

Students should pay

As a graduate student at the University, I feel that the behavior of certain students at University basketball games is intolerable on two grounds: 1) That their immature and inappropriate behavior bodes poorly for the University as a whole, and on collegiate sports fans. 2) More importantly, we the students paid for the tickets of those who disgraced our University.

The student subsidy of athletic tickets is obviously being abused in these instances. I see no reason why students who don't attend games should pay for those who do, let alone hear that they abuse this privilege. A simple solution to the ongoing problem of racial and homosexual discrimination being vocalized at Oregon basketball games would be to have students pay for their own tickets to the games.

First, the majority of the students at this campus who regularly do not attend games would not have to pay for the troublesome students. Second, and more importantly, for future games, the students who pay would be less likely to be thrown out of a game that cost them five or ten dollars to see. This policy would also help to eliminate students from attending games merely to harass the other team. Those students who resort to this sort of behavior are far less likely to have waited in line and paid money to see a game.

But as long as the games are free, some students may perceive University basketball games as a free way to vent their hostilities in a destructive manner.

Brendan Kane
Law

READER RESPONSE

These letters were all received in response to the ASUO Executive's plans to rope off 228 student seats at tonight's men's basketball game. They represent the entirety of letters received regarding this issue as of 3 p.m. Wednesday.

ASUO thieves

The ASUO's intervention into the alleged racist comment scandal is appalling. First of all, how can it justify taking away almost 250 prime student seats just because one UCLA basketball player said that he had racist comments shouted at him?

I attended the UCLA game, as I have attended every Oregon home game this year, and I sat in the very section that the ASUO will block off at the game against Arizona on Thursday. I did not hear one racist comment from the crowd at that game or at any other home game in my three years at this school. If there was a racist comment shouted at a player, don't you think it would be more appropriate to discipline that one person or group instead of punishing the whole student section?

The student basketball fans are being characterized as bigots when there has been no proof to back up what one person said. If someone hears a person shouting racist comments at opposing players, they should be punished — not the entire student body. To the ASUO: Give us our seats back! By the way, we pay for them. Therefore, you're stealing from

us. Give me a break.

Ryan Lee
Political Science

Stolen seats

While I in no way condone racial and homosexual slurs at basketball games or anywhere else for that matter, the ASUO is wrong to attempt withholding tickets from students.

Alexandra Berwick, ASUO multicultural advocate, was quoted in the Emerald yesterday as saying, "People are focusing on this as a negative thing. They think, 'Oh, we're losing 300 seats,' rather than, 'Look what we did to those players.'" I congratulate Ms. Berwick on her ability to look beyond the surface and get to the real issue at hand. However, attempting to withhold seats basically equates to stealing from the student body.

Does Ms. Berwick plan on refunding money to 228 students for tickets that they paid for with fees from their tuition? For that matter, does the ASUO plan on refunding students each week who are unable to go to games because there are simply not enough tickets? Since there are more students than tickets available, it appears the ASUO is supporting stealing. What message is being sent here? While most students would probably agree that racial and homosexual slurs should not and will not be tolerated, I guess it is perfectly fine for students to be robbed.

Keven Reijonen
History

Action needed

How do we confront our problem of racism and overall misconduct? Gee, let's hire more securi-

ty. Let's push our problem onto a police force that will ensure that we follow the rules like the children we seem to be, and deny that this problem exists. Better yet, let's increase our incidental fees by 100 percent to pay for our newly needed police force to pay for our inappropriate actions.

How flawed that alternative course of action is. So I ask, is this the right course of action? To speak passionately, there is no other alternative. In this age, where our generation is constantly looked down upon for being irresponsible, this sort of action is exactly what is needed to fight the problem of racism that is expressed by our crowds and felt on our campus.

It is time that we take responsibility for our actions, and this is just the first step. Sure, some may say that this act will be "completely ineffective," but there needs to be a strong stand somewhere if we want to alleviate this problem.

It is true that not all students engage in these degrading acts, and I can understand the anger that some are expressing. This action is not being done because we need to be punished; it's being done because we all need to realize that this problem exists, and in turn, reevaluate ourselves. We need to take responsibility for our actions. We need to show the Pac-10 and the United States that we are still the best sixth man in America, the best in the best ways, and not through our racist remarks.

Roberto Aguilar
Sociology & Psychology

Bright ideas

The ASUO Executive has had a banner year, folks, a banner year. President Matt Scotten and Vice President Glen Banfield have

only a few short months left in office to come up with a couple of really keen ideas that will help them live on in the hearts and minds of the students of the University.

Idea #1: Take \$300,000 out of over-realized funds and build an amphitheater. Golly, Matt, isn't this a tad like building your presidential library before you're left office? And just who do you think will use this amphitheater? Important political speakers of the day that students will turn out in droves to see, or Bible Jim?

Idea #2: Rope off a section of student seating at a basketball game, three weeks too late, in response to the possible utterance of racial slurs against UCLA. This is Glen's contribution to the brain trust of the ASUO. Mr. Banfield wants to penalize students who may or may not have had anything to do with racial slurs that may or may not have been uttered because Alex Berwick, et al, need proof of racial tension on campus to justify their existence.

The ideas stop here. That's right, when it came time to fight the good fight on issues like building fees, the ASUO was nowhere to be found. And now, as new bills are proposed in the state legislature to completely restructure the incidental fee process in a way that will not likely enhance the local control currently enjoyed by students, Matt and Glen spend their time counting the days until May 25, when their reign of inaction will finally end.

Thanks, Matt and Glen, for such a banner year. You've really outdone yourselves.

Farrah Bostic
Publisher
Oregon Commentator

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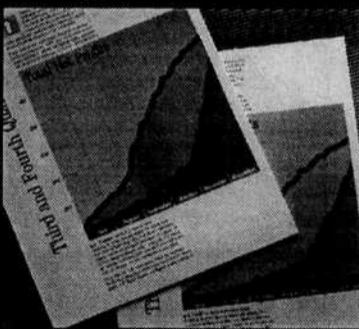
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