### OREGON COMMENTATOR

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### THE

### SPORTS ISSUE



2ND AMENDMENT ATHLETICS



THE FAN FAVORITE





**GOLFING ON A BUDGET** 



Founded Sept. 27th, 1983

Member Collegiate Network

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### **Mission Statement**

The Oregon Commentator is an independent journal of opinion published at the University of Oregon for the campus community. Founded by a group of concerned student journalists on September 27, 1983, the Commentator has had a major impact in the "war of ideas" on campus, providing students with an alternative to the left-wing orthodoxy promoted by other student publications, professors and student groups. During its twenty-four year existence, it has enabled University students to hear both sides of issues. Our paper combines reporting with opinion, humor and feature articles. We have won national recognition for our commitment to journalistic excellence.

The Oregon Commentator is operated as a program of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) and is staffed solely by volunteer editors and writers. The paper is funded through student incidental fees, advertising revenue and private donations. We print a wide variety of material, but our main purpose is to show students that a political philosophy of conservatism, free thought and individual liberty is an intelligent way of looking at the world–contrary to what they might hear in classrooms and on campus. In general, editors of the Commentator share beliefs in the following:

- •We believe that the University should be a forum for rational and informed debate-instead of the current climate in which ideological dogma, political correctness, fashion and mob mentality interfere with academic pursuit.
- •We emphatically oppose totalitarianism and its apologists.
- •We believe that it is important for the University community to view the world realistically, intelligently, and above all, rationally.
- •We believe that any attempt to establish utopia is bound to meet with failure and, more often than not, disaster.
- •We believe that while it would be foolish to praise or agree mindlessly with everything our nation does, it is both ungrateful and dishonest not to acknowledge the tremendous blessings and benefits we receive as Americans.
- •We believe that free enterprise and economic growth, especially at the local level, provide the basis for a sound society.
- •We believe that the University is an important battleground in the "war of ideas" and that the outcome of political battles of the future are, to a large degree, being determined on campuses today.
- •We believe that a code of honor, integrity, pride and rationality are the fundamental characteristics for individual success.

Socialism guarantees the right to work. However, we believe that the right not to work is fundamental to individual liberty. Apathy is a human right.

### Table o' Contents

### **DEPARTMENTS OF JUSTICE:**

Editorial	pg. 4
Nobody asked us, but	pg. 6-7
Spew	pg. 22-23

YOUR FEATURE PRESENTATIONS:	
Rifle and Pistol Sports - Paramilitary Training for the Discerning College Student	pg. 8-9
Supersonics' fans, Seattle getting the shaft - Seattle's oldest sports franchise held hostage	pg. 10
New baseball stadium doesn't suck - A response to a poor guest commentary in the Eugene Weekly	pg. 11
Rugby: Best Sport Ever - Pads are for the weak	pg.14-15
Ray Schafer: A Model American - The fan favorite talks about Alaska, roses and his future	pg. 15-16
Golfing on a college budget - Newcomer Matthew Tham	pg. 18
Hypocrisy of MCC affiliates disrespectful - Sean Jin breaks down recent accusations of racism	pg. 19
How the homeless will save the economy - Another Perspective columnist Austin Himes wastes some more ink	pg. 20



The Oregon Commentator
Free minds, Free markets, Free booze

# IT'S ELECTIONS SEASON, SO HERE'S YOUR SPORTS ISSUE

Some self-proclaimed "intellectuals" out there believe that sport plays too large a role in modern society. In the world of academia, many grimace at high salaries for collegiate coaches – Mike Belotti is the highest paid public officials in Oregon – and multimillion dollar budgets for athletic departments. One of the biggest critics of athletics in higher education is here at the University, English Professor Jim Earl.

Professors like Earl admit that they don't understand sports very well. Similarly, we at the Commentator do not understand *War and Peace* very well. The difference is we wouldn't write a 2,000 word commentary for the Eugene Weekly about War and Peace, as Earl did about sports in August 2007.

There is nothing inherently wrong with not being interested in sports, to each his own, but many of the arguments brought forth by these negative Nancys are as valid as the 9/11 conspiracy theories. Anytime someone name drops Noam Chomsky, especially in an opinion about sports, the argument can be thrown out the window. Many of Earl's discrepancies are against sports entertainment, particularly football, and ties to the mass media.

"Future historians won't have too much good to say about the Super Bowl, I'm afraid, or about the corruption of higher education by the mass media in the age of big-time college sports," he wrote.

When it boils down to it, intellectuals like Earl are really arguing against competition. The ivory tower intelligentsia hates competition because it brings out the ugly truth that some people are simply better than others. It implodes their whole idea of equality and harmony.

It's the same reason they can't stand capitalism: It demands a winner and a loser.

And when intellectuals like Earl criticize competition, they are often criticizing America, subtly or not-so subtly, by proxy. Competition is one of the cornerstones of American society. We

base our economy on it, we embed it in our founding documents ("The pursuit of happiness") and we spend millions of dollars to watch it. But don't take it from us or Earl; this is what General George Patton had to say:

"Americans traditionally love to fight," he said in a speech to the Third Army. "All real Americans love the sting of battle. When you were kids, you all admired the champion marble shooter, the fastest runner, the big league ball player, the toughest boxer. Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser. Americans play to win all the time."

We decided to dedicate this issue of the Commentator to sports because we, like Patton, believe in healthy competition and the qualities that sports embody. Striving for excellence, whether that means working someone in a beer pong match or undercutting them in business, is to be commended, preferably with high fives and loud shouting.

We also feel that a sports issue goes hand in hand with the current election season. Politics, like sports, is a series of games were competing sides have preferences and set up models in order to obtain preferred outcomes. (Note to underclassman, take a Game Theory class while in college.)

Of course, we love sports for much more than the competition. There is the human camaraderie that goes with a day at the ballpark, or shooting nine holes of golf with the boss. There are lessons to be learned about setting a plan of action and being well organized and prepared to execute when the time is needed. Sports teaches us how to handle pressure situations, and also provides us opportunities to forget about the pressures of life's nagging aspects. Despite what the intellectuals say, sports do educate; anyone who does not cherish this fact is missing out.

It's unfortunate that Earl and other intellectuals attempt to disgrace the name of sport in there argument. If we are "addicted to sports," it's not a bad thing. In our view, it goes hand in hand with being addicted to H2O.

### Letter to the Editor

I know sex sells, but your ad on page 20 for "Sudsy Tanks" looks as if it's marketed to Theta Chi, as in "buy a Sudsy Tank and get a free Roofie". The objectification of women to sell crap is no longer clever.

Sincerely,
Katelyn Runyan-Gless
University of Oregon Student
International Studies Major
Economics Minor
Anthropology Minor

### Sudsy Attire





### Walking through the graveyard after sunset is a jailable offence

n March 6, A Department of Public Safety officer stopped a University student who was about to walk into the Graveyard at approximately 2:30 a.m. The DPS officer informed the student, who was visibly intoxicated, that walking in a graveyard after sunset is "a jailable offense." The student responded by saying, "Well, catch me if you can numb-nuts," before bolting through the graveyard. The student, described as a big jerk, got away.

