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In my opinion

Fan conduct needs to improve

Tomorrow night, the Student Senate will decide what, if anything, to do about the embarrassingly unbecoming conduct of student fans at our home football games. I'm glad the Senate is addressing this issue. As a fan who so far has sat in the student section for every home game this season, I can say that the situation definitely needs to change. More and more student fans at Autzen are behaving without any sportsmanship or class whatsoever.

I'm not just talking about the small number of fans at every game who get kicked out for assault or harassment. I'm also talking about the growing number of fans who refuse to behave with any decorum. A football game is not a tea party. But neither is it "Lord of the Flies." There's no reason to behave like a mob of savages.

Oregon has a classy football program. Autzen is a classy stadium. It's sad to see a small but noisy group of fans doing their best to tarnish that image. Autzen has a proud reputation as one of the most intimidating stadiums in the nation. What a shame it would be to see that reputation replaced by a reputation as one of the most obnoxious stadiums in the nation.

When the opposing team comes out on the field, I like to "boo" them. But apparently I'm behind the times. The thing to do these days is to start screaming curses at them. Or at least that's how it would appear from my seat in the student section.

One example that springs to mind is the USC game. It was the most-attended sporting event in Oregon's history, yet I had the luck of sitting near the knuckleheads who decided



GABE BRADLEY
THE WRITING ON THE WALL

to start chanting "Fuck You!" which eventually morphed into the only slightly more creative "Fuck USC!" I wasn't surprised that a couple of jackasses would start such a chant. I was, however, surprised that most of the student section joined in.

If someone wants to start a chant of "Let's Go, Ducks!" or "Oooooo" or even "De-Fense," I'll be chanting right along. But I was embarrassed that my fellow students decided to represent us the way they did. After that game, some student fans were downright hostile to the visiting fans. So much for hospitality.

The company that makes "Grand Theft Auto" should buy out the "NCAA Football" franchise. That way, subsequent versions of the video game can have a more realistic fan experience. Instead of seeing the fans do the wave or hold up their pointer fingers, we can see the fans flip off the other team. Instead of seeing the fans hold up a sign that reads "This is Our House," we can see the fans hold up a sign that says "Fuck You and Your Momma Too."

Fans who refuse to be sportsmanlike are a disgrace. I don't think that a large number of student fans are obnoxious people. I just think they're obnoxious when they drink, which is way too often. Any solution to this problem has got to address

the issue of alcohol being smuggled into the games.

I have had beer spilled on my jacket at every game this season. I have had to avoid stepping on broken glass in the student section at all but one of the games this season.

It amazes me that some people can't go four hours during a weekend afternoon without drinking. What are pre- and post-game parties for if not to drink? You have to drink during the game as well?

Luckily, many of these fans are gone by halftime because they were never really there to watch a football game anyway. But those who stay are often toasted enough to make up for those who leave.

There are times, especially after a big play, where the student section becomes a somewhat of a mosh pit. That's a big part of the fun of sitting in the student section. However, when the drunken fool next to you is bumping into you every five minutes because he can't stand up straight, that's a problem.

I walk into every game with a water bottle in plain sight that could easily have vodka or wine in it. It's no wonder that so much alcohol is smuggled into the games — I could do it in plain sight if I wanted to.

Tighter security and monitoring of the student section is the first step. Also, the ASUO should revoke ticket privileges for students who repeatedly need to be removed from the games. If they want to come to Autzen in order to get drunk and act like dumbasses, let's take away their tickets and give them to people who actually want to watch a football game.

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INBOX

A time and a place for adolescent attitudes

I suppose it takes a bit of distance, and perhaps an actual job to give one perspective. At least that has been my experience having moved away from Eugene and the University, struggled in the traces of real life, experienced victories and setbacks, and simply enjoyed life away from the monotonous and tiring turmoil of University existence. Do not misunderstand me, there is a time and a place for University endeavors and the maturity that comes with intellectual development, diversity in thought and idea, and the unmitigated exchange of ideas and theories that is requisite to the University and its surroundings. As Solomon so wisely opined, however, there is a time and a place for everything under the sun, and reading Pete Limbaugh's letter to the editor reminded me of the end to the pre-pubescent that at times embodies those who attend the University and think of themselves far more than reality ought to permit.

Mr. Limbaugh, do you need to be taught as a Middle School student who can't see past the snot at the end of his or her nose the reasons that Mr. Warren and the membership of the College Republicans might be offended and insulted by the insinuations made by the comic depicting them as fall-down drunks?

