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Behind the dish

## Colorado situation provides problems

Let's not kid ourselves.

The scandal surrounding the Colorado football program was brewing for a while. It was just a matter of time before a big-time program slipped up.

Colorado head coach Gary Barnett slipped up. Athletics director Richard Tharp slipped up. The entire program slipped up.

And rightly so.

But let's not get past the fact that the Buffaloes aren't alone. They're not a coincidence. Their kind of parties are not central to Boulder.

From Tallahassee, Fla., to Seattle, Los Angeles to Portland, Maine, the landscape of competitive collegiate athletics demands a little bending of the rules.

A little bend here, a little bend there. Make sure not to break the rules — or lest be found guilty of a hypocritical crime.

Everybody does it, why shouldn't State U?

That's the sad and ugly truth of the matter. It just turns out Colorado got caught.

In the past two years, scandals have broken out in college sports faster than wildfires. Jim Harrick was caught at Georgia for academic violations. Dave Bliss was run out on a rail at Baylor after a player's death. Rick Neuheisel lost his job at Washington because of gambling on collegiate sports. Minnesota has seen its share of reports that players took recruits to strip clubs.

Even Oregon saw its share of controversy with the Lynell Hamilton "incident" last year.

It's everywhere, and it's a black eye for academia all across the nation.

This is not an "everybody does it, so we should too," type of situation. Flat out, it's wrong. Whether that means free rides from professors or strip club parties for recruits, it's wrong. Most folks in the good old United States of America would agree.

Even if it's technically not a crime.

Colorado took it one step further with allegations of sexual harassment and rape. What Barnett and his boys are doing over there needs some serious cleaning up. Whether that means he loses his job — which is almost the case already — or the program puts itself on suspension via the death penalty, something has to be done.

In this case, it would be reactive. For the future, it needs to be proactive.

Who's to say this kind of thing won't happen down the road? Even if that means one year, five years, or 10, it should be a concern for all involved.

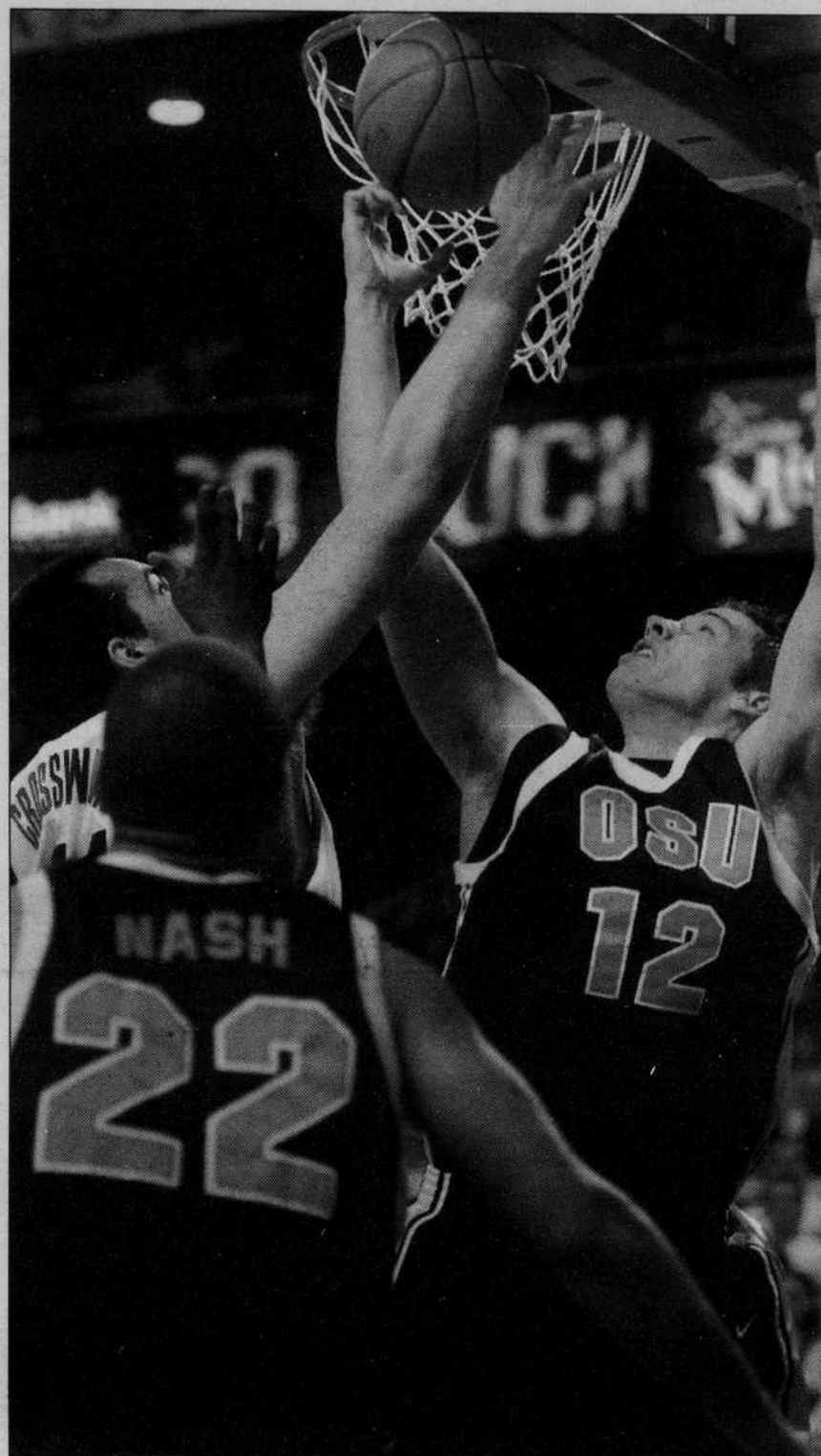
The root of most of the problems documented in collegiate athletics is the practice of recruiting. A tool used for as long as most of us can remember, it's supposed to be a way to entice potential students to a campus.