### Corrections in Feb. 22 OC

- ~Due to a mathematician's error, the OC was reported to have a two percent readership. According to the poll, it is actually a six percent readership. Getting better!
- ~ It was the Special Elections Issue, however, there has yet to be a Special Election. We did our part on time, but we cannot say the same for the ASUO
- ~ The OC has been kicked out of the vast rightwing conspiracy. This was not in the issue, we just wanted you to know.
- ~ Due to a transcription error, in "Party Like it's 1968," former president Ronald Reagan was spelled Ronal Regan. The editor at fault was sentenced to 10 lashings for the egregious mistake.
- ~ In the OC Asks section, Mr. Peanut actually said we have a racist's wit, not a rapist's wit.
- ~ In the Table o' Contents, a headline was mistakenly written 'Party like it's 1986,' it should have said '1968.'

### **Things You Should Know By Now**

- ~ No one wants to hear you play guitar in front of the EMU. Jack Johnson called; he wants his vibe back.
- ~ Every time you leave your dorm room for longer than 15 minutes your roommate is masturbating
- ~ No one on your floor wants to hear your "Party Mix"
- ~ Just because you have access to a megaphone doesn't mean you should use it. Seriously.
- ~ The Eugene Bus station is not a hip place to hang out.
- ~ No one really wants to be a part of the revolution.
- ~ Sublime is not the best band ever.
- ~ Boondock Saints is not the best movie ever, neither is Fight Club.
- ~ Claiming your 1/4th Irish does not allow you to get drunk and act like a douche, neither does it make you hard.
- ~ It's not cool to call three seconds in a basketball game at the Rec.
- ~ Meal points are for your upperclassmen friends, not you.
- ~ No one has a minute for the environment, let alone \$5.
- ~ After Writing 122 no one knows what an emthymeme is
- ~ Looking at porn in the library will get you arrested
- ~ If you become an ASUO Senator, you can get a free plane ticket to Hawaii for Spring Break.
- ~ Smoking cigarettes is a great way to meet new people.
- ~ If you don't like the invisible hand, it will crush you like a bug.

### Haiku o' Rama

Spring break almost here, The cherry trees are blooming Can I score some coke?

It's March Madness time Will Big Ern put in Stingray? All signs point to yes.

Student Insurgent, Why send your stuff to jail birds? They suffer enough.

Dear Oregon Voice, Schoolyard football game is set, Sunday, April sixth.

Where'd the nubby go? Why'd the nubby run away? Goodbye, sweet nubby.

Rennie's smoking deck, The Oregon Commentator, No, you be quiet.

Dear Mr. Kerry, May I ask you a question? Don't taser me bro.

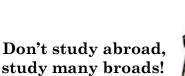
Spring time in the air, Mating season finally here, Another beer, miss?

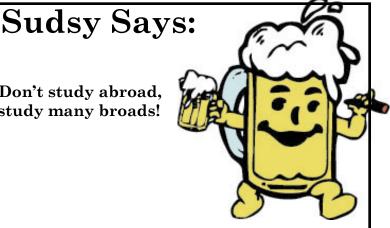
Election season, Another inane debate, Everyone loses

### Niedermeyer Says



Hasn't Lou Dobb's eaten himself yet?





### If Chris Berman did a Ducks highlight

by Drew Cattermole



The Ducks were led this season by Senior Stud Dennis DIXON YOUR MOUTH. Dixon was a top candidate for the Heisman Trophy until he tore his ACL. The Ducks struggled with several other injuries throughout the season. JereMIAH "Sharona" Johnsonwent down after six games, leaving Andrew CrenSHAWSHANK REDEMPTION to back up the main man Jon CHUNKY'S BEEF STEWart. The worst injury on the defensive side was John I'M HUNGRY AND NEED SOME Bacon. The receiving core was led by JaySON OF SAM Williams, whose hands where as sketchy as his nickname counterpart. The Ducks should be in good shape next year receiving-wise with young Aaron AVIAN BIRD PFLUgrad.

The Ducks basketball season had a lot to achieve after last year's Elite Eight run. The team's leading scoring has been Malik I WENT TO THE BARBER TO GET MY Hairston. Maarty SKIP TO MY LUEnen is having a great senior year, shooting over 50 percent from the land of threes. Other team highlights include TaJUAN-A DANCE WITH SOMEBODY Porter, who led the team in three point shots made. The team should be ready to dominate in the tournament with a deep bench that includes LeKendrick THIS JOKE HAS GONE ON FOR TOO LONGmire.



Should Ethnic Studies be departmentalized at the University of Oregon?



Oscar Guerra: Yes, but not until I say it can.

Sam Dotters-Katz:
I cannot comment for fear of exercising my white male privilege.



### **Geraldine Ferraro:**



If the Ethnics Studies department was a white man, it would not be in this position. And if it was a woman (of any color) it would not be in this position. The Ethnics Studies department happens to be very lucky to be who it is. And the country is caught up in the concept.

Charlie the Unicorn: Oh my freaking God will you please leave me alone.



**Megatron:**Give me the All Spark and you may live to be my pet.

Zombie Martin Luther King Jr:
I have a dream that one day
education will not be judged by the
color of its skin but by the content of
its character.





**Ty Schwoefferman:** Excuse me while I whip this out.

**Ann Coulter:** I don't think so, Ty.



### Rifle and Pistol Sports:

# Paramilitary Training for the Discerning College Student

### **Guy Simmons**

Olitical activism isn't what it  $\Gamma$  used to be here at the University of Oregon. Yesteryear's days of huge rallies and political riots seem to be over, replaced by general disinterest and large amounts of apathy in the political process. The idealistic notion that change can still be wrought and civil liberties protected in America's de facto one party system by shouting from a soap box or voting in a ballot box has been largely abandoned, leaving the politically ambitious student only one remaining box: the cartridge box. President Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the

blood of patriots and tyrants." Obviously, if blood must be spilt in order to preserve freedom, it would be prudent to maximize the blood of tyrant's spilt, and the best way to ensure that is with effective training and practice.

While many college students in Oregon own firearms (or have access to their parent's), most have, at best, a limited ability to employ their firearms as weapons. Much as people who own sports cars believe they are skilled drivers, the majority of firearms owners believe they are excellent shots. Unfortunately, spending a couple Saturdays a year plinking at tin cans or stumps in the woods

and shooting paper targets on a typical gun range does little to prepare a freedom loving American for conflict. Happily, a number of high quality organizations exist in Oregon that provide the opportunity to gain proficiency in firearms, creating the chance for the common citizen to practice in a dynamic manner and learn to use a firearm effectively.

