

Football

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says. "Our administration has made their decision and has reaffirmed their commitment to Division I athletics at Rice University."

Rice can reduce its deficit by building a competitive football program and gaining more fans and TV time, May says.

"Athletic deficits have been a problem for years, and I think the main reason athletic departments are having budget problems is because expenses are rising faster than income is," May says. "We have a job to do of selling tickets and promoting our product, and we all have to start doing a better job of that."

"We have to start putting a better product out by scheduling games that actually mean something, and by scheduling games that are not decided before the two teams even take the field."

Rossley says it's important for coaches and players to stay optimistic.

"These are tough times in our economy, and we're just going to have to weather the storm and keep our program and our conference intact," he says.

To stay intact through tough economic times, though, the programs must stay free of NCAA penalties.

SMU faced a separate set of financial woes from a "death penalty" handed down by the NCAA in 1987 for player payouts. The penalty kept the Mustangs out of football for the '87 and '88 seasons and stunted the growth of a once-powerful team.

"I think during our death penalty everyone predicted we would swing to the other end when we returned to football — and we have been, but we've got to get out of this period and get into the thick of the Southwest Conference race," Rossley says. "We've got to find our momentum."

But for the students at Long Beach who have no team, finding the momentum through other athletic programs may be difficult.

"Next fall I guess we'll just drift around aimlessly with no events," Kemp says.

"We won't have any rallies, and it will be up to school organizations to hype people up — and their money is being cut, too."

"We'll just be the bland 'old brown and yellow 49ers."

Volunteerism

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"I don't think anyone would do VISTA if it was just for the résumé because it's a lot of hard work," says Heather Braun, who received a bachelor's degree in women's studies from Wheaton College in Norton, Mass.

Olive Wagner, campus chaplain at Arkansas College in Batesville, agrees.

Wagner accompanies students who

Speech

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up in the air."

Officials working on implementing the Wisconsin policy are caught between a rock and a hard place, Whitt says.

"There has to be some way not to chill free speech but still give people some course of action," says Whitt, a sociology major at the Madison campus.

The new Wisconsin conduct code addresses more specific instances of speech harassment than the old code.

Whitt says the new code simply gives students recourse against hate-spurred speech, including sexual and racial harassment.

"If I'm walking to class and a big group of guys calls me a big ugly dyke, there's something that I can do," she says.

Many universities, though, may have escaped ramifications of the Supreme Court ruling by targeting more general acts in their conduct codes instead of focusing on specific hate-spawned speech acts.

Michael Smith, assistant chancellor-legal affairs at the U. of California, Berkeley, says the Berkeley policy avoids the underlying problems mentioned by the Supreme Court.

"So I don't think the decision will require any change in present campus policy," Smith says.

Yudof, a constitutional law scholar who wrote the hate speech policy for UT, Austin, says universities that create specific categories of hate speech have created problems for themselves in terms of the court's decision.

"The conclusion I would reach from the opinion is that if you take an approach to limiting speech and you create categories, that amounts to a content discrimination and that's unconstitutional," Yudof says.

At the U. of Georgia, Athens, officials avoided these specific categories in their conduct code, potentially relieving them from a duty to make changes.

"We're not looking at a particular category and saying this is more hateful," says attorney Arty Leed. "We haven't seen a big push around here for a separate policy that would fit the category of hate crimes."

Suggs, who transferred from a predominantly white campus at the U. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, says universities should have sufficient means of halting harassment of minority groups without targeting specific hate-related actions.

spend their spring break working with Habitat for Humanity, a Christian non-profit group that builds houses for the homeless. Each spring break, members of the Campus Ministry Board, an interfaith group of students, faculty and staff, choose a place to work with Habitat.

The hard work involved in construction prompts those who are in it for their own gain to nix returning, Wagner says. But several students repeat the spring break work trips throughout their college careers.

"They're really willing to get their hands dirty," he says.

"The university or Congress may pass laws against certain actions, but there should be enough room that will punish these persons without getting specific to a derogatory word written on a door," Suggs says.

Policies at the U. of Florida and NYU reflect this. Their codes take a more moderate road, circumventing the free speech issue with other efforts to halt hateful attitudes.

