

Razorback Staff and Fans Need to Seriously Rethink Twitter Conduct

David Wilson
Opinion Editor

On Oct. 28, Jermaine Eluemunor, one of Arkansas' most coveted recruits of the 2014 class, flipped his initial commitment to the Razorback football program to that of the Texas A&M Aggies.

What made the 4-star recruit from Pennsylvania go from tweeting, "I want to thank all the coaches at Arkansas for their time and especially the fans you guys are awesome I hope nothing but the best for Ark" to "Arkansas fans move on damn! I would not recommend anyone going there after the tweets I have received from mad fans smh death wishes really?", all within the same day?

The statement is largely self-explanatory. The young junior college offensive tackle was met with a barrage of hostile tweets from angry Hog fans when he announced the switch to A&M, which is unfortunate and expected, but what is bewildering is the reaction of some prominent Razorback Athletics staff members over the switch.

The day before Eluemunor announced his decommitment, Chris Hauser, Arkansas' Director of Recruiting tweeted, "Why NFL doesn't draft spread offense O-Line man!!!! Might want to think about this before u play ur college career in a spread offense!"

Not only were Hauser's statements inappropriate, especially in regard to his position within the Athletics Department, but it was also inaccurate as well.

Not only does A&M have one of the best offensive lines in college football, it has produced a number of top draft prospects in recent years. Behavior like Hauser's doesn't inspire confidence in the persuasive abilities of the current Razorback program, especially in the light of 0-4 Southeastern Conference wins, looming on 0-5 when Arkansas faces the No. 11 ranked Auburn Tigers on Saturday.

According to 247Sports, Eluemunor has received offers not only from Arkansas and A&M, but top ranked programs such as Ohio State, UCLA, and even Alabama. With offers like those, it's no wonder why he is weighing his options heavily. He shouldn't be met with any form of hostility for choosing what he decides is best for him and his future.

Eluemunor, and other promising and talented football recruits, should make the best decisions for themselves first and foremost, preferably not based on the belated promises from so-called up and coming programs. At the very least, these young men should not be receiving death threats based on their football preferences—especially not from Razorback fans.

The fact that the UA has not commented on the matter is surprising, considering that the Athletic Department took such a moral high ground when it came to the firing of former head coach Bobby Petrino. Of course the size and scope of this incident doesn't compare with what happened in 2012, but the lack of coverage by the university represents a lack of clear moral consistency.

Coach Bret Bielema's recent press junket in which he accused Auburn of providing edited game footage has also not helped Arkansas' media image. Not only did Bielema's complaints come off as whiny, but his response was universally panned by sport media outlets. He himself also broke SEC rules regarding film exchange, where teams are prohibited from discussing problems over footage with the media, but instead must appeal to SEC officials first.

October hasn't been a kind month to the Razorback brand. Death threats from fans, questionable conduct from prominent staff members, and a lack of poise from head coaches do not encourage talented prospects to sign with the Razorbacks. That sort of behavior does not win games and borders on human indecency.

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Traveler Quote of the Day

"One day I woke up, looked down at my phone and was like, 'do I have Wi-Fi?' It was a miracle."

Todd Fernandez

Freshman Pomfret Hall Resident

"Residence Halls Add Personal Wi-Fi to Upperclassmen Floors"

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THE ARKANSAS TRAVELER

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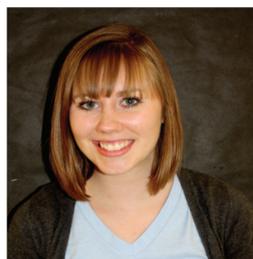
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Richard Cheek Staff Cartoonist

Oregon School's Free Tuition Plan Provides Model for Other Universities



Shawnya Wethington
Staff Columnist

The free college plan needs to work out some kinks.

College students love free. Free food, free T-shirts, free concerts – if something is free, it's automatically more appealing. Out of all the handouts, a free education would undoubtedly be the best.

Oregon has stepped up with a new plan and is on track to implement a college funding program that makes college free for students. The Pay It Forward plan sounds like a great idea at first, but there are many issues that have to be resolved before it actually becomes a feasible option for funding higher education.

Instead of paying for their education, students pay 3

percent of their income for the next 20 years to a fund used for the education of future students.

Higher education is flat-out expensive. The current idea of accruing as much student debt as possible before graduation has some major problems. Namely, students are in debt and they will be for the foreseeable post-grad future.

When students go into the real world after they graduate, it's best if they can start out with the firm foundation of a solid education and a plan for the future. Student debt makes that foundation crumble.

