

NEWSROOM:  
(541) 346-5511  
E-MAIL:  
ode@oregon.uoregon.edu  
ON-LINE EDITION:  
www.uoregon.edu/~ode

# PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Ryan Frank  
EDITORIAL EDITOR  
Kameron Cole

## SATs should go AWOL

*Universities should widen their focus from standardized test scores to promote out-of-class activities*

Most of us have been there. On some Saturday late in our high school life, we were sitting in a crowded, quiet, pressure-filled classroom coloring circles for either the SAT or ACT.

For some of us, this could have been the defining moment in our educational future. More than any other isolated moment in our lives, those four hours were supposed to tell us our worth to college recruiters.

Fail, and we may have been looking at community college. Succeed, and big-time college here we come.

But why so much attention to four hours of our lives?

More than 280 of the 1,600 colleges and universities in the nation — the University not included — are asking that same question. Those schools are shifting their focus from standardized test scores to GPA and high school subject requirements.

The new standards seem to be a good start, but we are wondering why there are not more schools going in the same direction and why the new focus is not more broad. And to be more specific, why the University isn't following.

It seems to us that colleges and universities have been steering students toward one goal: academic success. While good grades and high test scores generally reflect an intelligent person who has the potential to succeed in higher education, it seems there are other criteria that should be given as much weight in the application process.

There should be other criteria that reflect more of a person than how well he or she can take a grueling test and how successful they are in the classroom. Both are still imperative and should be considered.

We are not saying do away with standardized tests, but instead start taking other qualities more seriously.

Qualities such as community service and travel that help create more complete people who have a better understanding of the world and their place in it should be given more importance. Drama, athletics, debate, student government and anything that would enrich a high school student's life should be moved up in the admissions standards.

Martha Pitts, the director of admissions at the University, says previous course history and GPA are better indicators than the standardized tests. She cited whether the student challenged him or herself in the classroom as the most important criterion.

Again, by looking at things other than pure numbers, this is a good starting point, but part of that challenge includes out of class activities. Did the student challenge him or herself with activities that help in becoming a well-rounded person?

Standardized tests are never going to be done away with, but if universities started taking other activities as seriously as the grades and test scores, that would be a step in the right direction. There is much more to life than coloring circles.

*This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.*

## SAID & DONE

"There are only a few punishments worse than being denied a right to make a living."

—Former boxer Muhammad Ali in a statement written on behalf of boxer Mike Tyson's successful bid to have his boxing license reinstated by the Nevada Athletic Commission after twice biting Evander Holyfield's ear during a title fight last year. With a multi-million dollar payoff from each fight, Tyson needs some sympathy.

"I'm very excited and can't wait to go back and see my next baby. I have two daughters, and I'm a single father."

—Vili Fualaau, 15, after his second baby, Georgia, was born to 36-year-old Seattle teacher Mary Kay Letourneau on Friday. Yuck.

"We stopped polling a few weeks too soon. We had been lulled into thinking that nothing much changes in the last few weeks of the campaign."

—George Gallup Jr., co-chairman of the Gallup organization and son and namesake of another of polling's giants, on the poll that led to the notorious 1948 headline "Dewey Defeats Truman." Duh, George.

"No."

—David Cash, a 19-year-old University of California student, when asked on "60 Minutes" whether he would do anything differently after watching his friend rape and strangle a 7-year-old girl in a Nevada casino a year and a half ago.

WHY DO WE  
HAVE TO TAKE  
THESE SATS?

