes on about the United States and quite surprisingly states that, "Religion is found nowhere in our society." While religion often pertains to the supernatural, it is also defined by Merriam-Webster as, "a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith." This is the definition that Atheists hate because it makes them religious - at least, as far as English is concerned. Beyond that little point though, need one be reminded of the boundless mentioning of G-d in this country by its elected officials, its money, its songs, its Christians, Jews, Hindus, Muslims and most other believers of one g-d or another? No, Nik no!

The rest of Nik's article is a hop, skip and jump across the pond of unrelated and ill-conceived thoughts that continue to highlight his phenomenal, fantastic, and fabulously frivolous flapdoodle. I'll conclude by stating, quite matter-of-factly that miscreants like bin Laden aren't angry with America or "The West" alone. In fact, he and his acolytes are also angry with Muslims. Yes, that's right, he and his ilk don't even see fellow Muslims as being 'pure' enough in their Islamic beliefs. So the notion that Nik argues for in the end of his purblind article - that merely changing the language of what "The West" wants to see in the Middle East vis-a-vis democracy will make it all better - is ignoring another important point. Namely, that short of prescribing to the specific set of beliefs that bin Laden and his followers do, he and his band of martyrs will not like you and will seek to change, influence through violence or kill you.

Oh, and one last thought: Nik Antovich and The Emerald ... should know better.



Chris Holman is an instructor of Arabic at the University of Oregon and loves to Nik.

Party Like it's 1968

Jake Speicher

The 1968 election proved to be one of the defining moments in modern American history. Not only did it canonize the GOP as the prevailing political party, but it left the Democrats in such disarray that they still have not fully recovered. It appears that this year's election is shaping up to be another turning point in this country's history. Not only for the fact that a woman and an African-American have a real shot of winning the White House, but also because the political and social histories are so strikingly similar.



Lyndon Johnson

Before the 1968 election season got underway, many expected then-president Lyndon Johnson to run for re-election. While Johnson had become increasingly unpopular in proportion to the U.S. involvement in Vietnam, his social reforms under the "Great Society" had taken hold. The Johnson administration is responsible for the Civil Rights Act, the "War on Poverty," federal funding for public schools, Medicare and Medicaid.

Humphrey served as vice-president under Johnson and represented the Democratic Party bosses' first choice to run for president. So much so that Humphrey did not actively campaign in the primaries, but instead left his campaign to "favorite sons," or surrogates, who acted on his behalf in individual states.



Hubert Humphrey

Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy decided he would challenge Johnson in the New Hampshire primaries running as the "anti-war candidate." Though he was trailing by huge margins in national polls, McCarthy poured all of his resources into New Hampshire. Though McCarthy lost the primary 49% to 42%, the results proved Johnson's vulnerability.



Eugene McCarthy



Robert Kennedy

Two things resulted from the New Hampshire primaries: Robert Kennedy entered the race, and Johnson dropped out. Kennedy had originally refused to run against Johnson despite his public criticism of the administration and his large base of public support. However, after winning several primaries, Kennedy was assassinated in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968.

While the Democratic Party cannibalized itself, things remained mellow on the GOP side. A front runner from the start, Nixon served as Dwight Eisenhower's vice president and had run for president in 1960 against JFK. In 1968, Nixon ran on a platform of re-establishing "law and order" to the country. The Republican race did not even come close to the bitterness of the Democratic race, but Nixon faced some opposition, most notably Michigan Gov. George Romney, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and California Gov. Ronald Reagan.



Richard Nixon

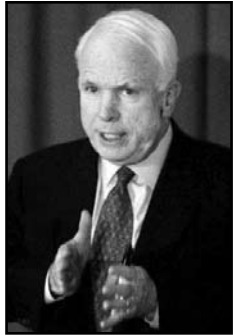


Democratic Convention in Chicago

Going into the convention there was no clear-cut favorite. While Humphrey had the support of the democratic political machine under the guidance of Chicago mayor

Richard Daley, the growing anti-war movement found Humphrey's former alliance with Johnson detestable. So, instead of rallying around McCarthy, the anti-war elements of the party split themselves among two candidates. There were the McCarthy supporters and the former Kennedy supporters. The former Kennedy supporters rallied behind South Dakota Sen. George McGovern.

Humphrey could never escape his association with Johnson. Not only did he lose anti-war votes, but it caused him to lose the South. Angered by Johnson's civil rights policies, many southerners voted for Nixon. In the end, Nixon won the White House and started a realignment of U.S. politics.



