

# OREGON COMMENTATOR

November 5th, 2009

Volume XXVII Issue III

A Journal of Opinion

**Sustainable  
Partying!**  
Read, Rage and Repeat

**MORE  
OSPIRG:**

Where did all  
the money go?

the lighter  
side of  
global  
warming

**DRESS  
FOR  
SUCCESS!**

Fashion tips  
and more

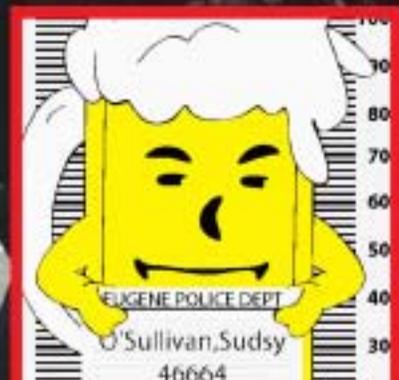


**Chance to win a FREE vacation!**  
Relax, join an ASUO conference and do nothing!



## SUDSY BUSTED!

-Recycling green books  
and scantrons



**SEX,  
DRUGS,  
ALCOHOL**  
and other homework tips

**MUGSHOTS!**



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-six 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.

# DESCENT WITH GOOD INTENT

As a young lad some of my fondest memories are of camping out with family. Just sitting back, starting a campfire with my dad singing campfire songs. As I entered college the joy of camping out with my parents shifted to the old past time of students camping out in hopes of getting tickets for the upcoming game. Now, the tents have been traded in for laptops and the students are not happy.

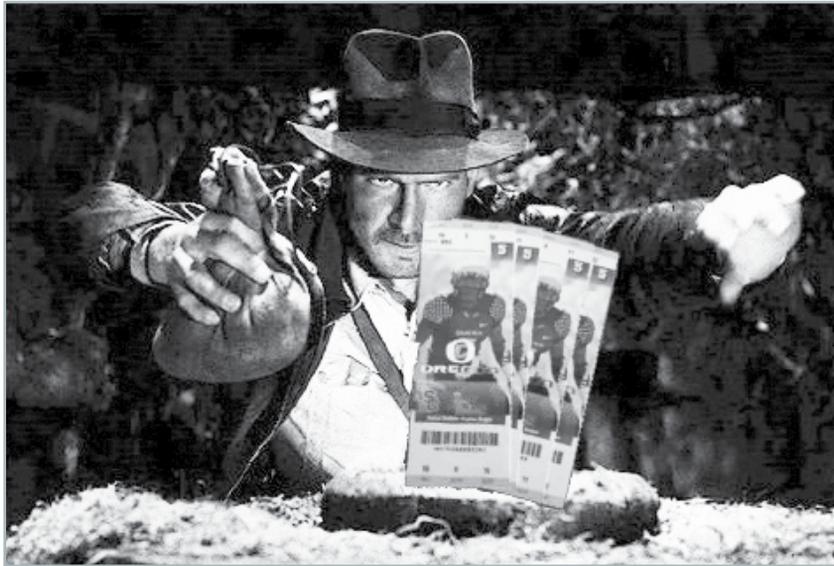
N i g h t s camping out would be unbearably cold. The bitter chill was battled with shots of rum. Many of us had school the following morning, but we were dedicated to our cause. Oregon Ducks Football was the focus, not homework, or the quiz we had at noon. The students who camped out were in college, old enough to know that their choice to camp out could bear the consequences of a lowered attendance grade or a missed assignment.

Last year the ticketing system changed at the UO. No longer were student tickets handed out in a wait-in-line format; the tickets were to be distributed online. The camping would be no more and the endless staring at a computer screen begun. The backlash against the new ticketing system has snowballed this year with an increase of higher quality games at Autzen than last year. The disgust for the new ticketing system can be found on every disappointed student's Facebook status after every ticket distribution on Sunday evenings. The sad thing about the whole mess is that there is no way the ticketing system will ever go back to the old system of waiting-in-line.

