

OUR VIEW: Behavior reflects poorly on all Vandals

By Doug Bauer, for the editorial board

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University students shouldn't have to be educated about intolerant behavior.

They should have learned the difference between acceptable banter and that exhibited at last week's University of Idaho-Boise State men's basketball game long before they left high school.

Sadly, that's not the case.

UI officials have received complaints from across campus and throughout the state about racial epithets uttered by some Vandal fans during the game.

Offensive terms for Hispanics and illegal immigrants reportedly were shouted at one or more opposing players, including the term "dirty Sanchez," which apparently was directed at BSU forward Mark Sanchez.

Some might not find the term offensive or understand its meaning.

That doesn't matter to Sanchez, to the other people of Hispanic heritage in the stands or watching on television, or to the hundreds of parents whose children asked them what it meant when the game was over.

UI College of Law Associate Dean Richard Seamon wrote a letter to university officials Friday urging them to condemn the behavior and take action to keep it from happening again.

"I do not know whether I am more angry about the students' behavior or about the lack of any official response," he wrote. "I accept that many of our students need education in what is, and what is not, appropriate. (Thursday) night we missed a critical opportunity to provide that education."

The fault shouldn't be directed at UI officials alone.

The other fans bear the same responsibility. They could have - and should have - taken it upon themselves to condemn the abhorrent behavior of a few while it was in progress.

There always will be people who find it perfectly acceptable to demean others for their own personal enjoyment.

Perhaps that would change if they realized they were the only ones laughing.