The most affordable option is competitive shooting sports. For only an entry fee (approximately 15 dollars), you can attend a Practical Rifle, Action Pistol/Rifle or Defensive Pistol match. These competitions provide shooters with practical and realistic courses of fire that simulate potentially life-threatening encounters or tests skills that would be required to survive such an encounter. Practical Rifle is held the second Saturday and Sunday of each month at the Tri-County Gun Club in Portland. Practical Rifle, as the name implies, has an emphasis on rifle work. The competition is well managed, and the staff usually has interesting scenarios for the competitors to shoot. The courses of fire incorporate shooting on the move, shooting from and around cover (barrels, barricades, rocks), rapid reloads and, best of all, long distance shooting. Many shooting events are extremely limited by the available area for staging scenarios. Practical Rifle is conducted in a huge rock quarry, providing the rare chance to have courses of fire with targets 200, 300 and even 400 yards away from the shooter.

If Portland is too far of a drive, the Albany Rifle and Pistol Club offers once a month Action Rifle, Shotgun and Pistol matches. These competitions incorporate the same firearm handling skills as Practical Rifle but also add the twist of transitioning from one weapon type to another during the course of fire. During





each stage of the competition, shooters switch from rifle to pistol or to shotgun, completing the scenarios with the use of multiple weapons. Unlike Practical Rifle, however, the distances at the Albany competition are shorter, typically limited to 100 yards.

Fortunately, it isn't necessary to travel out of Eugene to start shooting at a practical shooting competition. At the Isaac Walton League Range, the International Defensive Pistol Association hosts Defensive Pistol the second Saturday of every month. Defensive Pistol requires competitors to use handguns and equipment suitable for self-defense and focuses heavily on simulating reallife situations. In the scenarios, targets are concealed behind barriers, hostages or even hidden from view at distances between 3-20 yards. Shooters must make use of cover as much as possible and engage targets in order of biggest threat. Of the three competitions, Defensive Pistol has the greatest emphasis on tactics but doesn't involve the use of rifles or shotguns. However, the tactical skills learned at Defensive Pistol can be applied at Practical Rifle or the Action Rifle and



Pistol shoots.

If going to competitions in order to learn firearms skills seems way over your head and intimidating, a good place to start learning the basics of firearms is the Oregon Firearms Academy in Lebanon. If you lack the fundamentals of sight alignment, breath control and movement, the academy is for you. OFA offers classes in small arms, tactics and self-defense, all with a low student-to-instructor ratio and a relatively low cost. Their courses, such as Defensive Handgun, Tactical Rifle and Defensive Shotgun vary from approximately \$150 to \$300 dollars for

8 hours of instruction and range time. If your interested in more information regarding shooting sports or maintaining freedom, you can contact the Oregon Commentator at ocomment@uoregon. edu or the organizations listed below:

#### Oregon Firearms Academy

http://www.oregonfirearmsacademy.com/index.htm

Practical Rifle (Tri-County Gun Range, Portland)

http://www.practical-rifle.com

Action Pistol, Action Rifle and Defensive Handgun (Albany Rifle and Pistol Club)

http://www.arpc.info

IDPA International Defensive Pistol Association (Isaac Walton League, Eugene)

palandri@4j.lane.edu Jeremy Brown at 541-461-8439



OC Publisher Guy Simmons has a multitude of tools with which to defend freedom and Lord help the person who crosses him.

## Sonic Doom

Seattle Supersonics owner Clay Bennett and NBA Commissioner David Stern are holding the team hostage. Hopefully, Seattle won't fold to their will.

### Jake Speicher

Though I have never been to Seattle, I have been told that not only is it a nice place to live, but the people are both pleasant and friendly. Sure, they have a few dust-ups whenever the World Trade Organization comes to town, but no one likes those free loaders anyway. No, everything I hear about Seattle leads me to believe that it's one of the brightest and most progressive cities in the country.

Now, however, the very identity of Seattle is being threatened. I'm not talking about Starbucks or Microsoft. I'm not even talking about Pike's Place. I am talking about the Seattle Supersonics. Yes, those Supersonics. The NBA franchise. It has come to light recently that the Sonics will be moved to Oklahoma City within the next couple of years.

Obviously sports franchises move all the time. This is nothing new. In fact, it isn't even new to Seattle. There was a time in the mid-90s when the Seahawks all but packed their bags and moved to Los Angeles. What makes the Sonics' situation unique is that it represents an abuse of power by NBA commissioner David Stern.

The first thing that must be known about the Sonics is that they have been in Seattle since 1967. That makes them the city's oldest franchise by 10 years. They also hold the city's one and only professional championship won in 1979. (Upon further research I have discovered the Seattle Metropolitans won the Stanley Cup in 1917 and the WBNA franchise the Storm won the championship in 2004. Do with that information what you will.) Regardless of what you think about basketball, the Sonics have been identified with Seattle longer than anything else currently associated with the city (take that coffee and grunge).

When the NBA first announced that the Sonics would be sold to a group of buyers based in Oklahoma, the story received little national attention. After hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans Hornets played to sold out crowds in Oklahoma City, this led the league to believe that Oklahoma would be a good fit for the Sonics. I'll admit that I personally didn't care. One team moving was just a blip on the sports news radar this fall. First, there was the rise and fall of the Ducks, then the Patriots and then, probably ranking 200 on my most important news story, was Seattle moving.

But then things changed.

Recently, ESPN.com columnist Bill Simmons opened up his column to e-mails from destitute Sonics fans. Reading those e-mails felt like attending a funeral. Yes, there were eulogies, but

there was also anger. The Sonics hadn't just died in Seattle, but they had been taken away forcibly and without explanation.

What happened was owner Howard Schultz (also the chairman of Starbucks) decided the Sonics needed a new arena. This would have been fine with the good people of Seattle except Schultz wanted to use public money to fund the \$500 million project. When the city said no to Schultz and his new arena, the team went on the market.

They found a buyer named Clay Bennett. Bennett led a group of investors based in Oklahoma City. So, obviously, the team was sold with the intention of being moved.

There are two things wrong with this scenario: first, the idea that a professional sports team should have a publicly funded arena, and second, Clay Bennett's relationship with NBA commissioner David Stern.

Once the team was sold to Bennett, it became clear that a personal relationship existed between Bennett and Stern. In fact, Stern gave the induction speech when Bennett was added to the Oklahoma sports hall of fame. Granted, doing business with your friends is not illegal, but it can certainly become unethical.

For instance, if the outcry from Sonics fan became so great that a local buyer decided to step-up and buyout Bennett, Stern could force Bennett to sell the team in order to keep it in Seattle. Stern could legitimately save the Sonics — except he won't.

Since the announcement that the team would move, several local groups have expressed interest in buying the team and keeping it in Seattle. But Stern hasn't done a thing. He could force Bennett to sell back the Sonics. But again, he won't. Instead, he is sitting idly by, while his good friend hijacks 40 years of history from a city. The Sonics' only hope now is that the city comes through with the money for a new stadium, but to their credit they have consistently said, "no."

Basically, Stern and Bennett are holding the team hostage. The ransom -- \$500 million for a new stadium. Stern has realized how important a sports franchise can be to a community and how to use that as leverage to get them to do what he wants.