There is little hope for the battle anymore. It is like a test you know you are going to fail but still study for the night before. The athletic department does not seem to take notice of the students' complaints and have chosen to leave us lying in the dust. The amount of discourage the students have given towards the new ticketing system, reminds me of the trenches during World War I. We can choose to fight this but in all reality the ground we can gain in arguing for reformation of the ticketing system is not worth the ground we have lost.

The image of Indiana Jones should ring loud and clear

as an allegory we all feel about getting our beloved Ducks Football tickets. As we may try our hardest to get through the booby-trapped filled temple there is going to be that asshole who takes our precious treasure at the end. It would be just as appropriate for Shorty to yell at me, "Cover your heart, cover your heart" as the pain of missing yet another Ducks game threatens to rip my heart from my body.



The worst part about the new ticketing system is that it hurts the most dedicated fans the most; seniors. The four-year Duck fans that have paid the most in tuition or I-fees over the last four years are part of the large group who gets shafted by the ticketing system. Missing the most important games ever to come to Eugene is tarnishing their last year as a student. Without the ticketing system being switched back to the old standards it seems the

only resolution to help out the dedicated fans would be to sell the student tickets as season ticket packages before the season. UC Berkley runs this type of system offering lower prices to students who would like purchase tickets. The cost has fluctuated in the past years from \$60-\$100. Any true fan of the Ducks would gladly pay for those seats as many paid \$200 to see the Ducks stomp on the USC Trojans.

It is times like these that make me wonder if sometimes progress progresses to fast. In 1998 there was a bar on campus, students camped out for tickets and there were riots on Halloween. As the ticketing distribution system keeps failing it's hard not to keep making references to Indiana Jones. Just like Lucas and Spielberg should have just stopped screwing with the franchise after *The Last Crusade*, the athletic department created their own "Fridge Nuking" scene with the online ticket distribution system.

Like it or not, the UO is a football school. The athletic department knows this the most: if only they could help out their most loyal fans. The best memories I have from attending college at the UO are from camping out for tickets, not sitting in front a computer.

## Departments

<b>Editorial.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mail Call.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Nobody.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Another Perspective.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>SPEW.....</b>	<b>22</b>

## Features

<b>Stats.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Kiefer Ver Steegh drops some knowledge on you, mathematically</i>	
<b>Sustainable Partying.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Henry Jinings shows you how to recycle, reuse and booze</i>	
<b>Trendspotting.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>Carly Erickson turns you from geek to chic</i>	
<b>Lurking in the Shadows.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>T. Dane Carbaugh weighs in on the whole OSPIRG ordeal</i>	
<b>ASUO Conference Funding.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Scott Younker reports on how the ASUO is using your student fees</i>	
<b>Swine Flu Over the Cuckoo's Nest.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Ian Summers is too much of a man to get sick</i>	
<b>The Lighter Side of Global Warming..</b>	<b>20</b>
<i>Pete Lesiak wants to know... what's the big deal?</i>	

## Student Ticketing

Why complain about student E-ticketing at the UO for football and basketball? The real complaint should be over the fact students are ticketed at all, when they should be allowed in free.

There should be no limit to student attendance at a stadium recently expanded by more than the number of undergraduates on campus. In reality, even 2,500 student tickets per football game would be enough, as I doubt that many are interested in watching classmates slug it out in a vicious sport.

The real injustice is that the activities fee to support these sports comes from all students, while only a minority give a damn about the games.

George Beres

## Text Message Bonanza

Josh: Can't hang today but will see you tuesday. I might not be able to art though lol I need to assess my fingers when they heal. Some tweaker kid tried to bite them off.

Dane: What the fuck? Well shit, heal up. And if you're a zombie or something eat Drew first, deal?

Josh: He seems too gamey but I will keep that in mind.

