

Hold student athletes to consistent rules

The recent dismissal of Bob Fife from the Oregon men's basketball team has once again raised questions concerning the University's treatment of student athletes.

Fife, a junior, has been with the Ducks since the 1989 season but has never been a marquee player. During the current season, his playing time has steadily decreased until he played only three minutes against UCLA Feb. 14.

Following that game, Fife decided he needed to talk things over with his parents. He went home, and for that, he was kicked off the team.

What was Fife's crime? He went home to mom and dad. He didn't tell coach Jerry Green. Certainly he violated team rules, but just because a student receives an athletic scholarship does not mean his or her soul belongs to the University.

Students who receive academic scholarships do not have them revoked for missing classes. And though Fife's absence from the team may or may not have had an impact, it did not cause the team any substantial amount of harm. Certainly not enough to warrant expulsion.

The obvious explanation is that Fife was a fair, but not great, player and Green saw an opportunity to create another scholarship opening. Apparently the University is committed to its athletes only until somebody better comes along.

Another troubling aspect of Fife's dismissal was the clear double standard being applied in the athletic department. In the past year, a number of football players, including a few highly regarded players, have been arrested on various criminal charges or have been involved in incidents that reflect poorly on the University and its football program.

Yet they're still around. Some may argue those players haven't been convicted of anything, so they should remain on the team unless they're convicted. And Fife was convicted of ... what? Going home. Certainly a heinous crime.

Green demonstrated an incredible lack of sensitivity to Fife in the way he dismissed him. He didn't wait for Fife to explain himself, he simply gave him the boot. Granted, Fife could have called. But he was dealing with personal problems and, quite frankly, Fife's personal problems are nobody's business but his own — Green included.

Green's actions suggest he puts more emphasis on the athletic part of student athletes. Many of those who play intercollegiate sports are still maturing emotionally and must be given some leeway when they make mistakes.

Athletic director Rich Brooks needs to re-evaluate how his department deals with infractions by student athletes. Make the rules consistent, make them reasonable, but most important, make them fair.

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LETTERS

Labels

This is in response to David Oaks' letter "KKKChristianity" (ODE, Feb. 19). Let me briefly tell you about myself. I am not a bigoted, extremist, intolerant hate-monger. The only thing I hate is being labeled as such. I am a Christian, and I use Galatians 6:1 as one guide in everyday life, and, more specifically, in writing this letter.

I consider myself a moral person, but no one is perfect. I can assure Oaks, though, that neither I nor any of my ancestors have burned witches, invaded natives on the Oregon Trail, enslaved African-Americans or electro-shocked emotional people for "mental illness." Please don't lump all Christians into one group and label them bad. Some of them bother me too.

I'm happy Oaks is glad to be an "independently thinking person." I guess I'm not as strong as he; God plays an active role daily in my thoughts and decisions. I'm just sorry his "independent thoughts" have fed him such bitterness and hate. He preaches tolerance, but where is his tolerance for Christianity?

I have my own idea why Oregon is such a hateful state — there's just not enough God going around because people refuse to listen to what he really has to say.

Here's the bottom line of my story: I love God and he loves me. I look forward to spending a blissful eternity with him in paradise. My dream is to share heaven with everyone, regardless of skin color or beliefs. You're invited.

Tony Gunderson
National Student Exchange

Bleed for fees

I don't know where the members of the Incidental Fee Committee are from, but this is the home of Measure 5. What does this mean? This means tuition has increased more than 50 percent during the past two years, leaving many students unable to afford the University. It has also given new meaning to the "starving student" cliché.

In case the IFC has forgotten, Measure 5 is coming out of hibernation this year. This will mean a seven to 15 percent in-

crease in tuition and also a seven to 15 percent decrease in enrollment. In-state tuition will rise by about \$100 per term next year. If the IFC continues to increase allocations to student groups at its current 18.7 percent clip, this, coupled with a decrease in enrollment, could result in a student fee increase of up to \$32 per term.

Ouch! Let go of my wallet. If the IFC wants to spend money, let them spend their own. As for me, I believe Cal-Berkeley has the right idea. Students at Berkeley pay only \$22 a term in student fees. In the face of a steep increase in tuition, we should be looking to decrease student fees, not increase them.

Now I might be just a lowly student senator, but I do know how to add, and I do know when something smells rotten. That something is the IFC. Students can't afford higher student fees next year. You have to remember — we're going to need a quarter to buy our class schedules.

Braden D. Kelley
Business and Economics

IFC response

In the Feb. 22 issue of the *Emerald*, an editorial ran titled "IFC spending binge will hurt students." This statement assumes two things — one that the IFC is on a spending binge, and two that IFC spending hurts students. Both assumptions are not supported by fact.

First of all, if the author of the editorial were to use mathematics rather than politics, the author would see the IFC allocates money based on enrollment estimates. A larger enrollment than expected has created an unused pool of fee dollars of almost \$120,000. Because enrollment is estimated to remain the same next year, the IFC may allocate this amount of money to programs without increasing the per student fee.

The second portion of the editorial was equally disturbing. The argument that the student body does not benefit from many fee-supported programs is inaccurate and insupportable. The editorial claimed it was not justifiable to increase the budget of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance because it "represents only a small segment of

students."

This logic seems to say the presence of students of color or of lesbian and gay organizations, or of any organization that involves a minority of students, contributes nothing to other members of the campus community.

I hope this editorial was the result of a misunderstanding and not of a conscious ideological position. In the future, it would be good to see the *Emerald* devote as much space to tuition as it has to student fees.

Steve Masat
Lydia Lerma
IFC

Neat slogans

"Tax and spend" were the Republican gimmick buttons worn in Congress Feb. 17 before Clinton ever had a chance to speak. Why didn't the Democrats respond to Republican rule of the past 12 years with "Spend and spend into poverty and deficit"? Any child can manage his finances that way, but this was national policy.

Clinton wants to stem this super-real hemorrhage and gets the expected opposition from the other side, but did Republicans ever come up with a workable solution over those long 12 years, or even now? They should shut up in shame and look clearly at the disastrous shambles they left America with and think up a more viable solution than their tired slogan. We need to get back on our feet. The Republicans never did "get it."

Hilde K. Cherry
Eugene

Bad market

In the Feb. 17 *Emerald* article about the plastics industry, it was stated that currently only No. 2 milk jugs are being recycled and No. 3, No. 5, No. 6 and No. 7 are taken to the landfill. This is not true.

Recycling collects No. 1, No. 2, No. 5 and No. 6 from University sites and takes them to BRING Recycling.

The problem is that BRING must store most of the plastic it receives because there is no market for it.

Carrie Fenelon
PPPM

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