Imagine the same scenario in Portland. Imagine if David Stern came in and said that unless the city built a new \$500 million stadium the Trailblazers would be moved. That sounds like a textbook case of extortion. However, Seattle is setting

# New baseball stadium won't hurt Eugene community

Matthew Walsh

A recent viewpoint in the Eugene Weekly regarding the proposal for the new U of O baseball stadium being built near Autzen Stadium ("The New UO Stadium Plan Stinks" EW 3/6/08) was difficult for me to read. The jointed effort by Eric Jones and Paul Martone to "mobilize" and invigorate Eugene Emerald fans to support their team's long-time home, Civic Stadium, as it enters its final two years of operation, was disturbing.

For those who do not know, Civic Stadium is one of the oldest stadiums in the US that is still in operation. It has seen thousands of games during its lifetime and has been a pillar in the community. Unfortunately, it is time for the stadium to retire and give one last gift to the local community in the form of revenue to the 4J School District generated by its sale. Jones and Martone paint the picture in a negative way.

"The new deal ... the 4J School District completely off the hook for their quiet, avaricious campaign to sell off or profit from the prime piece of real estate that the stadium occupies. By seeking a court ruling that allows the district to sell the property, 4J forced the Ems to seek other opportunities to stay in Eugene."

According to their article, schools have never had a difficult time generating money and this is merely a ploy to extort revenue from the community and should be ashamed of themselves. Jones and Martone also would like us to believe that the new stadium project is some sort of conspiracy on the part of the University to destroy all things historic in Eugene.

"First, it's a tragic, mind-boggling continuance of Eugene's sad history of bulldozing old, historic buildings in the name of modernity or expediency ... with Mac Court we lose not only a building, but also our vital connection to teams of the past, our communal moments of heartache and celebration."

I have a news flash for Jones and Martone. The Eugene Emeralds will go on, as will summer evenings at the



Courtesy: GoDucks.com

Conceptual design of UO's new stadium.

ballpark, and all things the joining America and baseball represent. These events will just be taking place in a new stadium that will also host the reformed U of O NCAA baseball team. The change will not lead to the loss of integrity to the game of baseball, nor will it wreck havoc upon the community. The University will build its new stadium no matter what, and the Ems and the community should be happy about it. I am. Eugene will soon have a state of the art baseball stadium, the 4J School District will receive much needed extra revenue and the game of baseball will still be played in 9 innings, with 9 players on each team.

I will be the first to admit the history, nostalgia, and legacy of Civic Stadium will be lost. Some measures should be taken to maintain a few pieces of this historic place in Eugene. The new stadium, however, is neither the community death sentence that Jones and Mr. believe it to be nor is it an example of destroying Eugene history for the sake of expediency.

As a lifelong fan and onetime player of baseball I am excited for the U of O to reenter the world of Division I baseball. I will be the first one there on opening day in our brand new, state-of-the-art stadium. And trust me I will not be alone.

Matthew Walsh is disappointed he's going to miss the Oregon Commentator vs. Oregon Voice football challenge, and is a contributor for the OC

### Pit Crew needs new leaders, better game plan

### Jimmy Keane

As an avid Oregon Ducks basketball fan, it pains me to write about the poor condition of the current Pit Crew.

First off, what is the deal with lining up hours before tip off? These precious few hours should be spent blowing the froth of a few cold ones, not standing outside of Mac Court. Although, there may be a few who combining these two options. It is not what I would do but it is acceptable.

Mac Court has a reputation for being a loud and having a hostile nature. The main reason for this hostile environment is the Pit Crew; who as a group have gone way down hill over the past few years.

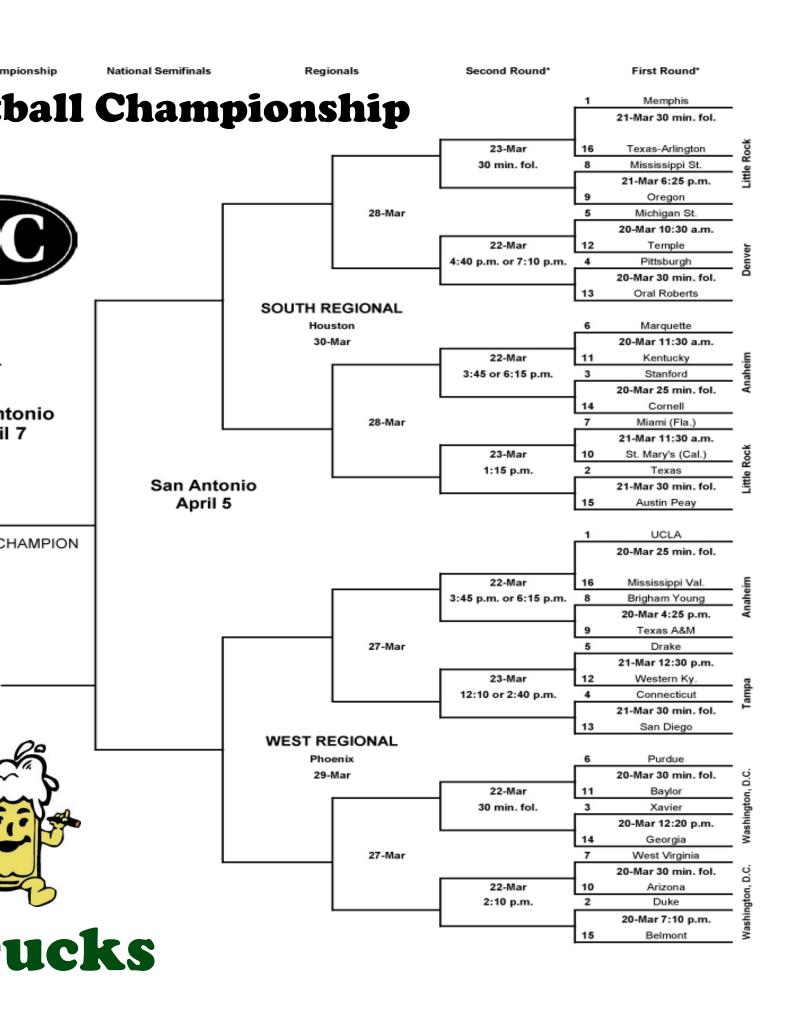
This was very apparent when the Los Angeles squads came threw. In the first game, the Pit Crew tried to get into Kevin Love's head by chanting things about him (most of which were stupid, unoriginal, and downright offensive), as well as booing. I am a fan of yelling and booing, chanting is fine in my opinion too, just be more creative with your chants. At least be funny. Show the opponents you are better than playground name calling. On a side note the crew did a great job of getting in Love's head; 26 points and 18 rebounds in a winning effort.

Then it got worse when USC came to town. The Pit Crew was silent almost the entire game and gave our basketball team absolutely no crowd energy. The game may as well have been on a neutral floor.