## Tonight We Dine In Hell

### Oregon Commentator Staff Application

**Name:** Travis Prinslow

**Year:** Freshman

**Skills:** Lack of sympathy, years of experience at thrusting long poles into fleshy objects, previous weapons training, willing to die out of loyalty

**Position desired:** Pikesman

**Do you have any previous journalism experience? If so, please describe:** No, and this question's non-relevance is sending me into a blood rage

**How do you feel about the COMMENTATOR's libertarian editorial position?** For the right pay I'll guard anyone with my weapons and defensive knowledge

**What other obligations will you have during the school year?** To occasionally attend class, to drink before and after said classes, and to defend anyone else who hires me

**In 250 words or fewer, briefly explain why you wish to work for the OREGON COMMENTATOR:**

I saw your ad, and I liked it; I really enjoy stabbing fleshy bodies with long poles. This position is neither an editorial position nor a business position, and I am as of yet not on staff thus none of these further questions apply to me. However I do have some follow up questions for you. Is the pike or halberd provided by you or must I provide my own weapons? What sort of armor is provided or must I also provide that? What are the battalion troop sizes expected to be? What is the ratio of arquebus to pike? Will the forces we battle be using similar weaponry or modern weaponry? How frequent are chances to pillage enemy villages? When you say all staff positions are volunteer, does that mean my own income will be from the pillage of enemy villages or do I not even get that?



*asks ...*

What did you give to trick-or-treaters?



**Bill Cosby:**  
Pudding pops, Jell-O, Kodak Cameras and good, clean stand-up.



**Carina Miller:**  
Poorly thought-out plane tickets.



**Mike Bellotti:**  
A shitty online ticketing system.



**Balloon Boy:**  
Lies.



**Obama:**  
Change. Like actual pennies, we're in crazy debt.

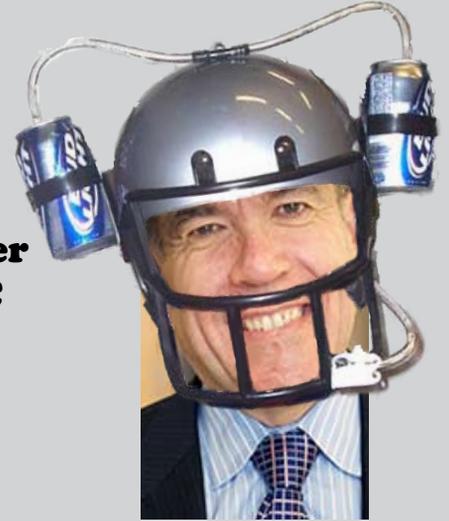


**Ayn Rand:**  
Nothing, because you didn't earn it.

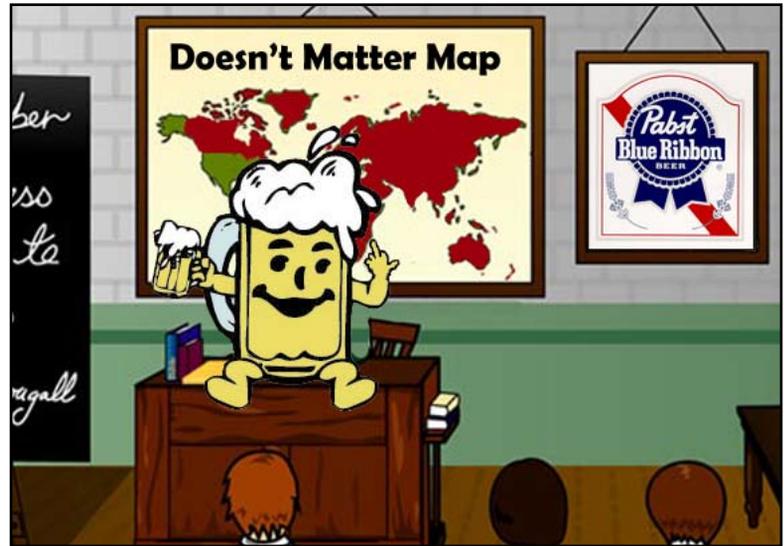
**UO PRESIDENT RICHARD "DICK" LARIVIERE'S  
HATWATCH 2009**

**This Week:  
Beer  
Helmet**

**"Still hung over  
from the USC  
game!"**



*"Sudsy Gives Back to the Children"*



**Last Issue Corrections**

\* Guy Simmons claimed that due to his similarity to the previous administration, Obama should be called "Bush Light". Really, we think Obama is more of a "High Life".



