

EDITORIAL

Security keeps fans from reaching goals

The event Duck fans anticipated all season finally happened: One of the goalposts at Autzen Stadium came down.

The most troubling aspect of the post-game celebration is what happened when students stormed the field and the goalposts. However, the injuries and violence reported in the aftermath resulted from the actions of a security force that was grossly outnumbered. Rather than step back and let the inevitable happen, security personnel chose to use violence to stop the unruly "vandals."

The University now has a choice to make for future home games. Either it hires a security force large enough to handle the job — and one that has the authority to arrest and handcuff people on the spot — or it instructs the blue-shirt security force to back off when its cause is hopeless.

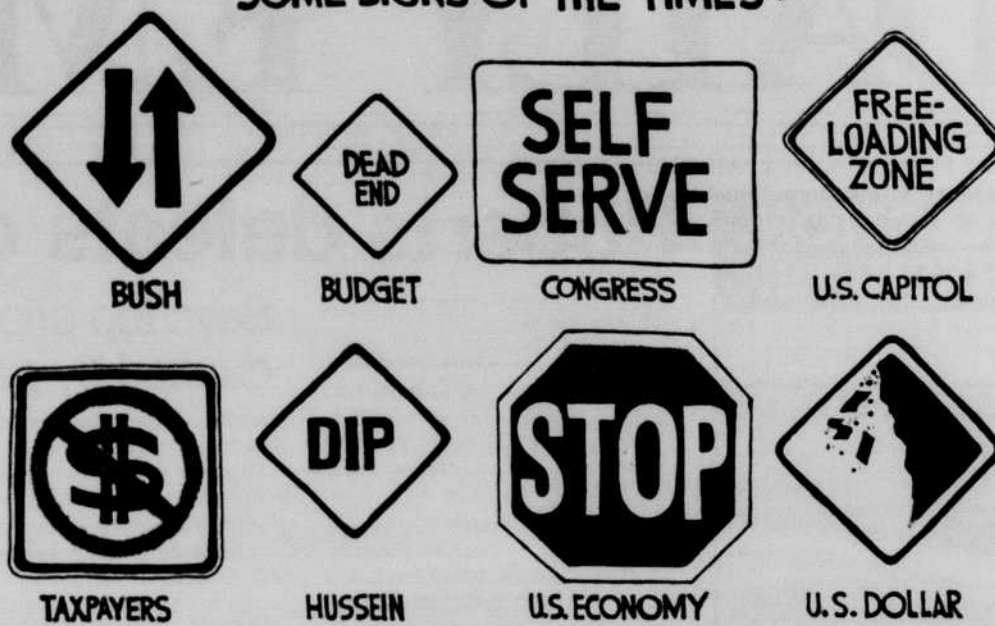
Sports fans who have been to professional sporting events know how crowd control is handled by the big boys. The playing field is surrounded by security forces standing shoulder to shoulder, and they are usually backed up by mounted police. Keeping people from reaching the field in the first place is the only way to stop the post plundering. Therefore, the University should either commit itself to restricting access to the field completely, or adopt a policy where the small force will allow the posts to come down while it tries to ensure the safety of those on the field. Having a small security force surrounding the posts only invites trouble.

Those who argue that the posts should not come down cite the potential for injury. But it doesn't make sense to "protect" people by beating them over the head and shoving them around. If the University continues to employ rent-a-cops rather than trained, professional police at football games, it needs to teach them to recognize the difference between controlling a crowd and adding to the chaos.

As long as college football has been around, students have been tearing down goalposts after big games. The end to this trend is not in sight and hiring a minimal security force is not going to stop it. The University should learn to eat the loss once per year and let students build memories of their college days.

EMERALD

SOME SIGNS OF THE TIMES:



Anaheim much warmer than Baton Rouge

It looks like the Ducks will go to the Freedom Bowl on Dec. 29. The University cannot officially accept any bowl bid until they are officially offered Nov. 24, but Freedom representatives have made it clear they intend to invite the Ducks.

This year the Ducks don't have to grovel for a bowl invitation like they did last year, when they were the last team offered a bid to the Independence Bowl.

The Ducks are going to "sunny" Anaheim, Calif., this year. It's warmer than Antarctica, La., better known as Baton Rouge, site of the Independence Bowl.

Anaheim is also closer than Baton Rouge, so more fans should be able to go the game and bring back a souvenir goalpost or two.

Athletic Director Bill Byrne shouldn't have to promise to purchase 12,000 tickets for the Freedom Bowl. Last year, the Ducks sacrificed about \$200,000 of athletic department money to fly the team and the band to the Independence Bowl.