John McCain

Unlike Nixon, many thought McCain to be an afterthought. To many, he was a burned out centrist whose bipartisanship had alienated his supporters on both sides. However, McCain has rallied back to become the GOP frontrunner. Like Nixon, McCain has previously run for president and has been a party mainstay for years. While not quite the “law and order” candidate, McCain has maintained his controversial “No Surrender” stance on the War in Iraq. Despite his best efforts, McCain still remains a moderate republican similar to Nixon when he ran. McCain and Nixon both staved off attempts by more hard line candidates seeking the nomination.

Like Humphrey, Clinton represents the old guard in the Democratic Party. Not only is her credibility as a candidate deeply connected to a former president, but she has been central to the Democratic power structure for years. Like Humphrey, Clinton's opponents consider her an insider who is partly responsible for the war. She was also the clear-cut favorite going into the election season. She had the most name recognition and the most experience.



Hillary Clinton



Barack Obama

Like Kennedy, Obama has been outspoken against the war and has had a large base of public support from younger voters. He has come to represent change in the party. While his actual policies may not differ from Clinton's, the public perception is that they do. Like McCarthy and Kennedy, the early primaries between Clinton and Obama have been heated to say the least. The bitterness between the two candidates is obvious anytime they are in the same room together. While Obama has won more primaries recently, experts expect the nomination to come down to the wire.

In 1968, Alabama governor George Wallace ran as a third-party candidate. Since the end of the Civil War, the South had voted as a democratic bloc. However, angered by Johnson's civil rights policies, many southerners voted for Nixon or Wallace (Since 1968, the South has continued to vote Republican as a bloc). Since 1968, Wallace is the only third-party candidate to carry an entire state in the electoral college. This year Ron Paul's “maverick” politics may court moderates fed up with the mainstream rhetoric of the major candidates.



Ron Paul

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New structure, same old story

Ossie Bladine

Editor's Note: As of press time, the ASUO Constitution Court had not approved the final amendments to the Green Tape Notebook set forth by several ASUO representatives. Check the OC blog for updates.

Sometime this month, the Associated Students of the University of Oregon will vote whether or not to adopt an amendment to the ASUO Constitution that would reform the way in which the incidental fee is distributed. It's a minor adjustment that should be of some benefit to the student government. If you are a regular student without a keen eye for ASUO policy, don't worry, it's not imperative that you vote. The amendment should pass with little, if any, opposition. But you should start thinking about the upcoming general election, which will be held sometime in mid-April.

The proposal at hand would change the budget allocation committee structure. The current structure of allocation relies on the Programs Finance Committee (PFC), the Athletic Department Finance Committee (ADFC) and the EMU Board. This would be changed to the PFC, the Athletics and Contracts Finance Committee (AFCA), the Department Finance Committee (DFC) and the EMU Board.

Since the student body took charge of the incidental fee in 1972, the allocation structure has changed only once. In this time, the incidental fee has doubled three times and is now over

\$200 per term. In the early 90s, the original seven-member Incidental Fee Committee practically self-destructed. The IFC attempted to micromanage the EMU budget and eventually lost control of it to the University. Students rallied to retain responsibility of the EMU budget. During the 1993-94 school year, the fee system was split into the three subcommittees it now has, with the senate — composed of nine academic senators and nine finance senators (three for each committee) — in charge of setting benchmarks and approving the budgets prepared by the committees before review by the ASUO and University presidents.

Then-OC Editor Ed Carson was skeptical of the proposed changes. He suggested that adding more to the fee process would lead to more bureaucratic delays.

"The proposed changes will create the typical in-fighting and wasted time between the Senate and the subcommittees," Carson wrote. "Compromises on the budgets will be made at the last minute due to all the time wasted; something probably not in the best interest of the student body."

All you need to do is read the last few weeks worth of news on the OC Blog and in the Oregon Daily Emerald

to realize that Carson pretty much nailed it. One advantage of having more students on the committees was that "one bad egg won't be able to dominate the committee and manipulate the system," he said. "This is known as 'Masat proofing' the fee process, in memory of last year's ousted-IFC Chair Steve Masat."

"However," he continued, "history teaches us that millions of people vaulted Adolf Hitler democratically into power and millions tried to elect H. Ross Perot. Sheep, regardless of number, will follow their shepherd."

The new structure and changes to the ASUO Constitution were voted on and passed by students; 3.9 percent of the student body voted.