Kieran Buck

*The Cranky Texan is the Oregon Commentator's resident southerner and doesn't take kindly to you fancy talkin' city-types.*

Greetings, Northwesterners. Here's a list of the things I hate about your forested paradise.

**1.** Pseudo-intellectuals and others alike using the word "interesting" to describe interpretations and theories relevant to academic matters. ("remarkable" is in that same category as well) If interesting is the only word you can come up, you don't deserve to speak.

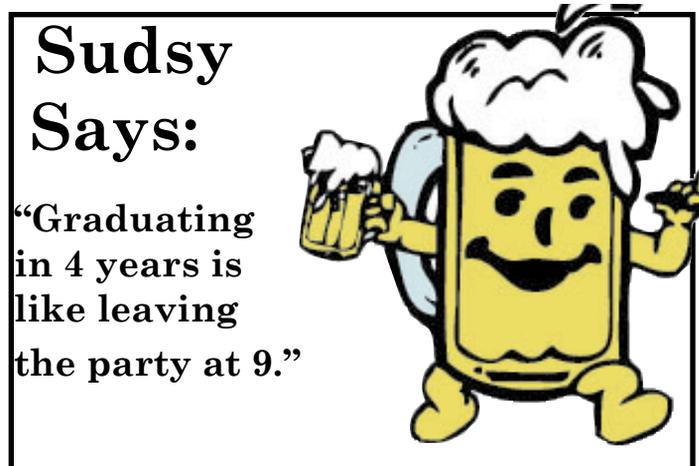
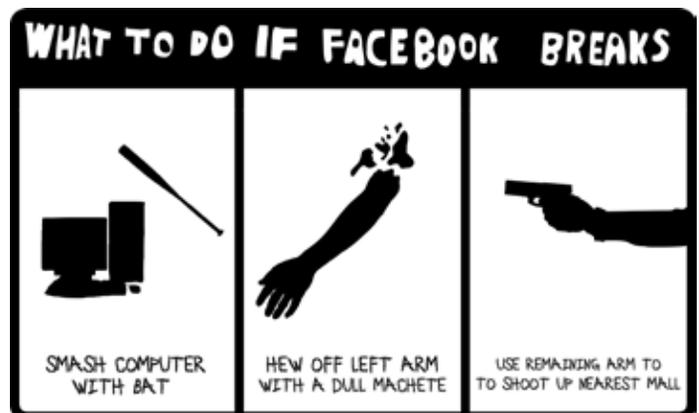
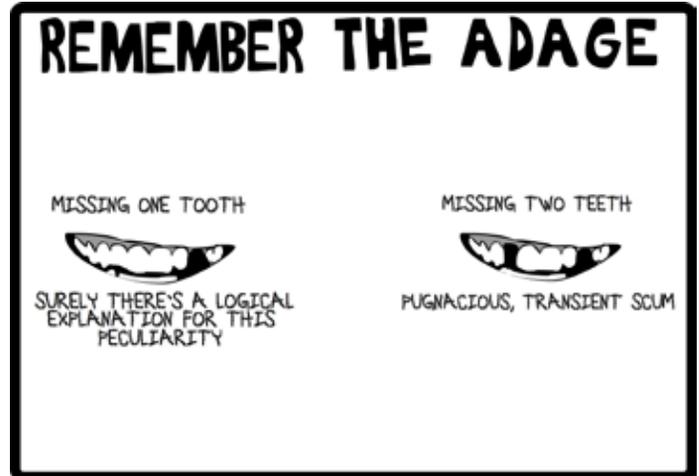
**2.** Referring to movies as "deep" just because they serve as commentary on modern day culture, like "Fight Club." Sure it's a good movie, but it's nothing beyond the realms of "interesting."

**3.** Brosephs: not everyone thinks it's "bro" to be a bro.

**4.** Jon Stewart still cranking out the Bush jokes, dude it's hella old. We should all hope for change. Obama jokes anyone?

**5.** Treating your Facebook status as a FML post. No one cares.

## Henry's Comic Corner



**1+** Weekly positive tests for chlamydia at the University of Oregon health center.

**0** Number of words in the English language that rhyme with "MONTH."

**21.9**

Average time, in minutes, it takes a Portlander to get to work.