What I am saying is simple, if you are going to go to a ducks basketball game do the right thing. Have a few drinks, be loud, and have fun. Don't line up hours before hand just so real, green blooded, drunk duck fans have to sit in the rafter sections so some sober jerk can wave at his grandma on TV. Let's get the Pit Crew back to where it used to be a factor in every home game.

Jimmy Keane is a slacker. That's all.





### Rugby: best sport ever

C.J. Ciaramella



Photos by Jake Speicher

I was sprinting at full pace, desperately trying to outrun a group of about three guys who were chasing me. Glancing over my shoulder, I thought I just might make it ... until another came in from the side and caught me. He hoisted me in the air before slamming me back down into the earth. As the others approached, I instinctively curled into the fetal position to shield my ribs and face from their oncoming feet.

No, this wasn't a gang initiation or my first day of school. I was playing rugby, and I was enjoying every second of it.

Rugby is a sport that originated in England at about the same time as association football (soccer, as it's known over here). According to legend, it was started at Rugby School (hence the name) by a boy named William Webb Ellis, "who, with a fine disregard for the rules of football as played in his time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it."

In many ways, the sport resembles American football; the ball is advanced by running forward, and points are scored by placing the ball over the goal line. The defense must tackle the ball-carrier to stop him. However, there are several fundamental differences. Sides consist of 15 players, rather than 11. Also, there is no forward passing, and play does not stop when the ball-carrier is tackled. The game is continuous like soccer.

Another difference is the lack of pads. Rugby players may not wear any hard protective gear, such as plastic helmets. Some choose to wear soft cloth helmets or shoulder pads, but these only minimize injuries, not protect against them.

American football is actually descended from rugby. It was the contact sport of choice until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Unfortunately, too many crybabies started complaining about a few paraplegics here and there, and before you could say "blue 42" the game had been mutilated almost beyond recognition – forward passing, blocking, set plays and, most egregiously, pads.

Speaking of which, how badass can you honestly feel when you're covered head-to-toe in protective gear? Football is supposed to be the epitome of manly activity, so why all the gear? Helmets, shoulder pads, thigh pads, cups — what the fuck? I don't even wear underwear when I play rugby; it's a comfort thing. Not much feels better than the sun at your back and the wind on your genitals

as you run down the field.

Still not convinced that rugby is more hardcore than football? In rugby, you can do things to people that would normally land you in jail. For example, depending on the situation and the ref, it is sometimes legal to rake an opponent with your cleats (preferably fitted with ¾ inch metal studs, by the way). As I heard one ref put it, "If you're on the deck, you are the deck." Ask any longtime rugby player, and they can probably show you a few good cleat-prints on their back.

And another thing: in rugby it is illegal to celebrate after scoring. That's right, no chicken walks, no spiking the ball and no jumping into the fans. In fact, the ref can take away the points if he deems the player was celebrating too excessively. I've seen it happen. Celebrating and smack-talking may be appropriate when playing Madden, but in rugby one is expected to act like a civilized human being, not a hyperactive idgit.

It's illegal to engage in any smack talk. It's also illegal to talk to the ref at all unless you're the team captain. In rugby, we just play the fucking game.

If you haven't figured it out, rugby players are expected to be gentlemen. The sport is still steeped in that Old World, amateur tradition. In fact, there's an old saying that goes "Rugby is a barbarian sport played by gentlemen."

This attitude is responsible for one



A UW rugby player forgets he's not wearing a helmet and pays the price.

of the best aspects of the game – the post-match party, known in rugby circles as "socials" or "drink-ups." It's tradition that both teams get together and celebrate after a hard day on the pitch. That's right – both teams. Grudges and sore feelings are left on the field, where they belong, because everyone is a rugby player. We drink and be merry. And we sing songs. Dirty songs. Although many have been trying to "clean up" rugby's image in America, a good, social drink has, and most likely always will be, an essential part of the game.

But I'd be doing a disservice to rugby if I said drinking was the best part of the game. In truth, I love it because it's an effort sport; if you come out, work your ass off and play with heart, there is a spot on a rugby team for you.

Because there are fifteen positions on the field there is a role for everybody, regardless of size. Some positions require small, fast players, while others demand huge, brute strength. This means that someone can still be a good rugby player, even if he or she isn't the biggest or the fastest or the strongest. In this sense, rugby is very egalitarian. I've seen players who weigh 140 pounds tackle guys with at least a 100 pound advantage on them.

In short, rugby is better than football. It's better than soccer. Hell, it's better than just about everything. Rugby is one of the most fulfilling and rewarding things I've done in my life, and I think most ruggers would agree. If you think I'm exaggerating, come out and see a game; I'll be the one with the big smile on my face getting slammed into the ground.





C.J. Ciaramella is an Associate Editor of the OC and not a very good rugby player

UO rugby player Rob Mason gives a pep talk to the team at a practice.

# Ray Schafer: A model American



Zac Goodwin / courtesy of the Oregon Daily Emerald

In his five years at the University of Oregon, Ray Schafer has became the fan favorite of the Ducks Basketball team. The Oregon Commentator's Sarah Cate sat down with Ray for a chat.

### Sarah Cate

Ray "Stingray" Schafer is a household name, at least in the home of true Duck fans (the nicest homes America has to offer). At most home basketball games, the crowd chants for Coach Ernie Kent to "Free Ray Schafer," and on Senior night – which Kent blasphemously did not play him – most of the signs in the Pit Crew were for Stingray.

When I found out I would have the opportunity to interview Ray I was inundated with suggestions of what to ask him and descriptions of how great people thought he was. But why?

"I have yet to figure that out," Ray said. "I know they're my favorite. I know I love the crowd I love the students here. It's been a real blessing to get to know them in class, walking on campus. You know, not to separate myself from them — just cause of what I do. But, to realize that we are

all students here. It's been really a great experience."

My response is that Ray has figured it out. A genuine, caring person, Ray was exactly what my friends and I have made him out to be.

Ray came to our meeting fresh from a trip to Portland. He and his wife traveled to visit his parents in Oregon City. When I met him, he was reading a pamphlet by Jackson and Perkins on how to best grow roses; a peculiar choice of literature for the 7 foot basketball player.

"I don't know if you'd call it gardening, but just, it's been a dream, every since I was a kid to plant a rose garden," he said. "I have a rose garden for my mom. In Alaska we couldn't do that. But now she's living in Oregon City, we were able to arrange that. All my family came together and we all bought her an individual bush for her birthday." He smiled and explained this was why he was wearing his

Carharts. Such a sweet devotion to family was a common topic of our conversation.

A native of Alaska, Ray described growing up one of seven children. He has three older sisters and three younger brothers. They were home schooled and thus according to Ray, "it was our own little community." This community was dubbed an appropriate name.

"They called it 'Big Foot City'" Ray said. "They had a big sign above our driveway – big foot city."

"I loved playing golf out on our lawn. Our grandma would send up clubs, her used clubs you know and friend's clubs and we had an old raggedy set, but we'd go out on our lawn which was full of holes and just putt around and act like we were golfers. He added, "(The clubs) were always too small for us."