The new changes that University students will vote on soon are less drastic than those of 1994. Two senate seats and three committee seats will be added to make up the DFC. The former ADFC positions will simply have a change in name and duty. The new system will split the budgets of the student programs (i.e. the OC, the Student Insurgent, the Chess Club and the many cultural student unions), the contracted services (i.e. the ODE, Designated Driver Service, athletic tickets and — for some reason

"The proposed budget reform is a historic moment for the ASUO as it reflects the first time in 15 years that our allocation process has changed. Further, consolidating the contract negotiation and allocation process into one committee will better serve the student body - giving the student body more leveraging power."



Athan Papailou
Student Senate President

— OSPIRG) and departments (i.e. The Career Center

Departments are programs that are partly funded by the student body and have an administrator that is a member of the University. Instead of departments having to go to an overwhelmed PFC to negotiate, they will confront a milder committee with only a handful of budgets to oversee. More departments, strapped for funding, are likely to ask for a cookie or 100,000 cookies — from the cookie jar.

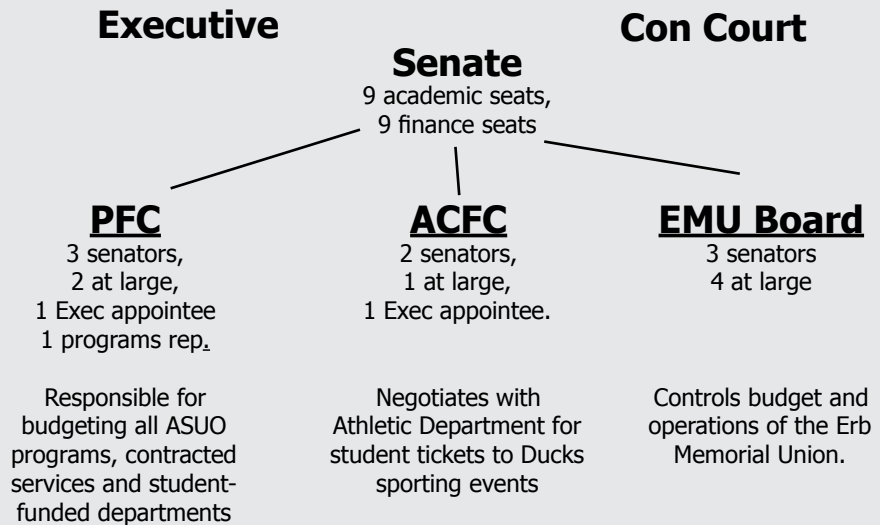
The new system will provide necessary benefits. But those are just a few mossy pebbles in the muddy, murky pond — with an algae build-up at the left side — that is the incidental fee under the control of the ASUO. These new changes will give more opportunities for student representatives to debate, negotiate, bicker, argue, spend, spend and spend some more.

I'm not saying to vote against the proposed changes, that would be rude to those who wrote it. I'm just saying it doesn't really matter. Maybe this vote will result in a temporary cookie-cutter solution; maybe it will create a more organized and responsible system. Either way, the use of student funds will continue to be thwarted unless a wave of dedicated fiscal conservatives manages to sweep in and clean the house of the partisan and self-fulfilling scum stuck in the corners of the i-fee allocation.