**1 IN 23**



Nevada homes received foreclosure filing in the 2009 third quarter

**47** Average times Drew Cattermole uses the word "chillin" in an hour.



**1.3** Projected amount, in millions, for windmill subsidies in the state of Oregon (for the past two years).

**68** Amount, in millions, of windmill subsidies given in the state of Oregon (for the past two years).



# STATS:

by Kiefer Ver Steegh

**1,900**

Proposed percentage for tax increase on beer in the state of Oregon.

**1,910**

Number of men the American Cancer Society estimates will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in 2009.

**1,296**



Total marijuana related arrests by the Eugene Police Department in 2008

# SUSTAINABLE PARTYING



WELCOME TO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY, WHERE GOING GREEN IS AS FASHIONABLE AS ALLIGATOR SKIN SHOES. HP, NIKE AND IBM ARE AMONG THE MANY FACELESS CORPORATIONS WHO'VE DEIGNED TO HOPPING ON THE SUSTAINABILITY BANDWAGON, SO I'LL BE DAMNED YOU BEER-GUZZLING, BONG-RIPPING, SEX-HAVING KIDS DON'T TAKE IT UPON YOURSELVES TO FOLLOW SUIT.



**COWBOY!** THERE'S MORE TO SUSTAINABILITY THAN RECYCLING PIZZA BOXES. HAVE A LOOK AT THE DIAGRAM BELOW

**HOT DAMN!**

THAT'S A LOT TO CONSIDER; BUT YOU'RE RESOURCEFUL, RIGHT?

**LET'S BRAINSTORM**



**GO ORGANIC**



NATURALLY HARVESTED PSYLOCYBIN MUSHROOMS ARE AN ABSOLUTE MUST.

PURCHASE POT ONLY FROM THOSE WHO CAN GUARANTEE THEIR PRODUCT IS PESTICIDE AND HORMONE-FREE. ALSO, TRY AND SHY AWAY FROM THOSE BIG SCARY GROWING OPERATIONS IN CALIFORNIA. THE IDEA IS: SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GROWER SO HE AND HIS HEIRS CAN SUPPORT YOU AND YOURS FOR YEARS TO COME.

**IMPROVISE!**

GOT A WATERMELON, PUMPKIN OR HUMAN SKULL? THESE ARE IDEAL FOR CONTAINING LIQUIDS, FINGER FOODS, OR ACTING AS A MAKESHIFT RECEPTACLE FOR VOMIT.



SEEK THE BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK: BUY PURE GRAIN ALCOHOL AND EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF DILUSION SO THAT YOU MAY GET INTOXICATED QUICKER AND MORE EFFICIENTLY. IF SOMEONE GOES BLIND, BE SURE AND STEP IT DOWN A NOTCH.

GOT AN EXERCISE BIKE? THERE'S A MULTITUDE OF ONLINE RESOURCES PROVIDING STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW MAKE THEM INTO SIMPLE GENERATORS. THROW A FAT KID ON THERE AND IT'S A WIN-WIN: THEY LOSE WEIGHT, AND YOU WATCH TV FOR FREE. THAT'S SUSTAINABILITY.

A BUSY BATHROOM DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A WASTEFUL ONE: OBSERVE THE GOLDEN RULE OF 'IF IT'S YELLOW, LET IT MELLOW; AND IF THE TOILET MUST BE EMPTIED, FLUSH IT MANULLY WITH RAINWATER. NO RAIN? LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S TAKING THEIR BUSINESS OUTSIDE.

DON'T GO THROUGH THE RIGAMAROLE OF PROVIDING UTENSILS AND DISHWARE - HAVE GUESTS EAT WHATEVER THEY CAN PILE INTO THEIR CUPPED HANDS, AND NAPKINS? MODERN SUPERFLUITY! USE YOUR SHIRT; NO ONE CARES.



REMEMBER: PARTYING SUSTAINABLY MEANS ENSURING THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN PARTY JUST AS HARD AS YOU DID.