For the most part Ray and his brothers played together more than against each other. But, when it came to the ultimate game of basketball talent, h-o-r-s-e, Ray's winning move was the reverse lay-up. He claims it was the move he could always get his brothers on. Something to take note of if you run into him in a nearby park and think you may be able to fulfill your life dream of beating a 7-foot basketball player in h-o-r-s-e (or maybe that's just me).

It seems Ray was self-inspired to be a basketball player. He watches a little NBA and used to watch some old tapes of Bill Russell. If he had to pick a player that his game most resembles it would be Tim Duncan. Ray really likes Duncan's game because he is cool, calm and collected.

This is Ray's senior year at Oregon. Five years ago he started his career here living in Barnhart with Aaron Brooks. The image of that pair is priceless. I asked Ray what he thought of the dorms and specifically the food. He politely skirted the food question.

"I enjoyed the people there. The people who worked in the kitchen, and the RA's. So I did, I enjoyed it."

I found it unique that he would go out of his way to get to know the staff of the facility. Ray responded, "it's all about them."

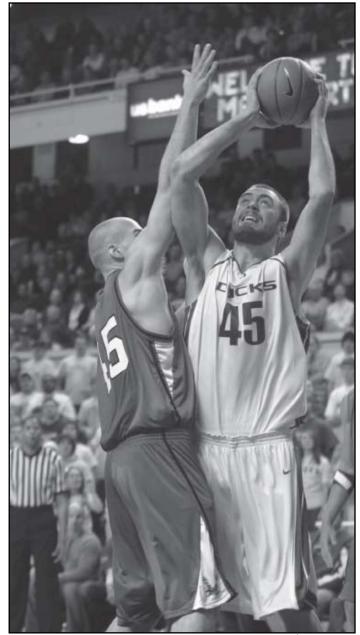
Luke Jackson was a senior when Ray was a redshirt freshman and he says he still follows Luke's game. He also stays in touch with some former players that are playing overseas as a great way to get information about this potential career choice.

"My plan's as it is. It would be to train for tryouts, see what I can do this summer," Ray said.

Ray is looking at trying out for the NBA and also considering options of playing in the European League or in Australia.

"I am really close with family. And I'm not really one to go off and live by myself," he said. "So I was kind of dreading that, the idea of playing overseas, but, I got married in September. Now that I have my wife (Sarah Reichner), ya I think it would actually be kind of fun to get out as a newly wed couple to go travel. We have all the possibilities to while we are young-- get out, see stuff."

Why do we love Ray? Some may say its because he is the player who doesn't play much, but is always the most enthusiastic on the team. But from the brief amount



Courtesy 2007-08 Oregon Men's Basketball Media Guide / GoDucks.com

of time I got to spend with Ray I would have to say it is because Ray loves his fans, loves meeting and talking to people, loves roses, loves his family and loves a good hike through the woods. He's a genuine guy and a model American. He has not gotten a huge chunk of playing time, but he's earned more than a fair share of respect in the Duck Community.

And if Coach Kent would just put Stingray in the game a little more often, maybe the Ducks would have a shot at a repeat Elite 8 showing in the NCAA Tournament.



Sarah Cate is a contributor and moral lighthouse to the OC

# Budget Golf

### Matthew Tham

o most college students, golf is seen as a sport played L by only the rich and over-privileged. Golf itself is synonymous with exclusive country clubs, goofy clothing and expensive brand name equipment. However, this is not at all what golf should be seen as. It should be seen as a relaxing sport that provides a break from school and other distractions. It is also a great way to enjoy the outdoors



Use the money saved to purchase a "Designated Driver" beer dispenser, a.k.a the greatest invention golf has ever known.

without exercising much or having to worry about hippies and hobos bothering you. A round of golf should also include copious amounts of alcohol, gambling, perhaps pot smoking and definitely golf cart racing.

The main thing keeping most students college from partaking this fine sport is the outrageously priced green fees. In some

cases it can cost up to \$250 to play a quality course. In fact, the average price to play a round at one of the top 10 ranked courses in the U.S. is \$310.70, with the highest price in the nation being \$500 for one round at Shadow Creek in Las Vegas. These prices don't even take into account food and alcohol. Now, I don't claim to speak for all college students, but I can honestly say that most I know would not be willing to pay \$300, let alone \$60, for one round of golf. Luckily, Eugene is host to a few courses that don't follow the same practice of overcharging their golfers.

The following five courses are some of the best bargains in Eugene. A round of golf at these courses ranges from \$5 to \$40, and they are all within 20 minutes of campus. As this is a U of O publication, all prices are the student rate available when you present a valid school ID. You may also want to take into consideration the price of a golf-cart, which ranges from \$26 to \$28, but are only available at River Ridge and Emerald Valley.

#### Laurelwood

9 holes-\$12 Everyday

aurelwood is the closest course to the U of O, located ✓on the top of Columbia at 27th. This 9-hole course is perfect for a quick round before or after class. The course is also fairly easy and short so it's good for golfers of all abilities. It is rarely crowded and during the week you can usually show up without a tee time and play with little or no wait. The marshal comes around very rarely, if at all, so there's little worry when abusing certain substances.

### Oakway

18 holes- \$20 Weekdays - \$22 Weekends 9 holes - \$12 Weekdays- \$14 Weekends

This is a short 18-hole course with wide-open fairways, 🗘 making it an easy course to play. The course does not require reservations, so it's perfect for a last minute round. And if you aren't feeling real golf for some reason, Oakway also has a full 18-hole disc golf course that you can play for only \$10.

### River Ridge

18 holes-\$29 Weekdays - \$39 Weekends Sutton Ridge-\$13.50 9 holes-\$17 Weekdays - \$20 Weekends Short Ridge-\$6.50

The River Ridge Golf Complex has a lot to offer. The 🗘 signature River Ridge course is a great track for a great price. Watch out, though, as the marshals come around often and will likely frown upon boozing and drug use. The Complex also offers two 9-hole courses, the Sutton Ridge Course and the Short Ridge Course. Sutton Ridge plays like a normal 9-holer, while Short Ridge is more of a pitch-and-putt with the longest hole measuring 107 yards (making it perfect for beginners or those too intoxicated to handle a real course). The River Ridge Course also has a membership for \$195 that allows unlimited golf all spring term.

### Fiddler's Green

9 holes-\$5 Everyday

18 holes- \$9 Everyday

Fiddler's Green is another short, 18-hole course that is great for college of area! great for golfers of any level. It's short holes and flat wide fairways make it very forgiving. Definitely a course where beginner can feel comfortable and more experienced players can excel. Fiddler's Green also boasts a great practice facility and "The Largest On-Course Golf Pro Shop in America".