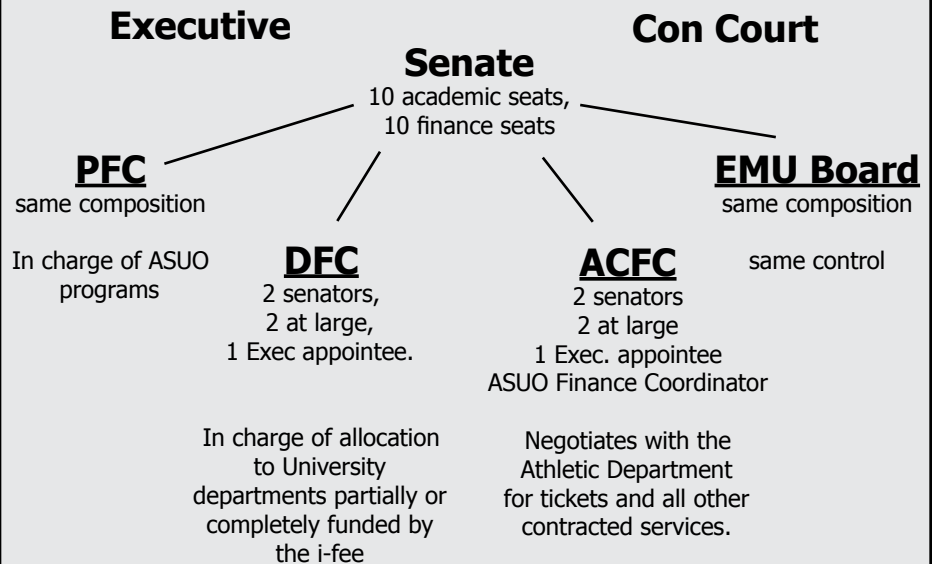


Ossie Bladine is looking forward to his 10 hours of community service, and is the Editor in Chief of the Oregon Commentator

Current Incidental Fee Allocation



Proposed Incidental Fee Allocation



Emily McLain
ASUO President

“This has been a long time coming. The ASUO has become responsible for more money and services over time but the budget system still has not changed to compensate for the additional responsibilities.”

Nothing is impossible

CJ Ciaramella

When the University of Oregon women's rugby team played the University of Washington at the beginning of this year, Megan Adams had a good game; she made her tackles and even scored a try (the equivalent of a touchdown in football).

Few people on the sidelines or the opposing team could have known just how much it meant to Adams, though. Less than six months earlier she had been deathly ill, so sick she could barely move, much less play rugby.

In August, Adams contracted a drug-resistant strain of Staph known as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). The MRSA infected her spleen, kidneys, heart and brain.

The trouble started on a weekend. Adam's remembers getting an intense headache, followed by nausea. However, her symptoms soon became alarming.

"By Sunday night I started getting really bad," Adams said. "I was sweating; my fingernails started turning blue. My feet hurt, like they were swollen. I could hardly even walk on them. One time I was walking back from the bathroom, and I just collapsed backwards and rolled my ankle. My mom had to pick me up; I kind of passed out."

The next day, Adam's parents took her to the family doctor, who gave her a couple of flu shots and sent her home. When her condition didn't improve, they returned to the doctor; this time, though, he realized something was wrong and told her to go to the hospital.

Adams was admitted to Willamette Falls Hospital in Oregon City where she was tested for appendicitis. The tests came back negative, and Adams' condition continued to deteriorate. The next day she was transferred to Emmanuel Legacy Hospital in Portland, but doctors still struggled to fully diagnose her.

"They didn't know what I had," Adams recalled. "They thought it might have been communicable, so everybody who came into the room



Megan Adams

had to have facemasks on. It took a long time for them to figure out what was wrong with me."

Adams' feet were swollen, indicating a heart condition, but she was also experiencing stomach pain, which could be any number of things.

From here, Adam's actual memories are spotty at best. Most of what she knows of her first few days in the hospital was relayed to her by her parents.

"I would go through episodes – moments of clarity and then downhill," Adams said. "I just remember falling asleep and waking back up, falling asleep and waking back up. [...] The first day in the ICU they gave me a spinal tap, and I don't even remember it."

One of Adams' close friends, Tiffany Schneider, visited her several times in the hospital.

"The first time that I was able to see Megan, she was still in ICU, very quiet, eyes shut and just relaxed,"

Schneider said. "I could tell that she was in pain."

Adams described it as "entire, full-body pain."

"Imagine being really sore from weight lifting but over your entire body – your muscles, your bones, your organs, your joints, everything," she said. "It's hard to explain."

Doctors soon identified the staph infection and treated it, but by that time it had spread to several of Adams' organs. Her spleen had swelled to three times its normal size, and her lungs were filling with fluid. Most dangerously, though, she developed endocarditis – a bacterial infection in her mitral heart valve.

"I had a 50/50 chance of having open heart surgery to replace the infected valve," Adams said. "I was lucky. They told me that after I got out of the ICU because they didn't want to freak me out."

In addition, doctors also discovered that Adams had abscesses on her brain.

"They asked me what month it was, and I said, 'November.' I also thought it was 2006," she said. "I didn't even know my name; I didn't know my dad's name. That was the first or second day when they realized something was wrong with my brain."

Fortunately, the infections were treatable with antibiotics, and Adams soon turned the corner. She was transferred to normal care after five days in the ICU.

It was still a long road to recovery, though. She ended spending a total of 18 days in the hospital. The infection left her seriously weakened.

"I didn't walk for twelve days when I was in the hospital," Megan said. "It hurt to roll over."