"I don't know if regulating language is anybody's goal," says Steven Polniaszek, associate director of student life at NYU. "You can regulate harassment, vandalism, trespassing — you name it."

That's good news for Hollie Rice, a junior at Towson State U. in Maryland, whose bout with hate speech ended with physical assault.

On a Wednesday afternoon in March, Rice stood in the student union with a friend discussing classes — modern British poetry, educational psychology, sociology, British literature — a killer schedule with 18 credits, she says.

But when Rice began talking about a gay Jewish professor at the university, an unwelcome eavesdropper tormented her with anti-Semitic taunts and slurs against the professor. The man, who never was apprehended, called Rice "a fucking dyke" and backhanded her across the face, leaving her eye and cheekbone swollen and bruised.

"I just laughed because I didn't know what to do," Rice says.

In the end, physical violence and terrorism carry greater weight than the speech that accompanies them, say members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP says it will investigate possible ramifications of the decision.

"Racist speech is abhorrent, as are such symbols as the swastika. However, ugly words are far less troubling than is the obviously intended terrorism of the burning cross," NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks said in a statement.

Michigan State U. criminal justice Professor Harold Spaeth, who specializes in constitutional issues, says the Supreme Court's decision can be considered a setback depending on the extent people are willing to disregard the First Amendment. The court draws a difference between "fighting words" and general speech, Spaeth says.

"They made a decision that certainly comports with the Constitution," he says. "Nothing in the St. Paul ordinance concerned personal epithets."

Richard Lobenthal, director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith

Thomas K. Husted, a U. of Arizona political science senior awaiting a Peace Corps assignment in Latin America, says his selfish and benevolent motivations for joining are equal.

"You're doing something that's helping other people and also something that's really going to help you in the future," he said. Husted also says he hopes his work in the Corps will help him get a job when he returns.

Cynics may denigrate motives of today's student volunteers, but they cannot dispute the fact that students are working hard for little or no money, Ramo says.

in Southfield, Mich., says the St. Paul ordinance crossed the line by infringing on free speech while trying to protect victims of hate crimes.

But Ted Alvarez, president of Michigan State's Coalition of Hispanic Students for Progressive Action, says the court's decision may provide a formidable obstacle to efforts to protect oppressed people.

"Freedom of speech is something everybody — including minorities — should have," Alvarez says.

And that's precisely why Amy Jo Mattheis finds the Supreme Court's ruling detrimental to campus race relations.

Mattheis says the ruling may hamper efforts at Pacific Lutheran U. to strengthen student race relations.

"At this point, we are not in an open environment," says Mattheis, who works with students at PLU in Tacoma, Wash. "Then when you add racial slurs, people are just going to leave. You are going to have a totally homogenous society, and nobody's going to learn anything different."

Whitt, who works in student government at Wisconsin, says students should not have to tolerate harassing speech.

"Free speech is great — it's wonderful," Whitt says. "But you also have to look at an educational environment. How am I going to learn anything if every time I walk to class people are throwing racial slurs at me?"

But Zolton Ferency, a civil rights attorney, says the court merely followed traditional law in deciding against the St. Paul ordinance and for protecting the free exercise of speech.

"The only time the government can interfere is when a person's conduct, either oral or symbolic, becomes fighting words," Ferency says. "There's a line where it goes beyond hurling invective and it becomes assault. And we've always had laws to protect that."

But that doesn't make Doug Scheidemantel feel any better.

"If a person can't go to college and not worry about having that hatred directed toward them, it's unfortunate," Scheidemantel says. "It becomes difficult to reach your main objective at college, which is to learn."

But Mattheis, a PLU graduate, says the Supreme Court ruling has stolen student ability to counter racism, especially at PLU, where only 64 of the 3,600 students are black.

"I believe that the Supreme Court is indicative of the way our nation feels about race relations," she says. "It's primitive. And I hope it doesn't trickle down to our campuses."

"It almost doesn't matter what their motives are," she says.

And while idealism may have been at an all-time high among college students in the 1960s, student volunteers see the newest wave of service as a more genuine gesture.

"A lot of (the increase in Peace Corps enlistment) was so you didn't go to Vietnam," Husted says.

In fact, Ramo says much of the '60s volunteerism may have been more talk than action, something from which this generation of volunteers is staying away.

"Now I see people more subtly giving back."