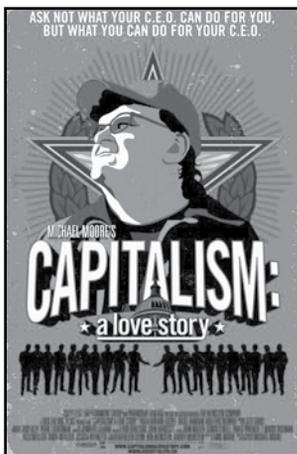
# Trendspotting with Carly

*Avoiding faux pas can be difficult in college. Lucky for you we've got the inside scoop on how to stay chic this winter.*

Carly Erickson

## Fake Glasses

Wearing fake glass is stupid (unless it's some kind of costume-related day). You know, those giant black-rimmed glasses that look like they're real, but just have plastic lenses? First of all, they're most likely found on hipsters, which is annoying on its own. Moreover, it's downright offensive to people like me who have to wear real glasses. All you people with good eyesight don't know how great you've got it. If I could just wake up one morning and see, I'd be the happiest kid alive. The trend makes no sense to me, I cannot wrap my mind around why anyone would pretend to have poor eyesight. Honestly, wearing glasses when you don't have to is like wearing a cast on your arm when it's not broken. It's downright dumb and pointless.

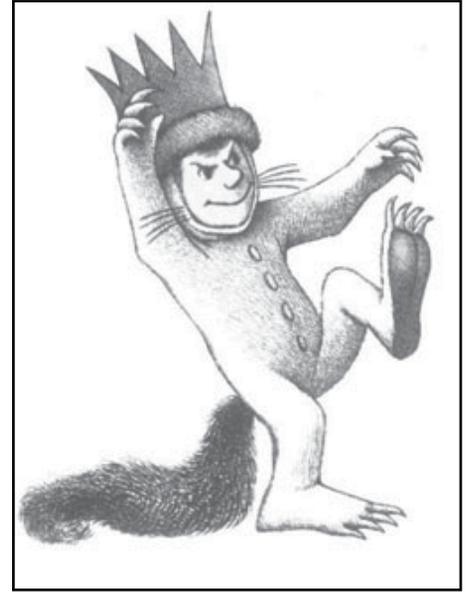


## Hating Capitalism

Every day I walk by the sign on Alder that reads "Co-ops Against Capitalism," and I frequently see those socialist-types trying to hand out their informative papers on campus. This trend of trashing America's beloved capitalism is a disturbing one. I understand that it has its problems, but no government system is perfect and ours is pretty damn good. I assume that the continuing health care debate has everyone's panties in a twist, but if you don't like it move to Canada. It's one thing to have issues with certain laws or proceedings, but don't trash the whole system. Capitalism got us where we are today and it will take us where we need to go tomorrow.

## "Clever" Halloween Costumes

Halloween is one of my favorite days of the year because you get to say whatever you want to people based on what they are wearing. I mean, what other day of the year can I call a slut to her face? Anyways, every year there are more and more obvious trends in costume choice, and they're becoming more "hip" and relevant to what's going on in pop culture every year. Remember how many Sarah Palins there were last year? This year, for example, you could buy wigs of Kate Gosselin's hair and masks of Bernie Madoff's face. There were no shortages of Maxes (*Where the Wild Things Are*), Mad Hatters (*Alice in Wonderland* comes out next year), people dressed as swine flu and Twilight characters. The funny part though is that every year the people who choose to dress up as these things think they're so original and cutting edge. In reality it makes them look like everyone else. Just give up and buy cat ears next year.



## Ugg Boots / Shorts Combination

For whatever reason some girls seem to think this is a good idea. Let me explain something to you: shorts are for warm weather and giant fluffy boots are for cold weather. When you wear them together you look like a brain-dead floozy who got dressed in the dark. Get it together.

## Faking the Flu

It's no secret that swine flu (oh sorry, I mean H1N1) mania has taken over campus. In each syllabus I was given there was a section pertaining to flu etiquette. Attendance has been thrown out the window in favor of public health. However, it seems that many healthy students are claiming that they're contagious messes when in reality they are just trying to get out of their schoolwork. Way to go, use a national concern for your own good. It's pathetic. Either man up and admit you're too damn lazy to do your work, or just get it in on time. It's not that hard. If I can do it, so can you.





