

**LETTERS IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG**

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**A different kind of coaching talent**

This morning in the locker room at the gym, two guys were discussing the turmoil at the University of Oregon athletic department, the firings and hirings and general chaos. One of them looked at me and said, "Do you wanna be a coach? I think they're hiring!"

I had to inform him that I'm already employed as a coach at the UO: I'm a positive behavior support coach.

In my role as a behavior specialist at Early Childhood CARES (part of the UO's College of Education), I serve as a PBS coach, supporting and educating children, parents and teachers in using positive behavior support strategies in early childhood settings.

This approach certainly could benefit athletic programs: learning how to nurture positive relationships and follow behavior expectations, practicing friendship skills, understanding emotions, and learning strategies for managing big feelings, problem solving, and being safe with others.

We'd need a big space for circle time (a really big space), but they probably have room at the Jaqua Center.

The guys at the gym said such a position would result in a nearly \$3 million pay increase for me, but I'd settle for half of that, recognizing the overall needs of the university.

Has the position been posted yet?

**GERRY MORGAN**

*Eugene*