

Football gives school gift of honor, respect

OUR OPINION: Football team's success has brought praise to the entire University

As Dead Week mercifully comes to a close and Finals Week gets ready to hand out more red eyes and headaches as early Christmas gifts, students can breathe a sigh of relief in the knowledge that there is life after this term and that the Ducks are going to the Cotton Bowl.

Let us all stand with great maturity, put our thumbs in our ears, stick our tongues out, and in chorus chant loud enough that the Dawgs in Seattle can hear: "We're going to the Cotton Bowl, you're going to the Sunburn Bowl, na na na na na na."

Forgive our brief slide into immaturity, but Washington coach Jim Lambright opened up a whole new debate (and added more fuel to the flames of an already intense rivalry) over the definition of the word "tacky." Lambright gets the Unsportsmanlike Conduct Penalty of the Year Award (a bronzed G.I. Joe Doll holding up a bronzed wad of cow poop) for his kindergarten-project attempt to persuade Cotton Bowl officials to pick them for the Jan. 1 showdown in the hood-down state.

Lambright's childish press conference was a beautiful representation of everything putrid about Husky football; they are arrogant and ignorant.

Enough said. Let's talk about a program with class — the Ducks.

With consecutive national rankings, Jan. 1 bowl appearances, dotting media, national TV coverage and

enough green and gold hype to bring Vince Lombardi back to life, it looks as if our Ducks are on their way to building a winning tradition.

It hasn't been easy and it didn't happen over night.

Former head coach Rich Brooks spent two decades building the foundation for a football program that has put the University on the map. Brooks pushed for better facilities and respect within the Pacific-10 Conference. His belief in the program, his staff and players helped create an atmosphere of excellence that infected then-assistant coach Mike Bellotti and players like Rich Ruhl, Jeremy Asher, Kenny Wheaton, Alex Molden, Cristin McLemore, Ricky Whittle, Steve Hardin, Silila Malepeai, Danny O'Neil, Tony Graziani and a team roster packed full of other fighters.

Students, faculty, alumni and fans should all realize something very exciting about being a Fighting Duck — not only are we all part of a solid educational institution already respected in the U.S., but we have athletes who have worked harder than any of us may ever realize to make their mark in collegiate sports history.

Their dedication has paid off.

Fans now pack Autzen Stadium, the alumni association appears to be hearty and healthy, donor money flows in and sponsors and advertisers jockey to make connections with the Ducks.

It all makes for a great party.

Thanks to the commitment of our football team, our school gets to celebrate New Year's Day with Colorado in the Cotton Bowl.



A year of great (ahem) achievements

When I began writing columns, I promised myself I'd stick to the hard stuff and always make people think. Well, that's a nice little promise. But on this special day, when people are already thinking too much, and column material is damn thin anyway, why not try something with a little levity?

So I've compiled my own list of achievements for 1995. I present it with the hope that you will cherish it and not just throw it away because you think it's some mindless attempt to fill space.

The Best of 1995:

- Best ASUO Idea: The Designated Driver Shuttle (DDS). Finally people from the ASUO have stopped worrying about getting their next-in-line re-elected and have actually responded to students' needs (like mine tonight).
- Best ASUO Idea (Runner-Up): The EMU Brew Pub. A beautiful complement to DDS.
- Best Place To Find Left-over Tear Gas: Anywhere on Hilyard Street.
- Best Job At Keeping The Peace: The officers of the Eugene police department and their propensity to use tear gas on students.



Let's visualize a future, hypothetical scene unfolding: The police are called to respond to multiple sightings of bush-urination. At hearing the call, Officer Orville and Officer Wilbur can't hold back their feelings of joy.

They hurry to the scene, unlock the shiny tear gas gun that they've dreamed of using for so long, survey the scene and determine that the five kids taking in the backyard are too dangerous to approach.

Officer Orville: "Gaw, dunnit. Thees har bullhorn dun't wurk nun. Shucks. I rekken I's gunna haf to use tha gaas! Yeeeee, Haaaaa!"

Officer Wilbur (after several of Otis' shots have emptied the house and the five surrounding city blocks): "Now, lookie har. You sed after two shots, it be mine tern. So gimme!"

After the boys have their fun, the police reports of raucous student behavior are filled out and it's back to the mundane cycle of jaywalking tickets.

- Best Trial Of The Year: The People versus Tim Peters. He didn't have a bike light. Now there's keeping the peace for you.
- Best Trial Of The Year (Runner-Up): The People versus O.J. Simpson. You know all those holler-than-thou people who trounced around saying they "despised" the trial were the same people who called *Geraldo* every night to talk about Marcia Clark's new hairdo.

- Best Dr. Seuss Re-enactment: Hyundai. Ever read *The Lorax*? It's a wonderful childhood story about the Onceler who comes to a serene land and promises to give the people big things. The Onceler kept promising until, one day, everyone looks around and realizes that the water is the color of a horse's big, brown butt. You figure it out, Eugene.
- Best Song: The University fight song — sung by the one guy who knows it.
- Best In-Your-Face: Duck football. National media and coaches gave Oregon the lowest pre-season ranking of any Pac-10 champion. The Ducks finished the season as the highest nationally ranked team in the Pac-10.
- Best Cheer Using Inventive Sexual Connotations: "Stick it in, stick it in, huh." Whoever wrote this one must have spent weeks on it.
- Best Job At Cashing In Your Chips: Rich Brooks. How many head coaches possess an overall losing record in college and then get promoted to the NFL?
- Best Espousal Of Charity And Love In An Editorial: The October 2 *ODE*. Our compassionate editorialist lauded the Eugene police for their "zero-tolerance" campaign aimed at ridding 13th Avenue of homeless street kids. They were referred to as "free loaders, street urchins and tangle-haired, money-begging street folk."
- Best new major: Environmental Studies. Finally there's a department for all those who couldn't handle biology but still longed to hike and consume GORP for four years.

• Best Excuse: Donovan Dichter, Interfraternity Council President. According to police reports, Dichter was seen removing TV and stereo equipment out of a fraternity house this summer. When asked why he was taking the equipment, Dichter replied: "We left beer here and wanted to take it with us."

• Best Excuse (runner-up): Bryan DuLong, President, Sigma Chi fraternity. According to police reports, Sigma Chi was cited for hazing after large cleaning brushes were seen tied around several fraternity pledges' necks. DuLong told the police the pledges were merely receiving "positive motivation."

• Best Letter: The witty, young lad who took the time to tell me: "I read your opinion in the *Emerald*. It was a well written article. Too bad your a dumbass." I think the grammar speaks for itself.

• Best Column: Well, it sure as hell isn't this one.

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