

## Athletes to benefit from new statutes

At this week's NCAA convention in Dallas, the passage of two important issues has improved collegiate athletics.

On Monday, the NCAA modified the controversial Proposition 42, which wouldn't allow incoming freshman athletes financial aid if they did not meet the requirements set under Proposition 48 — an athlete must have a high school grade point average of 2.0 in college preparatory classes and a combined SAT score of 700.

Under the new rule, Proposition 26, Prop 48 athletes won't be eligible to receive athletic aid, but will be eligible for student financial aid, should they so qualify.

Many people believed Prop 42 was racially discriminatory, because financial aid wouldn't be available for Prop 48 athletes. Now, however, the NCAA will allow athletes the same considerations as any student who seeks financial to help meet the costs of college.

The second important decision by the NCAA was the reduction of college basketball games from 28 per season to 25. This number does not include postseason basketball tournaments.

This new NCAA legislation, to go into effect starting with the 1992-93 season, also pushes back the starting time of preseason practice from Oct. 15 to Nov. 1 and delays the start of the season (the first date a game can be played) from the fourth Friday in November to Dec. 1.

Once again the NCAA had to take into account the time pressures of the student-athlete. Basketball season encompasses two terms — fall and winter at schools such as Oregon — and about a semester-and-a-half at other schools. With conference games on Thursday and Saturday or Sunday, athletes miss as many as three days of school because of travel.

Despite the objections raised by athletic directors that the reduction of games will cost their schools thousands of dollars, money is really not the issue here. The issue here is student-athletes.

The reduction of the basketball season coincides with the decision reached by school presidents in the Pacific-10 Conference to eliminate the Pac-10 men's basketball tournament after this season.

Although the tournament was never really given a chance to survive, the elimination of the tournament will aid the athletes, as the tourney often falls during a school's dead week — the period right before finals.

All three steps are moves the NCAA should be lauded for as the needs of the student-athlete are finally given the attention they deserve.



## Radio spots hurt cause of striking workers

A year and a half after they walked off the job, workers at the Nicolai door plant in Springfield are still picketing. Despite the economic hardship strikers and their families have had to endure — and the fact that Nicolai is succeeding in using replacement workers to keep the factory running — the striking workers are sticking with it, day in and day out.

One of the things that has undoubtedly kept the strikers by the gates has been community support. Community members have formed organizations to help the workers with such things as donations of food and clothing. Students got out of bed early this morning and stood with the picketers. Cars honk their horns as they pass the strikers on Main Street.

But since the strike began, some radio stations in Eugene have aired commercials advertising for replacement workers. Most recently the spots have advertised the opening of, curiously enough, a second shift at the plant.

We don't mean to single out any radio station, or any other media source as an evil union-busting thug, and we realize that most radio stations are businesses that need advertising revenue to stay on the air. In

most cases, a station should stick to its advertising policies, which are designed to keep fraudulent or misleading claims from the airwaves. However, this is a case in which an exception should be made.

There is a difference between advertising to sell a product and advertising that threatens peoples' livelihoods. Ads announcing openings at a plant that has been picketed by workers asking for a fair working agreement are clearly the latter type. Someday, hopefully soon, the strike will come to an end, with the striking workers back at their jobs at something resembling a fair wage. Advertisements for cheaper replacement workers will only help to keep that day from arriving.

The Nicolai workers were told to take a 30-percent wage cut from a company that is widely believed to have been making a profit. Now they stand by the company's gate 18 months later. Surely they deserve better backing from the community's media.

Thousands listen to Eugene's radio stations every day. Perhaps the stations should be a bit more responsible in their advertising; responsible not only to the striking workers and their families, but to the community as well.

## Letters

### Petty offenses

The recent article by Jolie Andrade "Students speak out against EPD tickets" (ODE, Nov. 29) argues that the Eugene Police Department has increased patrols in the campus area to detour transients. Unfortunately, with the increased patrols, more petty offenses, such as jaywalking, are being ticketed.

I can understand why the police are trying to detour the transients: they are bad for businesses in the campus area. Many businesses in the area of 13th Avenue have received customer complaints, saying they will stop coming into the business out of fear of harassment.

The logical answer to this is for the EPD to increase the number of patrols in the area. Increasing the number of patrol cars or officers on foot would detour transients from harassing the public.

Although the increased presence of more EPD in the area is positive, it unfortunately increases the number of tickets written for petty offenses. By

petty offenses, I mean jaywalking and not having a light on your bike at night. There are a lot of students who are paying high fines for these offenses. Many students that I know do not have the money to pay for these offenses.

If the EPD cannot find better ways of supporting their quotas, there are going to be a lot of unhappy students. The EPD needs to focus more of its attention on things that adversely affect the campus.

Jay Kudlicka  
Eugene

### Patronization

To the University sports program:

As an environmentally concerned student, I am disappointed by Burger King's sponsorship on the back of football and basketball game tickets.

In the past, the University has taken many steps (including the banning of styrofoam use in its food services) to contribute to the fight to save the

environment. For this reason, I am confused with the sponsorship by Burger King to a supposedly environmentally aware university.

Poverty-stricken third world countries, who feel they have no other alternatives, are burning the rainforests so the land can be used to graze cattle. This beef is then sold cheaply to industrial countries like the United States.

Burger King supports this destruction by importing cheap beef from these countries. By buying this beef, Burger King does not aid or encourage these countries to find another solution to their economic woes.

The University, by encouraging the patronization of Burger King, contributes to the destruction of these vital and precious forests. There are probably many backers that would be willing to sponsor the ticket backs of the football and basketball games.

Should the University continue to be backed by a corporation that aids in the destruction of our already endangered environment? The University should take a stand on this is-

sue and find another sponsorship.

Jill Robinson  
Student

### Give us a choice

I am appalled by the Student Health Insurance Committee's decision to recommend mandatory student health insurance to the University. It was disturbing enough that it was proposed, let alone passed by a 4-1 vote. Now the final decision rests with the University (whose track record this year has been rather questionable).

I fail to see the logic of making insurance mandatory just because optional health insurance is failing miserably. I agree that the cost of the current plan is absurd. But, is it not also absurd to force someone who is already covered to purchase another plan, just so they can get an education?

And worse yet, force someone who cannot afford insurance to purchase it? I fear that SHIC may have priced many students and potential students out of an education.

In the future, I hope SHIC

and other like committees would put money matters that involve students to a vote of the students. The have potentially just voted a good month's worth of rent out of my pocket, and I cannot do anything about it?

For those of us here on campus who do not receive financial aid, and don't have parents who will flip the bill, this is a big chunk. Maybe too big. Next time think twice about spending our hard earned pennies, and give us a choice.

Richard Overman  
CIS

### Pre-primitive?

Examination of the letter "Kettle black" (ODE, Dec. 7) reveals half the 38 words used were not original to contributor Rob Hartsock. This leads one to contemplate the significance of names.

Voila! An evolutionary throw-back before the invention of tools — the "missing link" ... half-able to think.

Bert Tryba  
Eugene