

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

## EDITORIAL

### Joey Harrington combines fame, creativity to help self, students with endowment fund

Nearly two years removed from school, Joey Harrington returned last week to announce plans for an endowment that would fund three scholarships for business students. Harrington, a graduate of the Lundquist College of Business, approached the University about the complex and creative endeavor. Somehow, we are not surprised.

Harrington always thrived in the limelight, as uncomfortable as he often said it was. But he's a bright young man, and his entrepreneurial identity is clearly beginning to take shape.

Harrington's endowment — money for which is being raised by selling pieces of the memorable New York City billboard featuring his likeness — is just the latest in a growing list of undertakings.

"I think we're pretty much maxed out," Harrington said last week. "I've got the billboard set up and then we've finished up the Web site ... and then I've got the concert coming up on the 26."

Maxed out on efforts, yes. Maxed out on donations, no. Rather effortlessly, Harrington has attached his name — not his money — to some wonderful ideas. His name is the driving force behind the likely success of those ideas. Cashing in on a name, especially one as recognizable as his, seems to make sense. We applaud him for his business savvy.

Who else could entice the University to give up ownership of its property, which as we all remember cost \$250,000 and opened the door to national scrutiny? Who else could then sell that property, only adding to his own athletic notoriety? Finally, who else could orchestrate all this and then take the favorable credit?

"Joey. Joey. Joey."

Nonetheless, we're glad he's putting his know-how to a good use here at the University, even if it is as well-manuevered as Harrington's trick play, stumbling touchdown in the 2000 Holiday Bowl.

Ultimately, Harrington's name-sake contribution is a breathe of fresh air. Despite the fact that Phil Knight was on hand at Harrington's press conference and even received one of the first two memorabilia pieces, it's still a step away from "Nike U." Harrington is donating his time — and his knowledge — to create academic opportunities on campus, not new sporting arenas.

Harrington was an academic All-American during his stint here at the University. Clearly, it seems, his degree in sports marketing more than paid off.

Hopefully, past, present and future Ducks will use their knowledge in personal business activities and, more importantly, to help those without high athletic aptitudes.

Of course, the question begs to be asked. We see what Harrington has to offer. What exactly can we expect from the surplus of student-athlete sociology scholars?

## EDITORIAL POLICY

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses can be sent to letters@dailyemerald.com. Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Authors are limited to one submission per calendar month. Submission must include phone number and address for verification. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

## CONGESTION



Peter Utsey Emerald

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Blood drive safety more important than donor's feelings

According to the Center for Disease Control, in 2000, 13,562 AIDS cases were reported among homosexual men compared with only 6,530 cases among heterosexual men and women. Donor eligibility requirements "discriminate" against gays because they are twice as likely as straight people to be infected with HIV/AIDS.

The donor screening process does not suggest, as claimed in a recent editorial ("Southern outdoes UO with blood donation policy," ODE, May 30), "that all gay men are diseased." It simply reflects the reality of AIDS infection rates among certain segments of the population. Testing for HIV is expensive and in cases of recent infection, not always accurate.

Blood banks should not be forced to take the blood of high-risk groups just because it makes people feel bad to be denied. Blood donation is not about the donors; it is about the recipients. And a safe blood supply is infinitely more important than the hurt feelings of a few would-be donors.

Perhaps that is the reason the administration is not interested in the issue.

Erin Flood  
Eugene

### Capitalists corrupt higher education

In the fall of 2001, having unwittingly gotten myself involved with capitalist swine, I became even more depressed as I read an issue of the AAUP journal "Acad-

eme" on the increasingly corporate character of American universities.

The import of this journal issue was not really news to me as for some years previously I had been disturbed by the insistence of businessmen on meddling in universities. Is this solely an American phenomenon? I am sorry to say it is not, for academic friends in the greater Vancouver area report that those once lively universities, Simon Fraser and British Columbia, are now neat corporate packages and, indeed, the greater part of the world.

The latest issue of the University of Washington alumni magazine "Columns" records that Bill and Melinda Gates have given \$70 million to the school for genetics research, which largesse hopefully does not entail the school becoming a subsidiary of genial Bill's computer empire. And though once wroth with the University of Oregon, I understand Nike magnate Phil Knight has resumed his largesse. To the universities of Oregon, Washington, Canada, the world: Whatever the sources of the shekels in your coffers, the message to capitalism worldwide must be, "Up against the wall."

Paul J. Green, Ph.D.  
Eugene

### Show gays same respect as other minority groups

Dear AnnAliese Stokoe ("Opinions can't be blamed for suicides," ODE, June 4): Would you so happily announce that you were racist or sexist or anti-Semitic? As a supportive parent of gay and lesbian children, I am thoroughly appalled that you would so delightedly proclaim your hostility toward my children, whom you do

not know. God save us from the likes of others like you! Thank God you do not represent the majority of people in the United States.

Sue Null  
Houston

### 'Fringe-thought police' should leave society alone

The gay and lesbian upheaval at the University — sponsored by the fringe-thought police — over the recent editorial by Vincent Martorano ("Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts," ODE, May 9) proves what I and most other anti-PC types have been pointing out for years.

That is, that these fringe groups, like homo-alliances, militant environmentalists, minority activists, etc., apparently think that they alone have the right to make dissenting statements and disagree with a popular, even if pathetically unrealistic, thought paradigm.

These fringe groups need to understand that simply because an individual doesn't embrace their specific point of view on a given subject doesn't mean that the same individual is intolerant or unsupporting of the overall subject. As for the gays and lesbians, I encourage you to get a life, live your life, and let me live mine without trying to guilt me into pretending to not be offended by the in-your-face public displays of affection by some in the homosexual community.

Congrats to Martorano for having the courage to stand up and say what the PC-silenced majority of us are already feeling.

Tim Pollard  
Springfield

## ONLINE POLL

Each week, the Emerald publishes the previous week's poll results and the coming week's poll question. Visit [www.dailyemerald.com](http://www.dailyemerald.com) to vote.

Last week: What was the most important campus story of the year?

Results: 116 total votes

Campus area riot fall term — 23.3 percent, or 27 votes

Luke Ridnour leaving early for NBA draft — 21.6 percent, or 25 votes

Local glass blowers arrested by federal agents — 16.4 percent, or 19 votes

University Assembly's anti-war resolution — 15.5 percent, or 18 votes

University's reversal of "O"-logo policy — 12.9 percent, or 15 votes

Conflict over KUGN programming and contract — 10.3 percent, or 12 votes

This week: What do you think of the West University Task Force's findings?

Choices: All good ideas; Mostly good ideas; Adequate ideas; Mostly bad ideas; All bad ideas; Leave me alone!