Adams had to do physical therapy



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KHO

for two weeks after she was released.

"I had no muscle on me anymore," she said. "I lost twenty pounds while I was in the hospital."

Even after she returned home, Adams was still required to have an IV in her arm for two months. She also had to wear a heart monitor, with instructions not to raise her heart rate above 140 beats per minute. According to Schneider, the limitations were irksome to Adams.

"I could tell by the look on her face and the tone in her voice that it was hard for her to sit still and not be active," Schneider said. "[...] It's amazing to see a full energy rugby player be hit so hard by something so small and invisible."

Against her doctors' advice, Adams moved down to Eugene to get ready for school. Her IV was removed the day before fall term started.

She was cleared to run in October and started conditioning in November. However, she did not have any tackling

practice before her first rugby game.

"I was really nervous at first, but I figured it was just UW, so it wasn't that bad," Adams said. "It was more mental than anything – just coming back and telling myself I could do it."

Adams was encouraged by the support of her teammates and the satisfaction of returning to the game.

"A lot of the girls on the team said I did really well," Adams said. "It felt good to come back and play after so long."

But even though she has almost completely recovered, Adams will always carry a few reminders of her close call. Her mitral heart valve no longer closes all the way due to a residual lump of bacteria blocking it. This causes some blood to flow back through the valve. It's not life threatening, but it does affect her aerobic capacity.

"For the rest of my life I won't be at 100 percent; I'll always be at 80 percent. I won't be what I used to

be," Adams said. "I can feel my heart pumping sometimes. I have heart palpitations, especially after a hard run."

She will also have to take the antibiotic Amoxicillin every time she goes in for dental work or a tattoo. The risk of re-infection still exists.

Adams remains optimistic, though. A tattoo inscribed on her ankle in Greek characters says, "Nothing is impossible," and it's something of a personal mantra to her. She recalls one time in the hospital when a doctor was warning her not to return to school early:

"My foot was sticking out, and she was like, 'Oh, what does your tattoo say?' I told her, and she just kind of looked at me and walked out because she knew I was going to go back."



CJ Ciaramella, Associate Editor of the OC, also plays rugby, but you could still probably kick his ass.

In defence of author James Frey

Allen Mendenhall

Disgraced author James Frey has written a new novel, *Bright Shiny Morning*, which HarperCollins will publish on June 3, 2008. Frey is best known for his memoir *A Million Little Pieces*, which portrays his rehabilitation from drug use and alcoholism. In 2005, Oprah selected the memoir for her monthly book club. The book rocketed to the top of the New York Times and Amazon.com best-seller lists.

Controversy erupted in 2006 when *The Smoking Gun* published an article revealing that Frey's memoir, which gave the appearance of objective and demonstrable truth, was, instead, a gross embellishment. Oprah invited Frey onto her show and blasted him for lying to her and her viewers; she then chastised Doubleday publisher Nan Talese for classifying the book as a "memoir." This television appearance sparked a media frenzy, lawsuits, public apologies, and mass refunds to consumers.

Then the fickle media grew bored with Frey until last summer, when literary giant Joyce Carol Oates, at a convention in Texas, spoke on the theme of veracity in memoirs. (Talese herself had spoken at the convention earlier in the day, tagging Oprah as mean and self-serving.) Oates suggested that readers contextualize "truth" because autobiographers color facts to achieve readable, literary narratives. Writing is, after all, a craft, and stories are written and rewritten, polished and discarded - they are framed, decorated, shaped, or glazed over depending on what an author anticipates his or her readers will enjoy.

The hullabaloo over *A Million Little Pieces* thus points to an intriguing debate: how to market autobiography. Are inflated stories, which purport to represent "the truth," violations of trust between buyers and sellers? Do they constitute false advertising? Are fabrications in autobiography analogous

to fabrications in journalism - that is, can one compare Frey's exaggerations to those of, say, Stephen Glass, former writer for *The New Republic*?

The answer is no.

Truth itself is a misleading term, especially in the context of autobiography, because truth is uncertain: one can think he is telling the truth when, indeed, he has made a mistake. Likewise, truth is subjective. Ask witnesses at a crime scene to describe the criminal or the crime and perspectives on "the truth" will vary. Is one witness's version of the truth better than another's? Perhaps.

Perhaps not.