### **Emerald Valley**

18 holes-\$35 Weekdays - \$40 Weekends 9 holes- \$24 Weekdays - \$26 Weekends (Rates Starting April 1st)

merald Valley, located on Creswell, is probably the Lbest-maintained course of the group. It is also the hardest of the group, although it is not tough to a point where a beginner couldn't handle it. This course is definitely worth the extra couple of bucks. Both Oregon's men and women's golf teams practice here.

# Hypocrisy of MCC affiliates disrespectful of campus culture

Intimidation politics and accusations of racism is how the Multicultural Center has run business ever since it opened. It's time for it to stop

### Sean Jin

Hernandez spewed out in the Daily Emerald and the online comment section last month highlights the racism, hypocrisy and divisiveness of the MCC and affiliated organizations. It's almost deja vu of last year, a la Nate Gulley's institutional racism blow up. Deja vu usually means there's a glitch in the system, so I think it's time we start looking at the glitches in their arguments about racism, and how they undermine their credibility, respectability and message.

Oscar speaks on the Oregon Daily Emerald online comments section ("Student government has become childish and unprofessional" (2/29/08):

"As a white person, you can not tell or expect people of color to point out to racist individuals every time they have used racist, sexist, homophobic, language or any other time they have contributed to racism."

It is convenient to make accusations of racism without backing them up with evidence; the accused scatter in a frenzy to disprove those claims. After Hernandez's letter to the editor ("VFSA deserved its original increase" ODE 2/21/08), Mei Li Yu, Steven Wilsey, and Jacob Brennan's girlfriend scrambled to defend Brennan from the comments made by Hernandez, that Brennan "said racist, sexist and homophobic remarks" during hearing. All Diego had to do was drop the 'R bomb,' completely unfounded. When the question came up what exactly what being said that was racist, Guerra replied that people of color should not have to provide such evidence. Of course not, we can just point fingers and fling shit at whoever we want, just because we're 'people of color.'

These blind accusations do, however, do not have any merit or weight to them anymore. When I first read Hernandez's and then Zach Basaraba's letters to the editor, I yawned and threw the paper away (sorry, recycled). I have become so numb and conditioned to those unfounded cries of racism that

Personally, I have been told to "educate myself" and that I have "forgotten where I came from" when I have questioned the racist ways of the MCC affiliates.

they do not mean anything anymore. The credibility of the people and organizations who make such comments are as bad as Michael Jackson's credit rating. It distracts students from actual instances of racism and pushes away people that might contribute to the fight for true equity and respect in this society.

What makes me sick is that they hail Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as their prophet, the man who said that he had "a dream that people will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." I congratulate them on taking a great person and amazing visionary and turning his message into blind hatred and anger. The only way social justice issues can ever be solved is through

communication and understanding and respect between the parties involved.

Moreover, they turn away people, both white and minority, whom might have originally been interested in exploring issues such as racism and sexism. The only white people they really welcome are those that never question anything they say and completely buy into their self-pitiful victimization. These MCC affiliates even turn against the people they claim to empower - people of color, minorities and women - when they are questioned on the validity of their claims of racism. Personally, I have been told to "educate myself" and that I have "forgotten where I came from" when I have questioned the racist ways of the MCC affiliates. Mei Li Yu was chided for "cultural incompetence" because she stood up against the McCarthyesque accusation by Hernandez.

Continuing with Guerra's comment: "Have you wondered if it was a safe space for a person of color to do so or not? Most likely not, you being white yourself."

Big assumption that is wrong: White people have never experienced racism. I guarantee you that assumption is wrong. Is 'white,' or 'Caucasian,' not a race as well? There are many cultures outside of the US (and incidentally, within the US, too) where white people are consistently discriminated against and mistreated. Anyone that has lived a while in China or Japan knows what I am talking about. Ignoring racism in these other cultures is gross ignorance.

How about an example closer to home? A lot of the things that MCC-

### How The Homeless Will Save the Economy

### **Austin Himes**

As a leftivist, normally I wouldn't speak of the economy, and if I did it would be an accusation that the economic system in the United States reflects the basest evil of the male-heterosexist-capitalist-elitist-Judea-Christianracists society in which we live. However, this is an election year, that special time when democrats try to convince the general public that the funding for radical social plans won't come from taxes, but from some nut-ball economic scheme that will make the world a better place. This election year it is more important than ever for democrats to have a really good, really crazy scheme to sell because a dark cloud called recession is looming over the entire nation. Well, like it or not Eugene is part of that nation, and I've devised a clinically insane scheme to keep Eugene out of recession.

My crazy ass plan is based on my unsupportable analysis that Eugene's economy is driven primarily by drug trade, alcohol sales, student incidental panhandling/scrounging. and Therefore the most important consumers are students and the homeless. Now since the drug trade is illegal, there really aren't any regulations or incentives the government can place on it to spur the economy. Likewise since bums and college students are already consuming alcohol at a maximum rate and they are willing to pay any price for it, regulated alcohol costs will have little effect. Raising student incidental fees on the other hand would support growth in alcohol and drug consumption, but that usually happens outside of Eugene on ASUO retreats to Sun River. Furthermore since student incidental fees always raise faster then inflation, further expansion is likely to have no effect. Increased panhandling/ scrounging would be useless since it depends solely on the charity of others.

What do we do since the economic driving factors of our city can't be augmented by government regulation? Should we depend on the invisible hand of the free market to eventually return balance to the economy as people's spending habits adjust to meet new circumstances? NEVER! We simply increase the deposit on beer cans to \$.10. It has already been established the two primary consumers of alcohol, students and bums, are willing to pay any price for their booze. Further more this increase in deposit leads to growth in the panhandling/scrounging industry, virtually doubling the income of can collecting vagabonds. With their new found wealth, the homeless will be able to afford more crystal meth and marijuana which results in growth in the illicit drugs market. The solution depends on government regulation, but it doesn't directly raise taxes, and it is laughably unrealistic. It is the prefect democratic solution!

Research shows that an increase in wealth amongst Eugene's "leach" class would decrease the cost of social services and lower taxes for the rest of the community. The same study2 suggests that the community of Eugene could save over 50 billion dollars by implementing this five cent increase in beer can and bottle deposits which would translate to a 60% growth rate in most sectors of the economy for the next fifty years3. Furthermore, it encourages recycling so it is eco-friendly, and it illustrates the integral importance of drug addict, alcoholic homeless people to the culture of the Eugene. Best of all, the increased cost is only a deposit, so if you are willing to get off your lazy ass and recycle the PBR cans scattered around your apartment, it won't really cost you anything.

Austin Himes didn't get the memo that this is the Sports Issue, and is a contributor for the Oregon Commentator This space dedicated to the war against toner

Do you hate toner as much as we do? Come work for us. ocomment@uoregon.edu

# Jump



### SONICS, FROM PAGE 10

an important precedent. By saying no to Stern and Bennett, Seattle may be losing a franchise, but they might be saving everyone else's.

If Seattle folds to the wills of Stern and Bennett, every other franchise would be in jeopardy. Owners could simply threaten to move a team whenever they wanted a new stadium. The league could literally change every ten years as teams move from city to city willing to pay for bigger and better stadiums.

