

## Schmidt

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money — albeit not enough to live lavish lifestyles

— for room, board and expenses.

All this is given to these student-athletes for donating their time to the University by running, jumping, throwing and catching. The University is paying these athletes for services rendered.

College football is a business.

At no point in time should a student-athlete violate the rules of the business because they feel they aren't getting enough. If they do, then they are jeopardizing their future with the business. When six student-athletes violate the terms of their contract, they bring shame not only to themselves and the University, but also the educational system in general.

Student-athletes make a lot of money for the University. Student-

athletes bring a lot of attention to the University. And student-athletes are, at times, the face of the University.

When they make poor off-the-field decisions, it just goes to show the "student-athlete" deal isn't working. Common sense says play by the rules and, if anything, that ideology should be drilled into these guys in the classroom and on game day.

Agreeing to be part of a team and receiving compensation in return is a fair deal. Student-athletes agree to the deal when they sign a letter of intent. They need to understand things can't be changed mid-deal because they want more. That's not how things work.

College football is, after all, a business.

Contact the sports editor at bradschmidt@dailymerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

## Football

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Oregon — which finished the season No. 2 in the country this past year — landed in the top 25 of the Coaches' Poll, at No. 15. The Ducks opened the 2001 season ranked No. 7 in the Coaches' Poll.

Oregon received its highest Pac-10 Media Poll ranking this past year, when the team was selected as the conference favorite. This year's

third place selection is the team's second highest ranking ever.

Oregon State was selected to finish No. 5 by the media, marking the first year all four Oregon and Washington schools are predicted to finish in the top half of the Pac-10.

The Associated Press, which ranked Oregon No. 7 in the 2001 preseason, will release its first poll Aug. 10.

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## Tickets

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Creighton-Neiwert said. The department didn't provide a proof of the pamphlet to ASUO for approval in 2001 and may have distributed the pamphlet before annual negotiations were finalized, she said.

Williford acknowledged the pamphlet is not available to students as early as it was last year but noted that with smaller enrollment during the summer, only a small amount of students would have access to a completed brochure.

The pamphlet should be available

by Aug. 19, Williford said. He added it is possible the brochure's delayed release could inconvenience students who are not in the Eugene area and have not been made aware of the distribution date.

Williford said the Athletic Department will look into ways to help remedy any confusion about ticket distribution dates, perhaps by posting a schedule online at [www.goducks.com](http://www.goducks.com).

"It's probably something we should do," he said.

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## Speech

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Florida State, however, is not the only place where conflict has broken out.

At the University of Houston, a legal battle ensued when administration officials refused to let Pro-Life Cougars, an anti-abortion group, display pictures of dead fetuses in a high-traffic area. After a judge ruled the university must allow the display, the administration created four free-speech zones in small, low-traffic areas.

Although the number of universities enforcing these policies is unclear, free-speech zones are cur-

rently active at many locations, including Florida State, West Virginia University, the University of Houston and the University of Mississippi.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled twice — once in 1957 and again in 1969 — in favor of free speech on college campuses. In the 1957 ruling, the court wrote: "To impose any straight-jacket upon the intellectual leaders in our colleges and universities would imperil the future of our nation."

But free-speech zones haven't imperiled the University — yet.

A University policy statement on Physical Plant, Equipment and



Adam Jones Emerald

Designated hitter Jordan Pickens had one of Eugene's eight hits in Monday night's 4-1 victory over the Vancouver Canadians.

## Baseball

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question heading into the bottom of the seventh inning, with the score tied 1-1. But any doubt of an Emerald loss was quickly erased with one swing of the bat.

With the bases loaded and one out, shortstop Rolando Agosto cracked a fast-dropping double to left field that landed on the foul line. A hard bounce propelled the ball past Vancouver's left fielder, allowing three runs to score.

Agosto's game-winning double felt like *deja vu*. With one out in the bottom of the third inning, Agosto hit an RBI double to nearly the same location as his game-winning hit, just feet inside the left field foul line.

"I think we're playing pretty good," said Agosto, who finished the night 3 for 4 with four RBIs. "We're working every day to get better, and we're not far behind other teams."

*"Right now I think we're playing with a lot of confidence, and that's the biggest thing."*

Gabe Ribas  
pitcher, Eugene Emeralds

With a 4-1 lead, Eugene brought in closer Gabe Ribas in the eighth inning to finish the 2-hour, 57-minute game.

Ribas picked up his ninth save of the season and was one of five Emerald pitchers who held Vancouver to just six hits.

"When teams get hot, great things happen," said Ribas, who struck out the side in the ninth inning. "Right now I think we're playing with a lot of confidence, and that's the biggest thing. I think five, six, seven, 10 in a row is not out of the question. That's the kind of run we need to put on right now. Hopefully, we can do that."

The Emeralds look to extend their winning streak to five games tonight with a series sweep of Vancouver. Eugene hasn't won five games in a row since Aug. 26, 2001.

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with other activities."

Despite the policy, the University did not interfere with WRC supporters camping outside Johnson Hall, and no actions have been taken to stifle spontaneous protest since then. But the option still remains for the University to restrict free speech to the EMU.

"We have a tradition of people being able to protest (in front of Johnson Hall)," Leavitt said.

Thor L. Halvorsen, executive director of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, said the only public institutions that should enforce free-speech zones are those that "do not have an allegiance with freedom of speech.

"The very existence of these zones are an outrage. At public universities, free-speech zones are manifestly unconstitutional."

Halvorsen, who graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, explained that speech can be reasonably restricted based on three criteria: time, place and manner. Designating small and remote areas of campus for these zones, however, is unreasonable based on these rules.

"Free speech is messy," he said, "but totalitarianism is messier."

Contact the reporter at janmontry@dailymerald.com.

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