

### Oh, Tiger (No pun intended)

No matter whether you pull for Tiger Woods or not, chances are, you respect him. Tiger deserves respect for a lot of reasons. Not only is he arguably the greatest golfer of any generation, but he is also an intelligent, charitable, ambassador of the game, who conducts himself as a gentlemen. Further, I'll go further to say that there are few individuals who, under such a powerful public microscope and for many year are able to emerge unscathed, as Tiger Woods has. However, I think I speak for the entire campus of Hiram or even the overall consensus of America, when I say "please spare us the details and shut up about it." Not only is it somewhat degrading on his behalf to have his personal malfunctions condemned by everyone from Aunt Jemima to Bill Clinton (how ironic), but when you get caught cheating, lose money, and checking your car into Aamco, I think it's best to call it quits on the "player card" Tiger. Still, I will have to concur that what happens in his personal life, should stay just as that "personal" and, by us as a society ridiculing a man who is a humanitarian as our ethics and morals may be skewed as well. Moreover, Tiger did comment a heinous crime in the outlook of most Americans. I'm sure many Americans wonder why Tiger would you break up your happy home, and spend thousands of dollars on prostitutes which in many ways not a good way give back to your community, or the government (ie. taxes).

We all know that Woods is a very respectable golfer and will be remembered for his contributions, records, and honor that were represented to golf. Yet, one may look as Tiger misfortunes as a microcosm to how we as Americans view most situations in general. Despite all of the great accolades Tiger has gained he will now be forever tarnished by this one situation, one has to beg the question is that right? The tendency of our nation is becoming more reliant on the negative then the positives and thus condemning great individuals for one mistake. Although the same notion can be applied to athletes in general; thus giving them a much skewed perception from the outside would most a womanizers or cheaters. This perception is not transcending to all. Maybe we should take the perception of certain athletes that backed Tiger or in a sense had sympathy for Woods. Jason Taylor walked into the Miami Dolphins' locker room and saw ESPN running a tease about Woods. He reached up and turned off the TV. "Nobody's damned business," Taylor said. Minnesota Vikings kicker Ryan Longwell lives in the same Isleworth gated community as Woods outside Orlando, Fla., and said it was "crazy" in the neighborhood. He said his wife told him paparazzi were everywhere and helicopters hovered overhead."My wife is a blonde and wears sunglasses in Florida, so every time she comes out of the gate, they're snapping pictures," Longwell said. "It's a different thing than we've ever faced down there. It's certainly a new wrinkle to it."You just pray for his family," Longwell said. "You pray for his wife and kids. Just pray that if what's coming out is true that he can learn from it and move on."

I'm sure Tiger is facing his demons subjectively as possible, but can we please as a nation leave personal matters of famous individuals to themselves. The media in my regard should focus on troops dying unjustly, economic issues, a rising European Union, and a president that just received the most prestigious award in terms of humanitarian efforts. Granted what tiger

did was completely wrong, however; the way we are evoking or so called due process on him is unjustified as well. I'm sure Tiger has learned a lot from this situation (one not to leave voicemail messages that totally give you away) and two no matter whom you are the media will take no mercy on twisting the facts. But if media must dwell on situations such like this I beg it does not reflect our society as a whole. Tiger, just like every other individual who commits or has committed adultery, knew exactly what they were doing. What he did was, without a doubt, wrong on many levels, but again, he has his family to deal with, therefore, let him and his family reconcile this matter, not us.

\*open to any student comments on the topic\*