# LURKING IN THE SHADOWS

T. Dane Carbaugh

As you may have read on our blog (“Sleeping with the Enemy” October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009) publisher emeritus Guy Simmons and I attended a meeting for OSPIRG down in the Survival Center of the EMU recently.

During that meeting the campus organizer for OSPIRG (paid-employee, non-student. I believe his name was Ben) told us how OSPIRG, even though it had been de-funded last year, was still operating on campus.

The OSPIRG people told us that the two remaining chapters—Lane Community College and Southern Oregon University—were the “other chapters” that they “bring all our funding from”. To simplify things, the collegiate

chapters pay their money into the state of Oregon OSPIRG, which then divides up that money to wherever they see fit. My conversation with the UO OSPIRG people went as follows:

Dane: Who do you get paid by?

OSPIRG Organizer: By other chapters and...

Dane: So they lumped it together or something?

OSPIRG Volunteer 1: Well, yeah. That’s the idea is that we bring all our funding from our different chapters and it’s one organization on a state level

Guy Simmons: (to Dane) OSPIRG... Oregon State PIRG

Dane: Ok

OSPIRG Volunteer 1: Yeah, so it’s all the chapters.

Dane: Now I get it

OSPIRG Volunteer Two: They’re still able to fund us, just not as much.

OSPIRG Volunteer One: Yeah. It reduces the “collective”

**OSPIRG**  
[www.ospirgstudents.org](http://www.ospirgstudents.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Do not text me

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year (circle one): Fr So Jr Sr Gr

I support OSPIRG! Keep me posted about stuff going on.

I want to come to an OSPIRG info session.  
*(circle day and time)*

Day:	Today	Tomorrow
Time:	12:15 3:15	5:15
OR:	Call Me	

EMU, Suite 1, Survival Center  
541-868-6882

The little yellow flyer OSPIRG has been handing out on campus.

Essentially, UO OSPIRG had told us that students from LCC and SOU were paying for the UO's hired staff and events. When I posted this information to our blog (10/19/09) I was contacted by a writer from SOU's paper *The Siskiyou*, Becky Gilmore.

Gilmore told me that she had contacted representatives from the SOU branch of OSPIRG that had told her that no money from SOU was being given to the UO branch. A concerned SOU parent, Steven Plunk, was told the same thing by

Obviously the two contradicting stories from the different chapters makes the entire organization look like it has something to hide. Why would the UO chapter tell us one thing, and the SOU chapter something different?

The situation further complicates itself when addressing UO OSPIRG's campus situation. Although they were defunded last year, OSPIRG is still occupying their office space in Suite 1 of the EMU—valuable office space that could be utilized by the many student groups that do not



SOU OSPIRG Chair Sarah Westover, “In response to your question, it is not in fact true that the other student chapters are/will be funding the U of O chapter.”

Of course, what the SOU representatives failed to explain was the manner in which OSPIRG funding and administration works. The SOU OSPIRG does not write a direct check to the UO OSPIRG, so saying “SOU does not pay the UO” is technically correct. But “technical” also often means “lacking transparency”. The state OSPIRG, which is funded by LCC and SOU, pays for the UO OSPIRG. If the SOU representatives wanted to be honest about how the funding situation worked, they would have told the aforementioned parties this detail.

currently have space of their own. Last year the organization failed to prove they were returning students’ money to campus and the ASUO decided to pull their funding.

ASUO programs, like the *Oregon Commentator*, are allowed to have office space in the EMU. The same goes for “ASUO Recognized” programs (student groups without I-fee funding) like the College Democrats. Lastly, contract groups like the *Daily Emerald* and ASUO Legal Services are allowed to have office space through their contract.