Students may have a long job search before they can net a position to start their careers. The student loan bills don't take that in mind. Once they start coming, students don't have a break until they're paid off.

The standard student loan repayment plan is set for 10 years. This may take half the time to pay off your education than the Pay It Forward plan, but the student loan payments are higher.

As the CNN article "Paying back your student loans" breaks it down, for a \$25,000 loan, a student will pay about \$290 a month.

Someone who pays \$290 on the Pay It Forward plan would be making \$116,000 a year. Although this is possible for some new graduates, most don't make anywhere near that much.

The Pay It Forward plan allows students to pick a major, and later, a career that they are happy with, instead of just the most lucrative so that they can pay off their education fees.

This sounds perfect, but that might be a problem too.

Without looming debt as motivation, too many people might choose low-earning careers that don't pay much into the future education fund. Just because college is free to students doesn't mean that it is free to operate. It takes money.

This isn't the only problem.

Other issues are college dropouts, out-of-state students and those who don't graduate in four years. How much and how long are they required to pay? Will in-state students get priority over out-of-state ones?

Also, students with illegal sources of income are off the hook. Drug dealing, prostitution – it's folly to think that won't happen.

Another problem is how

to accommodate all the college students. Financial reasons keep many students from applying to certain colleges. If every college is free, the number of college students will increase. Colleges will either have a huge enrollment increase, or new universities will need to be built. This is a large investment into a plan that isn't exactly fool-proof.

Also, many students will want to go to the very best university. When there aren't any financial reasons holding them back from attending a particular college, the majority of students may want to go to the same few universities.

If this is the case, universities will have to rework their admission standards. Having more competitive admission standards will affect the university dynamics. Look at the difference in university life between Harvard and the UofA.

The idea of having free education is terrific. However, the Pay It Forward plan still has a ways to go before it comes to fruition.

Shawnya Wethington is a junior journalism, English major and marketing minor and a staff writer for the Arkansas Traveler.

Are Study Abroad Programs Still Beneficial to Students Despite the High Costs?



Katherine Kortebein
Staff Columnist

We often hear about how beneficial studying abroad can be, but it can also be extremely expensive. Are the benefits worth the cost? I think studying abroad is a great thing to do, but it is certainly not for all students and can be a waste.

Yes, with businesses becoming more globalized, it is important that people are informed about other cultures and languages. This can only help when communicating with those from other countries. It is important that those going into business with others know the customs and rituals so as to ensure success-

ful business.

It is also great when students are able to experience different cultures simply for that experience. In such a globalized world, we should all open ourselves to new places, languages, and culture. This can also help students mature and figure out new things about themselves; for instance, things they would never have known they liked until they were able to step outside their comfort zone.

However, as I mentioned, studying abroad can be very expensive, going into the thousands. So while some students and their families can easily afford the payments, others cannot, at least not without help. Even then, the money the student or family does spend may not be worth what the student takes from the program.

Of course, every student is different, but there are those for whom the study abroad program would simply not be beneficial. Some students do not use the time they spend abroad to take in the culture as they should. Instead, they do the minimum amount of work for their classes and

then spend the rest of the time enjoying the clubs and partying with new friends.

I am all for that, but only up to a point. If students study abroad, their main goal should be to experience everything about that place that is different from their own. Some people will study abroad and simply try to find the nearest McDonald's or Starbucks and never immerse themselves in the culture as they should.

Traveling should be a huge part of it as well, especially in places like Europe, where you can visit different countries so easily.

If you are going to study abroad, you should be a motivated student, able to push yourself to really experience everything new and to take advantage of all the different things you can take in and learn abroad. Otherwise, the whole trip and all the money spent on it were a waste.

As important as it is that we are sensitive to globalization, we should also remember that it is just as important that we have mastered our own language. If you are practically fluent in Italian, that

is great, but it will be utterly useless if you cannot properly write a resume or a presentation.

These kinds of things are necessary in the business world and really any other kind of career. So while it is important to experience other cultures, it is just as important that we focus on strengthening the knowledge we gain in our own education system.

Our teachers and parents can be just as good of a base for a successful career as a study abroad program. These people are the foundations of our knowledge, and study abroad programs, while wonderful, are really just additions. They are not where we gain the basis of our experiences and knowledge.

Study abroad is only beneficial to those willing to step up and put themselves out there. Otherwise, it is a waste for the amount of money that it can cost a student. It is an amazing thing to experience, but it is certainly not for everyone.

Katherine Kortebein is a staff writer for the Arkansas Traveler.