



CAMPUS RECREATION

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Dear Members of the University of California, Davis Administration,

The University of California, Davis Cycling Club's long tradition of competitive excellence and civic leadership was tarnished by an unfortunate event that occurred at the team's mountain bike race weekend at Boggs Mountain State Forest the weekend of November 17-18, 2007. We are sending you this letter to formally apologize for compromising the University's reputation, explain what occurred, and outline our response.

Boggs Mountain is a state-owned demonstration forest located in the Coast Range Mountains outside Cobb, California. Each fall, the Cycling Club hosts a mountain bike race there as part of the Western Collegiate Cycling Conference's (W.C.C.C.) mountain bike season. Racers from schools and clubs throughout the West compete in events such as cross-country, super-D, and short track. In addition to fulfilling the team's obligation to host a collegiate event, Boggs "weekend" also helps the team raise funds by hosting National Off-Road Bicycling Association races.

Different cyclists often populate the mountain, road, and track teams. All of these teams comprise the UC Davis Cycling Club. Many members of the club volunteer during Boggs weekend as course marshals, officials' assistants, and registration workers. However only mountain bikers cannot staff such a large and complex event; several team alumni also volunteer their time clearing downed trees from the course and affixing directional signs to trees along the race route. At one particularly isolated section of the forest trail, two former members of the Cycling Club (and recent UC Davis Alumni) affixed to trees a number of graphic, pornographic images cut from magazines. Unfortunately, one of our current teammates demonstrated remarkably poor judgment by allowing pornographic images to be taped to his bike mid-race. Because of his actions, Race officials disqualified him when he finished the race. The rider later issued a written apology on the W.C.C.C. message board. While this year's actions were particularly offensive, this is not the first year where the posting of inappropriate images have been present at our mountain bike races.

Participants were quite offended by the material and complained about the images to the alumni course marshals at the scene and to UC Davis Race Director Danny Stuart. Danny promptly rode to the corner in question and immediately ordered the removal and destruction of all the material. He then sought out representatives of each collegiate team in attendance and offered verbal apologies to as many racers as he could find.

Danny underestimated the severity of the event, assuming that his numerous verbal apologies and public condemnation of the individuals who posted the materials would sufficiently resolve the controversy. Of course these gestures, while sincere and heartfelt, failed to adequately express the team's dismay at what transpired. When the team's public relations coordinator was apprised of the event eight days later, he immediately recommended the team offer public and written apologies to the entire Western Collegiate Cycling Conference, a course of action adopted by then club president Brendan Connors and Race Director Danny Stuart.

After further discussion of the events among the entire team, it was decided that Connors should resign his presidency in a gesture acknowledging the leadership breakdown that allowed such an event to transpire at a UC Davis hosted event. Vice President Tyler Dibble assumed the leadership of the team and convened a committee to formulate our response to the numerous condemnations of the pornographic posting voiced by schools throughout the conference. With both extensive work within the membership of our club, as well as several meetings with administrators from the Department of Campus Recreation, we have agreed to and fully support a series of actions designed to learn from the events that transpired as well as move forward in a meaningful and educational manner. These actions will include:

1. Formal, written apology to members of the University of California, Davis administration.
2. Team-wide counseling and training administered by the University's Sexual Harassment Education Program (date of the training to be determined by Assistant Director, Sport Clubs);
3. Discussion, composition, and adoption of a formal code of conduct that describes in detail the expected behavior of club cyclists, alumni and spectators at all competitive and recreational events;
4. A one-month suspension of the Cycling Club beginning December 11, 2007 and ending January 11, 2008.
5. Suspension* of the Cycling Club's 2008-09 Mountain Bike season. If the Cycling Club wishes to resume participation in Mountain Bike activities after the 2008-09 academic year, then the club must re-apply to gain full Sport Club status.
**Defined as the cessation of all club activity surrounding Mountain Biking activities which include but not limited to: club practices, club competitions, club meetings (Exceptions may be made with approval from the Assistant Director of Sport Clubs).*
6. Cycling Club probation* beginning January 12, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.
**If the club is found to be in violation of any UC Davis Sport Club policy, immediate consequences may occur including the loss of status as a club.*
7. Researching and creating a presentation with the purpose of educating the UC Davis Sport Club community on the issues stemming from the incident at Boggs Mountain. This presentation will also include sharing the club's Code of Conduct.

We hope that these steps will demonstrate just how ashamed and sorry we are that pornographic material was publicly displayed at a race we hosted. And while the images were displayed by two alumni who acted without the knowledge or consent of the team, the entire team has taken ownership of the fact that such a divisive and offensive atmosphere was allowed to permeate a portion of our race. Each and every member of UC Davis Cycling apologizes for the posting of these images, and each and every member of the team is actively engaged in helping prevent the reoccurrence of such an event in the future. The entire organization shares in the responsibility for fostering a welcoming atmosphere for all cyclists, and we intend to dedicate our season to making sure that all facets of collegiate cycling—mountain, road, and track—teach collegiate racers about sportsmanship, dedication, physical fitness, teamwork, and competitive diversity in an atmosphere free of intimidation or discrimination.

The Cycling Club has long offered collegiate racers the chance to compete at the highest levels of intercollegiate competition and serve the greater University and civic communities in any number of charitable activities. We intend to use the lessons taught by this regrettable and embarrassing incident to examine and improve all of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Tyler Dibble
UC Davis Cycling Club President

Eric O'Brien
UC Davis Cycling Public Relations Officer