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PERSPECTIVES

University action needed

In light of recent riots, the University needs to reconsider its approach to student behavior off campus

Out of control parties, underage drinking and riots demand the University's attention. Although the University claims to have its hands tied when governing student behavior off campus, community members are demanding the University take a more active role in curbing students' violent behavior, such as the Halloween riots.

Nearly half of the 12 people arrested by police during the riot were University students. In addition, last weekend alone there was a stabbing and more than 100 citations for offenses ranging from minor in possession to drinking and driving.

With that track record in the last two weeks, concern for students' and the community's safety should prompt the University to take action.

The University brings thousands of new students into the community from all over the world. It is ridiculous to think the University should simply take the "let the authorities handle it" approach to student behavior when it is obviously a University problem.

It is difficult to imagine that if the University did not exist, events like the Halloween riots would still happen. Because the majority of students live off campus the University should see itself as spilling over into the community. And the University should punish student behavior, such as rioting, both on and off campus.

This is not to say that every time a student gets into trouble with the law the University needs to respond; however, when public health comes into the equation — such as with riots, drinking and driving and violence — the University needs to take action.

The Eugene Police Department has already looked into cracking down to send a message that rioting is not acceptable. It is time for the University

to join the police and send the same message.

One solution may be to include rioting and violent behavior in the University's Student Conduct Code. Although most of the regulations in the conduct code speak exclusively to students' behavior on campus, the University has jurisdiction off campus when the offense involves sexual misconduct.

This leaves a window open for discussion to include other off campus offenses. The conduct code allows the Student Conduct Committee to vote on and implement new violations.

The inclusion of rioting in the Conduct Code would allow the University to punish violators by expulsion, suspension and various lesser penalties.

This would send a clear message to students that this behavior is not acceptable and would send a message to the community that the University takes responsibility for students' actions.

As it stands now, rioting on campus is forbidden under conduct codes. Yet are these acts any less offensive to the University when students are participating in them three blocks from campus?

It is clear that simply passing



the buck to local authorities or blaming social institutions like campus media is not working.

Proactive measures such as sponsoring on-campus events that deter students away from drinking and rioting help, but they didn't stop this year's riots nor can they continue to distract students from destructive behavior off campus.

The University needs to make it clear to students that their behavior on campus is just as important and punishable as their behavior off campus.

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

Thumbs



TO FRANCE
On the 80th anniversary of the end of World War I, the French are awarding WWI American Veterans the Legion of Honor for their bravery.

TO SCOTT SPAAN
The Ducks' most vigorous fan who returned to beating the opposition's mascot against a bench for every point the Ducks scored against Washington last Saturday. Whether it was special for the Dawgs or will continue for the rest of the season, it was a welcomed return.



TO A LACK OF REMEMBRANCE
To whomever decided that we had to go to school on Veterans Day, a federal holiday.

TO UO STUDENTS
For a game that was supposedly sold out, the top of the student section was conspicuously empty for most of Saturday's football game. If you are afraid of the rain, next time forego taking a ticket from someone who may actually show up.

CORRECTION

In the story "Akili Smith reflects on his career, future" (ODE, Nov. 6), Reggie Ogburn should have been named as Oregon's first African-American quarterback. The Emerald regrets the error.