Oregon can use the bowl excursion to recruit football players from Southern California. The Ducks have had a hard time in the past recruiting down there, but beating UCLA last Saturday raises their recruiting stock.

Bowl games are a good morale booster for the University. Now that the Ducks have that first (in a long, long time) bowl game under their belts, they should start earning respect and receiving invitations before the last minute.

Could things change? Will the Ducks get a better bowl offer by Nov. 24 if they win their last two games?

Anything can happen. But right now it looks like the Ducks and all their fans can plan a post-Christmas vacation in Southern California.

Only eight more weeks to the Freedom Bowl. This year fans, alumni and students can plan their bowl trip.

California, here we come. Swimming pools, movie stars ...

LETTERS

Class band

Much has been written recently regarding the "controversial" content of the Stanford Marching Band's halftime performance at the Duck-Cardinal game Oct. 27.

One such editorial (*ODE*, Nov. 2) suggested that perhaps Oregonians should "lighten up and appreciate Stanford's band." In doing so, however, the writer implied the Oregon Marching Band was somewhat less of an entertainment group, stating "the traditional marching-information variety ... drive most fans to tailgate parties or the alumni tent."

What these fans, and the writer, fail to appreciate is the immense practice and dedication it takes to be a member of the band.

The typical OMB member spends anywhere from 17 to 20 hours a week marching through rain and mud, memorizing music and supporting the football team. The members are fully devoted to a class that earns them only two credits toward graduation.

Members also spend as much as two weeks practicing before classes begin. So, the next time you see the Oregon Marching

Band, sit back, appreciate, and above all, enjoy watching perhaps the premier marching band in the nation. We will truly blow you away.

Pat Hansen
Math

Stop eating

John Boelling of SETA asks (*ODE*, Oct. 29) why the *Emerald* does not quote "somebody who actually cares about these animals," by which he presumably means someone who believes the Declaration of Independence applies to monkeys. Actually, the *Emerald* does quote such people fairly often, despite the incoherence and intellectual dishonesty of their public statements.

There may be valid and practical reasons for treating animals as humanely as possible, and there are certainly aesthetic ones. But it is absurd to suggest animals exist on the same moral footing as humans, for the simple reason that human life would be impossible on that basis. Some animals are cute and cuddly, and we may be tempted to regard them as our little buddies. But humans and animals are competitors, in the ecological sense, everywhere they meet.

I realize this is rather abstract when compared with Boelling's image of restraining chairs and brain implants, so let me give a rather elementary example.

All humans eat food. All food is grown. All growing requires land. All land is, or once was, animal habitat. Humans do not have the right to deprive animals of their habitat. Conclusion: Humans have a moral duty to stop eating.

If you think there's a mistake in there somewhere, I agree with you. If not — well, do the right thing.

Jerome Berryhill
R.A., Chemistry

Define it

I, as a homosexual, am wondering about the irrational fears and ignorance expressed by Ron Williams (*ODE*, Oct. 24).

He states that as a "straight, normal person" he has fears of being "approached" by gays and having them "try something" on him. Who died and left him in charge of defining normal?

I'd like to know his definition of this word. I also wonder what makes him think that a homosexual might attempt something with him. One

should not overestimate one's own appeal to others.

And how about "straight-bashing?" I would like for Williams to clarify himself on this issue, as his letter did not. It's not clear what he means.

I am not a "crybaby." I am sick of ignorance and bigotry. It has no place in this world.

Last, I did not "choose" to be gay. It is simply what I am. I did not just wake up one morning and decide to live an oppressed life. It's not something that I sought after and chose. Did Williams choose to be heterosexual? I don't think so. Gay is what I am.

Michael Lovelady
Student/GALA

Take pride

I attended the Blazer vs. Hornet basketball game on Oct. 28. I considered the game a treat as I have been a Blazer fan all my

life.

But the actions of some of my fellow students a section over was not a pretty sight. I am talking about the University band. Why they were allowed to play at an NBA game is beyond me.

Their disturbing actions consisted of yelling while a Hornet player was on the foul line, yelling while there was no action on the floor at all and just plain being obnoxious.

Their song selection also leaves something to be desired. Coming to Duck games for four years, I have had my fill of Howard Jones and Huey Lewis.

A step away from this blatant act of immaturity would be for the band to take a little pride in themselves and learn some new songs. If this can't be done I would much rather see the money they receive put elsewhere.

A. Kyle Kotchik
Student

LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.