

Sacred Heart policy should be respected

Sacred Heart General Hospital was founded on religious values. For years, the hospital has refused to allow abortions or any other medical procedure deemed immoral by the Catholic Church.

As a private organization, Sacred Heart has every right to operate as it pleases. Although patients may disagree with the hospital's firm stance against abortion, they must respect their care givers. And physicians practicing at Sacred Heart should understand the rules of their employer. If the hospital were founded as a public organization, doctors and patients could try to change this situation.

Conflict over Sacred Heart's abortion policies erupted after Sister Monica Heeran, president of the Sacred Heart organization, refused to accept a plan that would have allowed doctors to continue practicing abortions at their clinic after it merges with Sacred Heart.

Physicians and other Eugene residents say the hospital shouldn't apply its religious standards to a secular community, especially if the organization is going to control most of the local health care market. Sacred Heart Health System already provides about 70 percent of hospital services in Lane County and will provide a similar portion of outpatient services after mergers with The Eugene Clinic, the Oregon Medical Group, Women's Care and other specialty clinics.

Abortion rights advocates say Sacred Heart's strict religious policies overlook the important medical needs of women.

However, this debate isn't about morality or religion. It's about ownership and private rights. The clinics that may be absorbed by Sacred Heart know that the hospital is a private organization. Employees of any private business know they must respect the wishes of their employer or find someplace else to work.

If the affected clinics do not want to change their abortion policies to meet Sacred Heart's religious standards, they should oppose any mergers with the Eugene hospital. Sacred Heart has not tried to keep its firm Catholic values a secret, and doctors shouldn't be surprised that they can't perform abortions once they are employed by Sacred Heart.

Abortion rights advocates shouldn't attack Sacred Heart's policies as if they were newly drafted. For years, local doctors and patients have accepted the rules without much protest. People have alternatives for abortions in Lane County, and although the merger will take away a portion of these options, Sacred Heart shouldn't be the victim of rallies and protests for standing by something it has believed in since its founding.

People involved in this issue need to step away from the traditional pro choice-pro life argument and focus instead on the ramifications of private control. None of these clinics are being forced to merge with Sacred Heart, but if they do they should be prepared to follow the rules.

There's no doubt that Sacred Heart will have difficulty with the widening rift between the hospital's Catholic values and the Eugene secular community. But, as a private organization, the hospital has a right to stand by what its founders believe.

FINALLY, AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE OUT OF GOVERNMENT.



AND PUT THEM BACK IN THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY BELONG.



COMMENTARY

Duck fan's wish blooms at last

David P. Bartlett

After proving the critics wrong and coming from behind practically the entire season to clinch a solo position at the top of the Pacific-10 Conference, the 1994 Oregon Duck football team is heading south to an exciting match-up with Penn State in the Rose Bowl.

As a fan who has bled green and gold for the past two decades, hoping and praying that an Oregon team would one day swim in the deliciously sweet aroma of roses, I can say our day has come.

I haven't cried yet, but my sister did after the Civil War game. For the time being, her tears of joy will carry me through at least some of these wonderful days.

Right now, I think the best way to sum up my feelings is to turn to the comic pages.

Hold on, it's not what you think.

I feel like that lovable underdog Charlie Brown would after he finally, somehow, some way, kicked the football that Lucy has tauntingly held — and yanked away at the last second — for so many years.

Throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s, I sat on soggy wooden benches at Autzen Stadium with thousands of other Big Green faithful. Sometimes the greatest struggle in the contest was in the stands, as fans tried their best to keep from catching pneumonia from the cold and drizzle of those wet years.

I was there the year Air Force beat us in the pouring rain — a game and afternoon so dismal that the Air Force mascot, a wet and miserable falcon, refused to fly at halftime.

I remember one particularly ugly Duck game at Autzen when some fans started being nasty to one another. As I sat there with a high school buddy, some no-life jerks several rows behind us

started tossing garbage on our heads.

I was in Husky Stadium early in the 1980s when the Dawgs put a cheap-shot late hit on then-quarterback Chris Miller, injuring him and putting him out of the game. Do you remember that one? Can you feel my pain? In that battle, we won everything except the game. Even *The Seattle Times* admitted the Dawgs came away with a victory they didn't deserve.

