

LEADERS

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group is student-athletes, who are carefully trained to watch their behavior on and off the field.

"My expectations are that they are perfect gentlemen and they recognize their responsibility as student athletes," Oregon football head coach Mike Bellotti said.

He said athletes are students first, but they are also public figures. While Bellotti said an athletes' "personal life is their personal life," they do realize they stand out because of their position.

"We make them very aware that in a small college town, they're in a fish-bowl," he said.

Part of the extensive training student-athletes receive on proper conduct includes talking with lawyers, judges and even police officers to ensure athletes are aware of laws and how to handle possible confrontations, Bellotti said.

"I think we have very positive peer pressure on them to do things right and live up to the responsibility," he said.

Oregon men's basketball head coach Ernie Kent said he also has set high standards.

"My expectation is for them to be the best student they can be, the best person they can be and the best basketball players they can be," he said.

While he wants his players to lead normal lives, Kent said what they do in all contexts matters. The players have a code of ethics and go through a self-improvement program that teaches them about everything from proper dress and food etiquette to media relations and behavior on campus.

"When it's all said and done, I believe our student-athletes have, by far, more monitoring put on them," he said. They also have more responsibilities and accountability, he added.

Kent said it can be tough for the students because they are human beings.

"They are under a lot of pressure," he said. "But the key things is, my

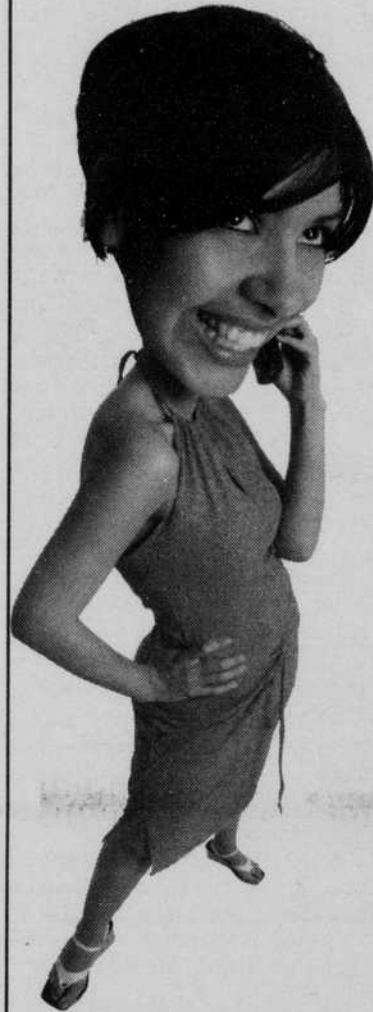
guys handle themselves really well." Still, other leaders approach the question of behavior effortlessly. ASUO President Maddy Melton, for one, said via e-mail she has not had to change her behavior since she was elected. "Being in office doesn't affect my

conduct," Melton said. "My conduct is what got me into office. As for my staff, they should be who they are — that's why they got hired."

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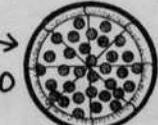
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