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PERSPECTIVES

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Down with the IOC

Little has been done to curb the corruption running through the International Olympic Committee

The Olympics is not new to scandal. A bombing in 1996, allegations of steroid use in 1988, the U.S.S.R. refusing to show up in 1984 in response to the U.S. absence in Moscow the previous Games, all made headlines. But recently the Olympics has found itself in the middle of a different kind of scandal — an internal one.

It began with rumors, then suspicion and now four International Olympic Committee members have resigned and six have been forced to leave.

The IOC takes bribes ... uh ... bids, from countries that wish to host the Games. This process is just inviting scandal considering the power given this independent organization to determine which city is going to gain the billions of dollars in tourism revenue that the Games bring.

Many were shocked to find that Salt Lake City offered nearly \$400,000 in cash, housing, scholarships and jobs to members of the IOC and their families for the 2002 Winter Olympics bid, but given the power of the IOC and the potential gains of hosting the Games, no one should be shocked.

What is shocking is the fact that the organization has not been caught before, or that someone did not foresee this scandal before it happened. According to an article in the most re-

cent Sports Illustrated, bribery has been a routine part of the IOC for the last two decades.

The article also stated that corruption was apparent from top to bottom, which points to the necessity of making the IOC answerable to some higher institution like maybe the United Nations.

But it is doubtful the IOC would voluntarily decide to disband and start a new committee that would actually have checks and balances on its power.

Jaun Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC, has refused to resign even though he has been implicated in the scandal as well. Instead, he has led the IOC to remove six members as scapegoats of a much bigger problem. When asked if all the bad apples were removed from the IOC, the president responded with, "I think so."

We need to read between the lines and understand that he probably means that we have dismissed all the members who have been identified in the recent scandal but have done little else to change the system that lines our pockets.

The proposal the IOC came up with is little more than a public relations move. They will create a new com-

mittee to handle bids, which will be composed of eight IOC members, three athletes and one representative of the Winter Sports Commission.

Although the IOC stipulates these members cannot visit cities that have submitted bids, a smaller committee would concentrate the power and make the vote easier to skew.

We need to start from ground zero and rebuild the IOC and dismiss all current members. The corruption is too broad to decipher who did what.

We need a new system that is answerable to a higher organization. Maybe the United Nations should make a special Olympic committee to decide the host cities.

The Games should represent a united world ideal of excellence and not selfish interests and potential financial gains.

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



SAID & DONE

"Could the NFL have picked a city more squalidly symbolic of all that blights humanity? What? Was Baghdad already booked?"

Jeffrey Scott in a column for The Miami Herald wrote about the violent nature of Miami, where the Super Bowl took place last Sunday.

"One of the prices of respecting liberty in our culture is to allow people to disagree and to accept the consequences of those disagreements."

Courtney Campbell, Oregon State University medical ethicist, on the custody trial that addresses a parent's right to decide what treatment is best for potentially HIV-infected children.

"We as a society are defined by how we protect those who cannot protect themselves."

Dr. Leslie Mehlhoff, Eugene infectious diseases specialist, on the same trial.

"When a woman is denied equal pay, it doesn't just hurt her, it hurts her family and it hurts America."

President Clinton on his new proposal to end the wage gender-gap.

"[Lewinsky] has a lot of information if you ask the right questions."

The impeachment prosecutors on questioning Monica Lewinsky for the Senate trial to remove Clinton from office.

Letters to the Editor

Bitter writer

Ashley Bach's editorial ("University falls far short of excellence" ODE, Jan. 29), while being an editorial, still should at least try to distinguish between fact and fiction.

His thoughts on the University's mediocrity is fine. He's entitled to his opinion and a medium to present it with. But just where is he getting his information? He mocks the Princeton Review and "something called The Gourman Report," which are arguably two of the top reports of the kind.

But then he goes on to say that U.S. News and World Report's review is "the most important and widely read in the country." Says who? It sounds as if he took that straight from their report.

I'm not pretending to know which reports are right or if the school really is good, but Bach's descriptions of the

"public relations peons" and how top high-school seniors "prove their intelligence by leaving the state" makes him sound like nothing more than a bitter writer with too much time on his hands.

Jon Rossitto
Junior
Journalism

UO rules

I am highly offended by Friday's editorial by Ashley Bach. Not only does the author bash the University but he seems to bash the students who go here. If the University is so bad then why is he here? It seems that the author's negative viewpoint is only adding to the problem rather than looking for ways to solve it.

Bach states that most of the students aren't inspired by their professors and don't enjoy their classes. I

don't know about him, but I've taken some pretty wonderful classes here at the University and so have many of my friends. Maybe Bach needs to not only change schools but change his major. I say this not only for the professors, but for the students who attend the University: this is a good school. It has its faults just like other schools, including Berkeley, but all and all I am proud to say that I go to this school.

Julie Ann Love
Junior
Ethnic Studies

Kindergarten cops

In response to the article ("Mayor Torrey focuses on youth issues in State of the City" ODE, Jan. 12) concerning Mayor Jim Torrey's proposed plan on how to stop youth violence, I feel that his goals for this city are ludicrous.

Although I commend him for trying, I feel that spending tax payers' money on a police officer for every middle school as well as high schools is only impairing this city rather than benefiting it. He can't base a particular incident, such as Thurston, on an entire problem. I do feel that youth violence must be addressed, but the process will be slow and may have limited results. As mayor, Torrey's job is to supervise the city not the schools; especially not schools in Springfield or surrounding areas.

I suggest that Torrey ask the youth how to address the youth violence problem and take their ideas into consideration. For he said himself that our community is only as good as the quality of its youth.

Adam Howard
Senior
South Eugene High School