It is the quintessential stereotype that because all Nazis are white, therefore all white people must be Nazis. Are there lush drunks in the rank of the College Republicans of the world? Certainly. To deny this would be tantamount to lunacy. But I believe you will find that among the rank and file membership of the College Republicans are working class, decent, articulate, even-handed young men and women who want nothing more than to develop their intellectual potential and prepare themselves for the world that most certainly exists beyond the sheltered walls of the University of Oregon. To insinuate that they are drunken imbeciles who want nothing more than to trod upon the rights and wishes of the average person is, in my view, equal to a person arguing that all Democrats, whatever their reasons and experiences, are no better than doped-out hippies who want nothing more than to suck the life out of a welfare check and socialistic medicine. Life teaches us that such a stereotype, as seductive and potentially true as it might seem in the patchouli-oil stench of PLC, possesses no weight in the walks of reality and life, and therefore are to be dismissed by the reasoned mind. If anything, you should be dismissing it just as readily, if for no other reason than to protect yourself from the very real likelihood that placing you in the world

of Kansas or Nebraska, the average American would view you with an equally dim light as you seem so ready to view Warren and the College Republicans.

Scott D. Austin
Alumnus

Limbaugh and DuChateau fail to consider both sides

I do not see Mr. Limbaugh's purpose in his retaliation to College Republicans Chairman Anthony Warren ("Republican Party in need of new representative," ODE Oct. 21). Limbaugh brought up points that had nothing to do with Mr. Warren's previous letter regarding a politically charged cartoon. Mr. Limbaugh writes, "... where is Warren's respect for the Yin and Yang of American politics?"

Are you kidding? Where was illustrator Aaron DuChateau's respect for the other side when he created a cartoon demeaning to the College Republicans? Also, if DuChateau indeed created that cartoon for his target demographic, he really needs to check up on who that includes. The target demographic includes all students, faculty and staff at the University. Certainly, that includes Republicans, not just liberals. Since when is it cool to entertain by making fun of and misrepresenting other people?

Janiece Stanaland
Eugene

Editorial

New FCC law raises privacy concerns

When you access the Internet at the University, who's watching what you type? If the federal government gets its way, law enforcement officials may soon have easier access to your e-mail and Internet telephone conversations.

And you may have to help pay for the upgrades that will make tapping electronic communication easier.

An August order by the Federal Communications Commission requires universities to upgrade computer networks by 2007 to comply with an 11-year-old wiretap law. Installing new Internet switches and routers, at a combined cost of as much as \$7 billion, would allow any network communication through university Internet to travel into a network's operations center where that communication could be packaged and saved for possible evaluation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other agencies.

Some universities have rightfully expressed outrage over the price tag associated with the required upgrades. Every cent of the upgrades would come from universities themselves and the students attending those schools. According to one estimate, this could mean an increase of \$450 per student, per year, in order to fund the technological changes.

As Terry W. Hartle, a senior vice president of the Lawyers for the American Council on Education, eloquently told The New York Times, "This is the mother of all unfunded mandates."

Indeed, in the middle of an education funding crisis, it is beyond ridiculous that universities should be expected to come up with millions of dollars to fund state-of-the-art equipment and staff members to oversee the process, all within the period of less than two years.

Universities will expend much effort dealing with these new system requirements, first in deciding how to fund the whole process (a decision that in itself should be extensively discussed), and then in ensuring the upgrades are made correctly. Institutions of higher education should use their time and money enhancing students' educations, not spying on their computer networks.

Universities are not yet addressing civil liberties issues surrounding the mandated surveillance upgrades; federal officials must still receive court orders before they can gain access to online communications. Yet previously, law enforcement agents tapped computers on a case-by-case basis, ensuring more privacy for people not suspected of criminal activity. The upgrades will allow much more information to be readily available to law enforcement from afar.

The potential for abuse of this new capability to remotely monitor information runs counter to the goals of universities: to promote an open exchange of diverse views. It would be a shame for students or professors to censor opinions that the current administration might find unappealing.

Evolving technology will undoubtedly necessitate more monitoring of electronic communication. But there is no reason the FBI and other agencies can't continue using more traditional and low-tech methods of gathering information about specific individuals.

Luckily, Hartle plans to appeal the upgrade order in the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals. If that court has any respect for specific needs of universities, and the rights of privacy in general, the demand will be reversed.

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