American author and literary critic Mary McCarthy published her memoir *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood* in 1957. The telling word in the title of her memoir is "memories," for at the end of each chapter McCarthy challenges the reliability of memory: she explains how other family members recall certain instances, how she may have confused certain details, or how she may have adorned certain facts. She indicates, too, where her story appears fragmented or anachronistic. McCarthy's memoir demonstrates that truth is disputable.

French philosopher Jacques Derrida impacted all of academia with his theories of "différance." He maintained that all interpretations are based on binary oppositions: one cannot define what is right without first knowing what is wrong, for example. Yet Derrida suggests that binary oppositions are not absolute: each pole can be deconstructed into further binaries, and this process of deconstruction persists indefinitely. Thus, words themselves never completely summon forth meaning: they are constantly deferred by the words they are defined against.

What does this have to do with truth and memoirs? Well, the things we perceive in the world are subject to similar processes of deferral. When I

look at a tree, my mind takes a moment to process the image. The image in my mind is a substitute for the actual thing in the world, but it is just an image—not "the truth." Furthermore, by the time it took my mind to process the image, the present had lapsed, and all that I perceived was a remnant of the present - not the present itself.

Taken to its logical (if not outrageous) conclusion, this means that the present does not exist, or that it is at least inaccessible. All we can perceive is a deferred "presence." All we can perceive is something like memory. And if all is memory, and memory, as McCarthy intimates, is unreliable, then all is unreliable. I have my reservations about this logic, of course, but my point basically is this: truth is not settled. It is ambiguous.

Libertarians tend to theorize in pragmatic or consequentialist ways. We turn all arguments over to economics, to production and consumption, to ends and means. We are over-scientific. Yet we don't have to be that way: we can entertain aesthetics and hermeneutics, poetics and rhetoric. We can be literary. Frey didn't misrepresent facts to dupe the consumer: he coated facts to enhance his story, to turn mere reporting into literature.

The insistence on absolute fact would turn autobiography into a preposterous genre. Autobiography that employs magical realism (a literary device that matter-of-factly locates the fantastic within realistic settings), like Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, would belong on the science fiction bookshelves at Barnes & Noble. And Gertrude Stein would be banished from the literary canon for writing *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, in which the narrator is not actually Stein but Stein's lifelong "companion" Alice

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B. Toklas.

Sometimes autobiographers misrepresent things by choice; sometimes they do so unintentionally. In either case, what autobiographers distort is as revealing as the distortions themselves. Some literary types believe that autobiography is an attempt to reconcile one's life with one's self. Autobiography is therefore an extremely intimate endeavor. We should read autobiography - truly literary autobiography - not for historical precision but for metaphorical authenticity.

Anyone who has bought a politician's memoir probably has doubted the authenticity of the author's claims. That sort of skepticism should apply to all autobiographers; for that matter, it should apply to historians, psychologists, sociologists, or even scientists - writers who also purport to put forth "the truth." People's truths are biased. Does that mean that we should suppress their bias speech? Does that mean that they have falsely advertised?

Of course not.

That is why Frey has not offended public trust any more than journalists or popular media; and that is why I will support him and purchase his new book this summer. Those who buy autobiography expecting the Gospel only fool themselves.



Allen Mendenhall thinks James Frey was a pansy for not standing up to Oprah; he also thinks Oprah is a snob.

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the ideological firepower to turn out their base year after year (not to mention the fact that you may end up having to explain to future employers why you were called a racist on the cover of your college daily newspaper.) The keys to sensible, sustainable reform of ASUO finances are not in nickle-and-diming student groups in the PFC process, but rather in building a system which encourages transparency, assesses the real financial needs of student groups, and demands accountability for every dime that is appropriated from student pockets.

The first steps in this new project of fiscal responsibility come from an unexpected corner: the very highest positions in the ASUO. A cooperative initiative by ASUO President Emily McLain and Senate President Athan Papailiou to split the bloated PFC into three separate finance committees is set to go before the student body in a special election, proving that everybody in the ASUO with half a brain understands that if nothing else, a little more transparency is a good thing. Although the idea was essentially conceived and fleshed out in the Commentator's Symposium on Fiscal Responsibility and then-Senate President Sara Hamilton's Long-Term Reform Committee last year, McLain has embraced her erstwhile opponent's proposal(s) to create separate finance committees for student groups, departments and contracted services and is working hand-in-hand with former Campaign for Change rival Papailiou to see it accomplished. If McLain can resist the status-quo impulses of her student group base, to help deliver a little more accountability to the ASUO finance process, fiscal conservatives need to likewise keep a long view of what will help keep the Incidental Fee

from becoming any more of a barrier to affordable education, in order to deliver real accountability to fee-paying students.

