

Editorial

Girl wrestler victim of sex discrimination

Delena Garrelts will appeal a decision that prohibits her from joining the boys' wrestling team to the Springfield School Board tonight. The decision, made by Tom Houston, the district's director of education, was based on a district policy that prevents girls from competing in contact sports.

Because there is no girls' wrestling team, Garrelts should be able to compete with the boys' team. She is a qualified wrestler; the only reason she is not allowed on the team is because she is female. This is blatant discrimination and should not be tolerated.

Unfortunately the argument cannot be this simple. The issue of men and women wrestling together and the possibility of reverse discrimination also must be considered.

Granted, the psychological factors involved with boys and girls in a physical sport such as wrestling are strong and can intimidate participants. But Garrelts is willing to place herself in that position to prove her abilities. Her male counterparts should understand this and compete to their fullest abilities.

Co-ed wrestling is bound to be awkward, but Garrelts should not be punished for wanting to participate in a sport she is good at, especially on the sole basis of sex.

Some, however, may believe this is a decision by exception, and an age-old double-standard comes into play. While it is considered appropriate for a female to fight for her right to play on an all-male team, this same courtesy is not extended to a man wishing to play on a women's team.

Ideally the same rules should apply — men should be allowed to crossover to women's teams and women to men's teams.

Others argue having a man on a women's team will make the team more competitive than having a woman on a men's team because the man is physically stronger. This may be true, and if male domination of a female sport ever becomes an issue, we have no choice other than to resort to the former segregated policy.

Aside from this argument is the real economic problem: high schools cannot afford to provide boys' and girls' teams for all sports. It is unfortunate, but true.

High school sports are designed to allow everyone interested a chance to participate. However, Delena Garrelts is being denied this chance because of the physical differences between men and women. Essentially, she is being punished for being female.

Ducks earn respect in successful season

The Ducks' 44-0 win over the Oregon State Beavers Saturday was a well-deserved end to a successful season. This year's football team has worked hard and it was reflected in their games.

There were many highlights that added to the excitement of the season. Although support faded when our winning streak dwindled, it was important the Ducks end on a positive note and prove the the initial success was not just a fluke.

Coach Rich Brooks and the football team should be commended for their hard work and effort to give the Ducks an identity and some respect.



Letters

Ban drug testing

Some of the finest people I know on this campus are athletes. Your Nov. 16 article on drug testing made me seeth with anger at the degrading, brutalizing, and insulting procedure the Athletic Department wants to inflict upon them.

I teach at this university. Teaching is a more important activity at a university than playing basketball. Therefore, if I used illegal drugs, it would reflect more negatively on the University than if an athlete did so. But no one has asked me to undergo any kind of drug test, let alone the disgusting procedure the Athletic Department has suggested. If someone did ask me to take such a test, without having reasonable grounds for suspicion, I would tell him/her to go to hell.

The driving force behind the Athletic Department's belligerent policy seems to be the pretentious idea held by some department officials that the University is represented primarily by its athletes. These officials, you will recall, are the people who told us a while ago that if the University stopped

competing in the Pac-10 athletic conference, our academic reputation would suffer (along with Chicago, MIT, Cal-San Diego, and Johns Hopkins.) This mistaken notion supposedly justifies singling out the athletes to be treated like convicted criminals. But a university is not represented by its athletes. A university is represented by its graduates.

Stan VerNooy
GTF, Math

Explanation

There is a logical explanation for the state board's action. All one needs to examine is the question of whom out there is supporting the board in its decision to weaken the University.

In order for the board to maintain its position in the face of such a strong and unanimous outpouring of praise for President Olum, there must be considerable interests somewhere else who are backing it to the hilt.

It is no secret that the politics and sentiment of most of Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, and much of the coast and valley are more favorable toward Oregon State University, with its orientation toward agriculture, forestry and engineering.

So for decades our school has been the Cinderella of the state university system, making do with less money for facilities, salaries and athletics, while OSU and the other state schools got the bigger share.

Under Olum's leadership, this has been turned around. As our advocate, he has fought for and won greater funding as well as increased help from private and business sources. Faculty excellence and enrollment are at all time highs. Our recognition as a quality institution is growing yearly. We have finally arrived at the ball and our ugly stepsisters have become jealous!

OSU's president, for one, tipped his hat on television Thursday when he smilingly praised Olum, but declined to support

his wish to remain until the job is done. In the competitive world of state funding, the other teams would love to see our pitcher permanently retired. He's been an ace.

The Board's flimsy 'just because' rationale is an insult to the entire University community, but its apparent real reason is a far greater insult to itself.

Gregory Howard
Geography

Replace Olum

The supporters of University President Paul Olum claim that "he has made this University what it is today." (ODE, Nov. 13). If this is true then I call for his immediate replacement.

For has he not created the atrocious enrollment overcrowding problem — so acute that a stroll through campus often resembles an afternoon in midtown Manhattan?

Is this the man who is responsible for the hiring of faculty, now including a professor who frequently arrives inerrated, another who is consistently late, and yet another, a foreign language instructor, who prefers conversing in his native English?

Is it Dr. Olum who has turned the bookstore into one of the largest giftshops in the Willamette Valley? (Hint: to find the books, walk in, turn left, go up the stairs, then turn left again.)

Can we thank him too for using University funds to rent hotel rooms for the entire football team prior to every home game?

If Dr. Olum is indeed responsible for the current state of the University, then why on earth does he have so many supporters? The answer I fear is obvious: He also created an anti-intellectual student body.

Daniel Monk-Kowalsky
Student

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