Owning a sports franchise should not be about maximizing profits. It should be like a very expensive hobby. No one buys a \$500 Titleist driver because they need it. They buy it because it will probably make their golf game a little better. It's the same reason you sign Vince Carter. It probably won't work out, but it might. When teams think only about the bottom line they become the Clippers, and when they don't, they become the Yankees.

People pour their money and souls into sports franchises. Owners should not be allowed to take advantage of them when they need new stadiums. It's kind of like if your wife threatened to leave if you didn't buy her a new house. Sure, there's probably another woman out there, but who wants to go through the time, energy and money to find her when the one you have will do just fine.



Jake Speicher is not the son of a preacher man, but he is the Managing Editor of the Oregon Commentator

### RACE, FROM PAGE 19

affiliated people say are racist and stereotypical against white people. But since only white people can be racist and minorities and people of color cannot, I guess all the hate spewing from the MCC is just righteous anger.

Guerra: "The comment is now made, and I believe it is up to Brennan to ponder of what might have been racist about his language or demeanuar [sic] during PFC Hearings."

It's a convenient privilege not being white, now that I think about it. We can just point at white people, call them racist, and watch them scramble to defend themselves. What we have here is a classic case of McCarthyism, making blanketing accusations without any evidence and watching the accused struggle to refute the accusations. Or if McCarthy isn't really your guy, maybe Lyndon Johnson is a better example, who, legend has it, told his campaign manager to call his opponent a 'pigfucker.' His logic was that his opponent would spend all his time trying to prove that he wasn't. Brilliant, if you ask me.

We, as non-white people, also have the privilege of never being racist. We can say the most hateful things against white people and never be racist. We can always use our history of 'oppression' and the claim of 'white guilt' as proper reason. I could call all white people pig-fuckers for making my ancestors build the railroads, and people like Zach Basaraba and Nate Gulley would applaud me for 'finally discovering where I came from' or some patronizing bullshit like that.

The MCC and its minions have not helped the issues surrounding race at all. Instead, they have hijacked them by continuing to attribute everything to race and shrugging any kind of responsibility off of the shoulders of minorities. According to them, we can say whatever we want about whomever we want, and will always be right, because we are minorities. Judging by their actions, we can be completely disrespectful and irresponsible, and stay off the hook just because we are minorities. Does anyone see the hypocrisy in this? Suddenly we're exempted from being respectable human beings because of our race. And white people are forced to shoulder any burden of accusations of racism. Isn't this discrimination? Whatever happened to taking personal responsibility? I suppose we don't have to anymore, since we're minorities, we can just sit back and bitch.

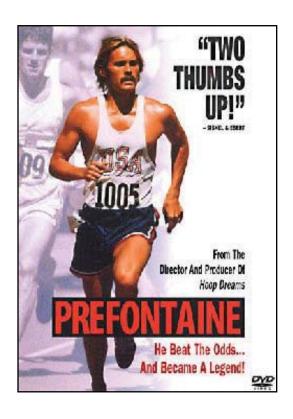
And just in case you have any doubts about minorities (or whatever you want to call it) being respectful and having meaningful dialog with ignorant and racist remarks, take a page out of Mohammed Jemmali's book. He's my Arabic instructor who is from Tunisia and very, very Arab. Think back January 15th, 2008, when our dear friend Nik Antovich wrote a piece in the Emerald about Muslims (and by definition, lots of Arabs) hating America because of its lifestyle. The ridiculousness and ignorance of the article was unbelievable. However, Mr. Jemmali responded to Nik's ignorant commentary with grace and eloquence: "What matters is that I respect his opinions. Peace."



Sean Jin really needs to remember where he came from, and is a contributor for the Oregon Commentator.

# SPEW...

### and the greatest sports movies of all time



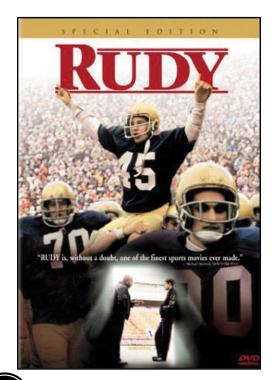
### On The Humorless

"There has been a lot of talk about how humor can bridge the gap between different communities, but I think more often humor is used as an excuse for White people to misrepresent people of color, women, and the sexually marginalized."

~ ASUO Senator Nate Gulley on a comments section of an National Public Radio blog.

"I get the feeling that White people feel that as long as there is a punch line, they can say whatever they want, no matter how untrue or damaging."

~ Nate, we'd like to refer you to the collective works of Richard Pryor, Paul Mooney, Margaret Cho, Ray Hanania, Dave Chappelle, Redd Foxx, Judy Gold, Eddie Murphy, Bill Cosby, Carlos Mencia (although not funny), the guy who writes the "Ask A Mexican" column (also not funny), Chris Rock, Whoopi Goldberg, George Wallace, Steve Harvey, John Witherspoon, etc.



# On Identity Politics at its Ugliest

"If Obama was a white man, he would not be in this position. And if he was a woman of any color, he would not be in this position. He happens to be very lucky to be who he is. And the country is caught up in the concept."

~ Geraldine Ferraro's comment to The Daily Breeze that led her to step down from Hillary Clinton's campaign team.

### ON FANS OF THE OC

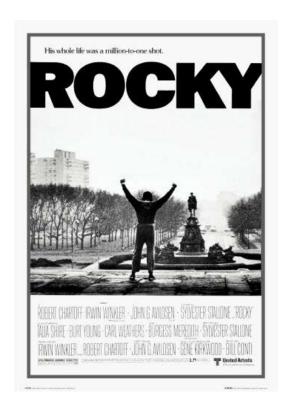
"Hey way to use the same clip art in every single issue i've ever seen in my five years at the architecture school here. When did you have somebody photoshop in the foam and color the kool aid man in yellow, 1997?"

~ A comment left by "James" on the OC blog. Actually it was 2001.

"How about actually discussing some important topics or actually making a valid point. Or if you're trying to acheive [sic] humor, i might suggest you try something other than talk [sic] about alcohol, yeah all of your readers drink it, that doens't [sic] mean we think it's funny everytime [sic] you point that out.

You're publication is in dire need of substance. It's no wonder nobody takes conservatives seriously on this campus."

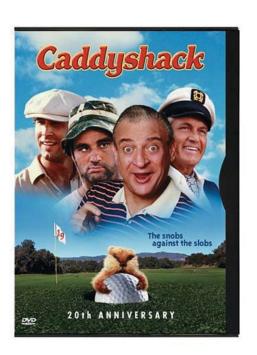
~ Sure we don't get paid for what we do, but hearing from adoring fans makes it all worth it.



### On More Billy Squire Lyrics

~ When the lights blow and anything goes and nobody knows When the sparks fly from in your eye and you don't know why In a tight squeeze, you're on your knees -- you're into the freeze Then the right sound can bring you 'round--put your right side down

### ON SPRING BREAK



# A representation of the ASUO

