

Editorial

High school press deserves support

Providing support for high school journalism programs has been a valuable part of the University journalism school for many years, so it is unfortunate that the Oregon Journalism Education Association will not participate in the University's Oregon High School Press conference Oct. 23.

The OJEA represents advisors of more than 100 Oregon high school newspapers. The decision reflects a concern among high school advisors that the University is slowly abandoning its commitment to supporting high school journalism.

The OJEA has also been taking an increasingly aggressive role in coordinating high school journalism in the state, and one of the main problems this year was that they felt they could manage the conference better than the University.

The University has sponsored the press conference, a series of seminars and lectures, for the past 60 years. Attendance at the conference has been as high as 1200 students. This year the journalism school is planning on attendance of 500 to 700 students.

The OJEA plans to hold its own conference at Oregon State University. It is uncertain whether the rival OSU conference, to be held Oct. 15, will cut into attendance at the University's conference. While it is true that OSU has much better conference facilities, it is also true that the University has a better journalism program.

The journalism school, due to the strength of its program, is uniquely able to provide support to high school advisors. The quality of student journalism throughout Oregon is high because of the efforts of educators at all levels. Thus, the value of supporting high school journalism is more than just for recruitment.

Strong journalism programs in high schools mean students can receive early exposure to journalistic practices, and their education in this profession can continue through college.

The journalism school has been the home of the Oregon Scholastic Press, established by Eric W. Allen, and has provided services to high school newspapers such as the annual conference, a bi-monthly newsletter and student scholarships.

The function of the OSP has been cut back in recent years, due to budget constraints at the already overcrowded journalism school. However, as recently as two years ago, the journalism school did not face high enrollment, and could face low enrollment again, particularly if state journalism begins to lose the support of the University, and vice versa.

The functions of the OSP could be maintained from the proceeds of the annual conference, from private donations and other fundraising activities. It is simply a question of commitment to the program.

It is clear that bad blood exists between the journalism school and at least part of the leadership of the OJEA, but it will remain to be seen what effects the rivalry will have.

Hopefully, the effect will not be to destroy the University's role in supporting high school journalism.

University scholarships support top scholars

Four years ago, Chancellor William Davis of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education invited each Oregon state school to provide a program of scholarships to graduating high school students of outstanding academic achievement.

This year, the University's Presidential Scholarship Program, answering that challenge, will continue to support almost 200 such students at the University with scholarships of \$1000 per year.

The University scholarship program is the largest in the state, but all the institutions have put a tremendous effort into supporting the program. All the funding comes from private sources, and is managed by the University of Oregon Foundation.

Twenty-nine of the scholarships are fully endowed, lasting the life of the University. A scholarship requires \$20,000 to be fully endowed.

One very special endowment is the Vivian Olum Endowed Presidential Scholarship, established by University President Paul Olum in memory of his wife who died in March 1986.

Olum, speaking to a group of presidential scholars, said that it means a great deal to him to have a presidential scholarship bearing her name. We hope he realizes it means a great deal to the University as well.



Commentary

Drug-testing policy necessary to fight drug use in athletics

The University athletic department is to be commended for adopting a hard-line policy on drug testing.

The policy is fair, comprehensive and addresses adequately all issues of constitutionality, testing validity and the possibility of tampered urine specimens. It is a strong statement about the credibility and intent of the University athletic program.

The new policy is strict, with prohibited drugs, penalties for offenses and testing procedures

By Lucinda Dillon

intricately detailed. However, there is no legal consequence attached to the test and its findings. Suspension or dismissal from the athletic program and mandatory counseling are the consequences for athletes who test positively repeatedly at the University.

The hope and success for the new program is evident in athletes' and parents' positive support.

Opponents of the policy have several reasons why the new mandatory testing should be substituted with a softer version. First, they question the violation of individual rights of

privacy. Because the policy implements mandatory testing of athletes at the beginning of the season and some random testing beyond that, they accuse the policy of being unreasonable search and seizure.

This type of drug testing is not unreasonable. Drug use is so pervasive in our society, and so difficult to detect otherwise, testing is the only way to determine without a reasonable question of a doubt whether or not someone is taking drugs. No other methods are adequate.

"Unreasonable" better describes opponents to this policy who fail to recognize the policy as the University's commitment to a safe and unpolluted athletic department. Steroids, metamphetamines and pain killers are abused in the college athletic arena and point shaving, scandals and death are the extreme results of this abuse.

Drug testing parallels "implied consent" laws applied in some states. These laws permit law enforcement officers to apply a blood-alcohol test to drivers they believe have been drinking behind the wheel. Operators of motor vehicles agree to this possibility when they apply for a license.

So why, say the opponents,

not test everyone? Athletes should not be singled out, they say.

University athletes are contracted to participate in their sport. Now before signing with a team they are told that drug testing will take place. They have the option of participating for a school with no drug-testing policy or a less stringent one if they choose.

Those athletes on scholarship have a contract with the University and an obligation to the taxpayers and students who fund the athletic programs; they must provide quality sports participation without any real or imagined chemical advantage.

Drug use leads to drug dependency; scholarships that subsidize self-destructive lifestyles are counterproductive.

Athletes themselves do not like the image that has been created by tragic examples like Len Bias and Don Rogers. They don't mind the effort of drug testing if it will clear the air and give some respectability back to college athletics.

The NCAA made a recommendation that schools implement some sort of drug testing program. The University of Oregon is on top of the pack in tackling the phenomenal social problem that is drug abuse.

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