I was there when the Ducks and Beavers fought to a 0-0 tie in the conference struggle for last place in the infamous Ice Bowl. The only highlight of that game was when the clock finally ran out.

In spite of those disappointing years and some games that are best forgotten, the teams of yesterday had heroes and moments of glory.

Names like Reggie Ogburg, Dwight Moser and Steve Greenwood echo through my memory, reminding me of good teams with tons of heart, but, sadly, ones that many times came up shorter on the scoreboard than their opponents.

To admit to being a real Duck fan is to admit to being in a painful relationship. The Ducks broke my heart year after year — which is why I had to finally get out of the relationship last year, the first year I missed several home games.

Gasp! Yes, it's true. I had to stop loving the Ducks so intensely, basically for my own good.

So what happens? This fall I decide to go to Indiana for a three-month journalism course and miss the entire 1994 season. Despite my glaringly obvious absence from the stands, the Ducks capture an outright Pac-10 championship and a trip to the Rose Bowl. All this while I'm gone.

After 18 years of wandering in the mediocre desert, Rich Brooks and his coaching staff

and players deserve their trip to the promised land. They earned it.

Their come-from-behind tenacity also earned them national attention and ranking. This turned out to be the magical season where the media covered the Ducks almost as well as the Gang Green defense covered offenses throughout the conference. Can you say ESPN and ABC TV? *Sports Illustrated*? No. 12 in the nation? It has been crazy, and it has been a lot of fun.

Yep. I missed the season, the game, the drive, the interception and the boat. Forgive me if I hog all the Duck paraphernalia on sale in every store from Portland to Ashland.

I missed the Ducks beating both Arizona teams in the same season, back to back.

By the time I got home, it was only two days before the Civil War, and tickets had long since been gobbled up.

I did watch the game on television, but to be honest, I didn't think the Ducks were going to pull it off in the end like they did, just like they had all season.

I just didn't believe they could do it.

And maybe that is the difference between the 1994 Oregon football team and many of those luckless teams of yesterday.

The difference with this Duck team and this golden season with its hearty young men and high hopes is that when everyone else gave up on them (admit it, many of us did, and so early in the season), they never gave up on themselves.

When it was third and long and the prisoners were being taken as the city burned, they still believed in themselves.

This is why our boys, and God bless every last one of them, are going to Pasadena in 1995.

David P. Bartlett is a senior majoring in journalism.

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3159, EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor-in-Chief: Kaly Soto
Managing Editor: David Thom
Editorial Editor: Joe Harwood
News Art Editor: Jeff Paslay
Freelance Editor: Lon Bettineski
News Editor: Rebecca Merritt
Sports Editor: Chris Metz
In-Depth Editor: Ed Klopfenstein
Supplements Editor: Trista Noel
Night Editor: Trista Noel

Associate Editors: Friederich von Carp, Student Government/Activities; Marcelene Edwards, Community; Tiffany Smith, Higher Education/Administration

News Staff: Amy Colombo, Amy L. Devenport, Tasha Eichenseher, Abe Estimada, Primo Fontana, Gayle Forman, Christopher Fox, Matt Garton, Gary Grass, Sarah Henderson, Kris Henry, Trevor Kearney, Adam Kincher, Suzanne Marta, Mark McTyne, Ben Moebius, Anne Moser-Kornfeld, Sherry Rainey, Robbie Reeves, Kate Sabourin, Paul Van Sickle, Michele Thompson, Hideki Tomeoka, Kim Weiss, Daniel West, Brian Womack

General Manager: Judy Riedl
Advertising Director: Mark Walter
Production Manager: Michele Ross

Advertising: Marco Ching, Tony Fox, Erin Hersher, Nicole Herzmark, Jeremy Mason, Michael Milette, Sarah Mitchell, Tom Mitterstaedt, Kelsey Weikel

Classified: Becky Merchant, Manager, Joli Seaton, Jodi Wall

Distribution: John Long, Ferenc Rakoczi, Regina Zsupnik

Business: Kathy Carbone, Supervisor, Judy Connolly

Production: Dehila McCobb, Production Coordinator, Shawna Abele, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joss, Jennifer Roland, Nath Thangvijit, Clayton Yee

Newsroom: 346-5511
Business Office: 346-5512

Display Advertising: 346-3712
Classified Advertising: 346-4343