

centage by dividing 40 percent (the maximum for every six-year period approved by Gov. Gary Locke) by six and in doing so got to the number 6.7 percent. The problem is that as the 6.7 percent from the current year grows onto the 6.7 percent from the year before and so on, we as students are paying more than we should be each year, with the ending percentage growth at approximately 48 percent instead of the maximum of 40 percent. It would be nice if someone could get to the bottom of this mess before it ends up costing UW students too much, and without having another "energy fee" type mess on our hands.

*Jaime Harrington
junior, premajor*

Work it!

I find it unfortunate that Mr. Tompkins (*Letters*, Nov. 19) is not in support of the IMA expansion. If he had read more than the first paragraph of Thursday's (Nov. 15) article and researched his arguments, his points may have been more believable.

The first point to be made is that STUDENTS (ASUW voters) voted for the project, which includes the fee. You argue for structural upgrades on campus buildings for earthquake safety; however, you misunderstood that the majority of the article explained why the existing structure of the IMA is susceptible to strong earthquake damage, which justifies funding. If you were a person who uses the IMA, you would notice that even the simplest construction (not even on the IMA itself) is causing major cracks and leaks in the building. You can imagine what an earthquake could do to its structure and those inside.

Secondly, the IMA is not a playground. There are no swings or slides. As you should know, regular exercise is critical for not only a healthy body, but also a healthy mind, which is crucial for a student or faculty member. The demand for strenuous academic work should be accompanied by an up-to-date facility that can provide stress relief along with the other benefits of exercise.

Thirdly, the athletic department has nothing to do with the IMA. The IMA is affiliated with recreational sports, not Intercollegiate Athletics (which I still would not argue runs the school). Recreational sports programs in conjunction with the IMA provide students with opportunities such as flag football, basketball and softball. I don't like to compare but when WSU has a nicer facility of any type than UW, (and it does) something is wrong.

Talking about comparisons, remind yourself that the high tuition you are arguing about is actually one of the lowest among our peer institutions. On that note, I encourage you to work out in the IMA since you are stuck paying for it.

*Dana M. Herberholz
senior, biology, society and justice*

You dirty Dawgs

As a member of the "Palouse Pussies and their inbred group," I would just like

at your newspaper. And by the way, who from our football team did we send to prison lately? Did you find out this information from Jerramy Stevens' probation officer? And lastly, congratulations on your stunning performance in Saturday's game at the Orange Bowl. It was something for you to be proud of.

*Jennifer Jackson
Washington State University*

Serious facts about climate uncertainty

The media frenzy over climate change often leads to distorted perceptions on where the uncertainties lurk in the climate debate.

The human-caused warming is often described as the enhanced 'greenhouse' effect: the idea that adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere will trap more heat and warm the earth's surface.

Michael Mann and his colleagues from University of Virginia performed the most recent analysis of rising surface temperatures. Using a variety of temperature indicators (such as tree rings, coral growth, sediment cores and air bubbles trapped in ice) they found the 1990s was the warmest decade in the past millennium. To combat uncertainty, they subjected the data to statistical checks and compared their results with other records in the 20th century.

We cannot conduct century-long experiments over the entire globe. Scientists rely on computer models to predict the response of the climate system to an increase in carbon dioxide. Some possible effects of a global temperature rise over the next 50 years could include a sea-level rise due to warming water and/or ice melting, amplification of the regional climates (Sahara Desert, Australia and Texas will get drier while eastern Africa would get more much-needed rainfall), a slowdown of the global ocean circulation, which may cool Western Europe.

But models can only represent the world as well as we know it. Estimating uncertainties in computer models is a priority of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change group. At the same time, no observational results can be considered god's word since we can never get data everywhere at every point in time.

Despite media hype, scientists acknowledge uncertainty in their work. However, even with uncertainty, the scientific community's consensus is that there has been an atmospheric warming in the past 150 years and that the human-produced carbon dioxide has played a role in it.

What will be the effects of a global warming? How much of a role do humans play? Uncertainty prevents us from making any definite statement about future climate. At the same time, reducing carbon-dioxide emissions seems like a prudent path.

*Jerome Cuny
graduate, oceanography*

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