The defining project for fiscal conservatives in the aftermath of this profound reform, is to ensure that increased transparency actually translates into better budgeting practice. Thus far, the rules of the ASUO game have been that groups demand whatever budget increases they want, and that opposition to the increase is perceived as opposition to the goals of the group. With the increased transparency of the proposed new finance system, groups will be better equipped to understand the impact of their increases on the overall budget, rather than having them masked by CSL and minimum wage increases. These conditions are ripe for the development of a longer-term approach to the financing of student groups, in which the groups themselves will have more incentives to plan their own budgets in a sustainable manner. As implausible as it sounds to have student groups working with the ASUO to limit the runaway fee growth, it is possible, because the majority of student groups don't really want to pile up financial barriers to public university education. However, building towards that day requires that fiscal conservatives reach out to the entire ASUO through common sense measures such as ethics reform, increased transparency and the expectation of accountability. And remember, elections are coming!



Ted Niedermayer is so pumped for the Gunther concert, and is the Editor Emeritus of the Oregon Commentator.

Mustache of the Month



Chris Looney grew this soup strainer during No-Shave November 2006. "As my friend Craig put it, 'You look like Farva from Super Troopers.'"

Think your mustache is better? Send us a picture: ocomment@uoregon.edu. Monthly winner receives a Sudsy shirt or tank top.

Review of The Indigo

By Mike "OneFiveOne" Peth

Man, my bro's and I headed on over to The Indigo one Friday night after our bonfire on the lake and what can I say, there must have been at least 100 hotties there just dancing the night away. We whipped out our plastic and bought some rounds and no sooner were we joined by some nubile coeds for an awesome night of dancing and drinking. This place is so radical that I go back EVERY weekend just to get my groove on. My bro is even working to get a job as a bartender or a bouncer. My ONLY complaint is that sometimes they let a little too many of those hippie kids in. I wish they would be more selective and charge a cover so my bros and I could party strictly with the best Eugene has to offer. I'll see you there on Friday, most likely. I'll be the one in the neon green Lacoste polo with the collar, you know it babe, and my fave pair of khakis. If anyone ever needs a ride you can just hit me up because I never drink too much so I can drive my pimpin' 4 Runner SUV home. It can fit to a dozen bros and lady friends.



CATTERMOLE IN '08

I WILL END
STARVATION,
GENOCIDE,
AND GLOBAL
WARMING
ON CAMPUS



THE
CHAMPAGNE
OF
PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATES

It was April 20, 2007, when University of Oregon students last went online to vote for a student body president or got ridiculously high and forgot about the elections. Since that time, students have continued to bitch and moan about the student government or get high and forget we have a student government. This article is a continuation of that tradition. But there is going to be something different about this article and something different and special about the upcoming ASUO presidential election. What is different? What is special?

I, Drew Cattermole, am running for ASUO president.

A lot has passed since 4/20/07, and during that time it would have been most unusual for any student-run campaign to ask a Drew Cattermole to run for president. But today, here I am running on the Oregon Commentator ticket. I feel, not withstanding the past, my presence in this coming election is one additional bit of evidence that the Slackers' Dream need not forever be deferred.

Now that I have this grand distinction of being the OC's supported presidential nominee, what in the world am I supposed to say? I could easily use the whole article to praise achievements of this party last year – and its platform to attack the campus douchebags – but I do not choose to do that. I could list the many problems which University of Oregon Students have: lack of

cohesiveness in the government; the feeling that a regular student's opinion no longer counts; the low presidential stipends; the lack of Otter Pops given to our students; the reality that our money is being wasted on something other than porn, drugs, and booze. I could write about these problems, and then I could sit on my couch, load up a fat bowl and watch cartoons for three hours. But I do not choose to do that either, well at least not this minute. The students