That, at least, is the way most of us visited campuses. We were recruited from high school and got the general tour. Meanwhile, student athletes get the royal treatment.

That's where the line between right and wrong — too thin and too far — is

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## OSU fighting for postseason berth



Lauren Wimer Photographer

J.S. Nash (22), Jim Hanchett (12), and the Beavers are on the cusp on the Pac-10 Tournament.

Oregon State is making a run at the Pac-10 Tournament, having won three of its last four games; the Beavers sit in eighth place

By Jesse Thomas  
Sports Reporter

Don't count out Oregon State just yet; it is making a run for it — a run for the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament, that is.

Oregon State (11-13 overall, 5-9 Pac-10) has won three of its past four games after having lost six straight.

The Beavers are currently tied with Washington State for eighth place in the conference. Only eight teams advance to compete in the Pac-10 Tournament.

Oregon State head coach Jay John has done a credible job in reviving this program in his second year, mostly by beating his former bosses.

John served as an assistant coach under Oregon head coach Ernie Kent from 1997-98 and Arizona head coach Lute Olson from 1998-2002 before taking the position at Oregon State.

John has led the Beavers to wins over Oregon, 90-81 on Jan. 10, and Arizona, 90-84 on Feb. 21. Oregon State's victory over then No. 14-ranked Arizona on Saturday was its first victory over a ranked opponent since 2000.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

"Yeah, I've got to say this was a big one," John told The Daily Barometer after the game. "We beat Oregon and that is also big for our program, so those two home wins have shown that we're making progress and starting to head in the right direction."

David Lucas and Chris Stephens led the Beavers with 22 points each. Oregon State will have the opportunity to again pull another upset when it visits No. 1 Stanford on Thursday.

### Pac-8 tournament?

For a team such as Arizona State (10-14, 4-11), which sits in last place in the Pac-10, the season very well may end in two weeks. The Sun Devils will likely have no postseason opportunities and are on the brink of not earning the chance to compete in the Pac-10 Tournament.

Only eight of the 10 Pac-10 teams compete in the tournament. The two teams with the worst records are not invited.

Olson is disappointed that no solution has been made and said coaches are in agreement that all 10 teams should have a shot in the tournament.

"And that's been discussed more than probably the league office wants to hear," he said. "A huge mistake is being made with that. It's been 10 to nothing by the coaches — the solutions for this — but we get no support from eight of the (athletic directors) on this."

### Lucas receives honor

Lucas was named the Pacific-10 Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Week for February 16-22 on Monday.

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## UO works to improve before Pac-10 tourney

Oregon is focusing on the little things after being blown out twice last week in Arizona

By Jon Roetman  
Sports Reporter

Oregon is getting back to basics.

After a pair of 20-plus point losses in Arizona last week, the Ducks are concentrating on the minor aspects that go along with being a successful basketball team.

With only two regular season games remaining before the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament, Oregon knows it needs to improve quickly.

"We have to make sure that we are focusing on the short-term things," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "Like get ready and have a great practice and look

after the little things that are still plaguing us.

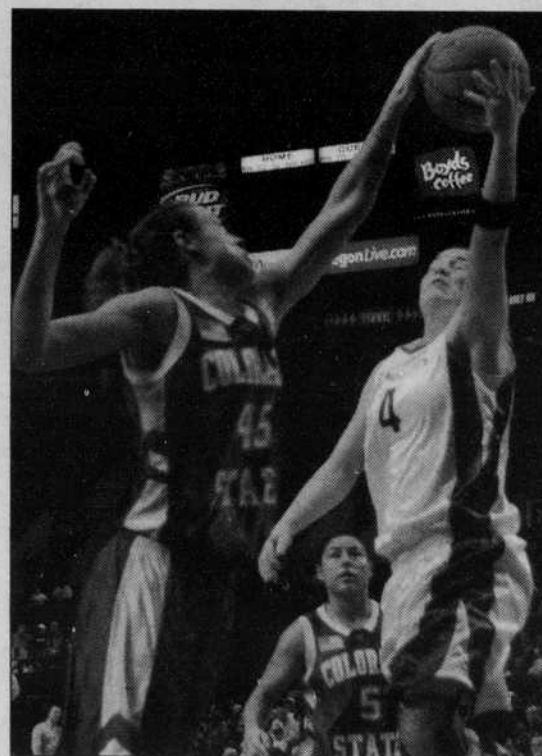
"Footwork, spacing offensively and shot selection. Those are things we have to continue to work on that are going to help us, not only for the upcoming games (against Stanford and California), but for the Pac-10 Tournament."

Oregon (12-14 overall, 4-12 Pac-10) experienced plenty of "little" problems Thursday when the Ducks managed to score only 40 points in a 25-point loss at Arizona State. Oregon didn't have a player reach double figures in scoring and the Sun Devils closed the game on a 31-8 run.

Guard Brandi Davis finished with a team-high nine points.

"It was a very disappointing night," Davis said after the game. "We didn't step up to the challenge."

Oregon lost to Arizona by 26 two nights later. The Ducks fell behind 43-20 by halftime en route to an 84-58 loss.

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Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Kayla Steen will play her final game at McArthur Court Saturday.