of this University expect more. They

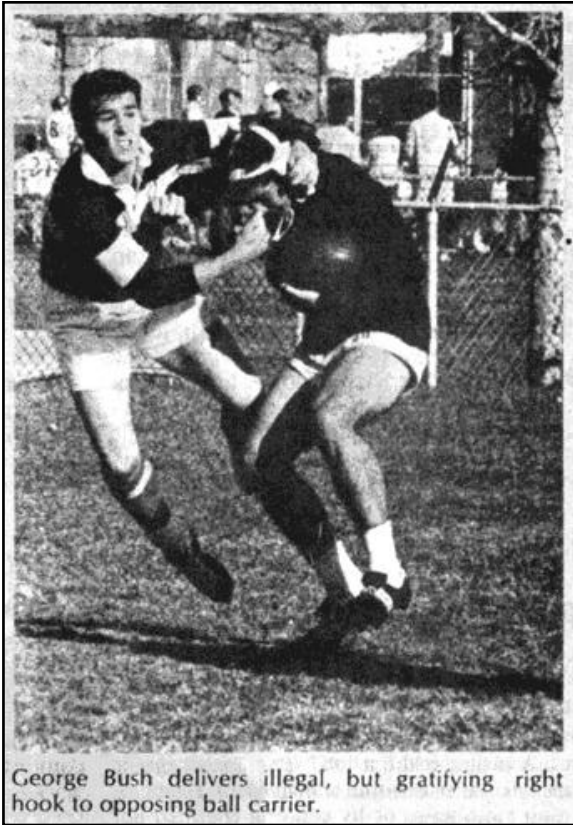
deserve Otter Pops and they will probably want more than one, especially if voting is on 4/20 again.

We are people in a haze during the present. We are people uncertain of what happened last night. We are people in search of a party in the future. I am not only trying to solve problems of the present, but problems of the future as well. I have been thinking about time machines.

We are a candidacy of innovation. We do not reject our drunken traditions, but we are willing to adapt to changing circumstances. We have a positive view about the future and a half baked idea of traveling to it (founded on the belief that Sean Jin can steal some plutonium). If I am elected, the University of Oregon can one day finally be the happiest place on earth, and I truly believe that.

SPEW...

and great moments in sport



George Bush delivers illegal, but gratifying right hook to opposing ball carrier.

That's George W. Bush punching a dude in the face. For reals.



ON WRESTLING AND WEENIES

"I'll be glad the sport will be gone. Wrestling has been a sore subject of mine for years."

~ ODE Senior Sports Reporter Jeffrey Dransfeldt's article, "Wrestling is being cut, but do you (or I) really care?" But wherefore all this hate of rasslin', Jeffrey?

"In junior high, it was a requirement in our physical education class for the males to participate in wrestling."

~ Ah, junior high - a time of growth and discovery, not to mention horrible humiliation, as we will soon see.

"The end of the wrestling lessons coincided with a tournament. Students were divvied up by weight classes, and the competition to see who the best wrestler was, was on.

[...]

"I figured sure, I can give this a shot. Normally passive, I could build my confidence up with a couple wins.

"My timid side appeared instead, and after being tossed around a couple times, I resorted to waiting the match out and looked forward to the final buzzer. [My opponent] flipped me over on one move, and without thinking, I stuck out my left wrist to brace my fall.

"The pain was instant and excruciating. My went body went limp and I lay there, hanging on until the PE teacher stopped the match and I was able get up and off the mat. My wrist hung limp at an awkward angle as I walked to the school office and waited for my parent's arrival."

~ Uh oh, somebody call the waaaambulance!

ON RADICAL SORORITY SISTERS

“I have no idea why I joined a sorority. Really.”

~ *The Siren's Emelia Udd recounts her Greek experience in “My sorority story: a feminist reflection.”*

“Despite my reasonably positive tone, I will say that many of the women within the sorority owned racist, homophobic, heterosexist, classist, sexist and ableist (among other) ideologies.”

~ *That's quite a collection of ideologies to own! Most people only have room for one or two.*

ON “WILLIAM FAULKNER CALLED, HE WANTS HIS PROSE BACK”

“From the aging love seat with its brittle, brownish-black leather, surrounded by scuffed 70's era linoleum, dingy beige walls, appliances plastered with the stickers of countless obscure bands, with the soft haze of yellowish light hanging over it all, it feels a more likely place to discuss the ups and downs of heroin addiction with Elliot Smith — a bottle of Jack in one hand and a cigarette in the other. .”

~ *A description of the WOW Hall in the Oregon Voice.*

ON WHEN EVERYBODY WANTS YOU

Nights of confusion and impossible dreams
Days at the mirror, patchin' up around the seams
You got your glory--you paid for it all
You take your pension in loneliness and alcohol

~ *Billy Squire, telling it like it is*



LEST WE FORGET

DON'T PAY TAXES

IT JUST ENCOURAGES THEM