I spoke with EMU Director Dusty Miller about OSPIRG’s current residency situation,

# Student Groups Face Increased Scrutiny for ASUO Conference Funding

*The ASUO Executive spent over \$13,000 to send themselves to conferences last year.*

Scott Younker

Every year the ASUO spends millions of dollars of student money to fund various student groups, campus events and EMU repairs. In general, the funding is somewhat visible to the average student.

Student tickets to football and men’s basketball games, the biannual street fairs and the student publications like the *Commentator* are a few of the more tangible things that students can see. However, that’s only what students see. Many student groups on campus request and receive money to go to student conferences. Last year thirty-five groups on campus received over \$164,000 to attend various conferences here in Eugene and around the country.

ASUO President Emma Kallaway supports funding student trips to conferences because she believes that they can benefit the student body as a whole.

“They’ll bring pieces back for the individual, the group and hopefully that branches out to the student body,” she said.

Of course, not all groups ask for the same amounts. The American Institute of Architecture Students only asked for \$71.00 last year.

Some what surprisingly the student group that received and spent the most money on leadership conferences

last year was the ASUO Executive. They spent \$13,618.44 for two conferences.

A little less than \$150 was spent to attend the Northwest Student Leadership conference. The rest was spent on sending students to the USSA Conference this past summer.

Nine students were sent to the conference, eight of whom were members of the ASUO, two of who were on the executive staff. USSA conferences have been a source of controversy in the past.

In 2007 former senator Nate Gulley refused to abstain from a vote that sent him to a USSA conference in Hawaii. He attended with two other senators but the controversy stemmed from the fact that the resolution to provide \$2,000 for the senators to go passed by one vote. His voting aided in that resolution passing.

Admittedly, the senate isn’t generally as self serving. In the last couple of years the senate has started to question what sending small groups of students to conferences do for the greater student body.

“[Student groups] claim that they’ll bring back ideas, inspiration for ideas, and discourse into the classroom, it’s hard to measure the affect of that has on the student body,” says Senate President Nick Gower.

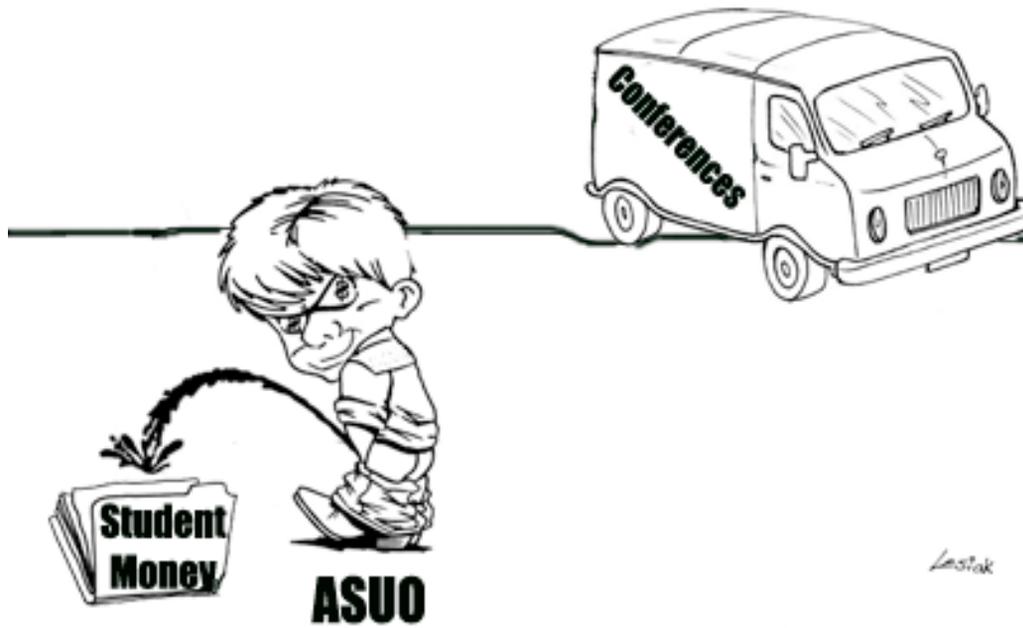
Before becoming Senate President earlier this year Gower was one of the more outspoken members of the senate who argued for questioning the benefit of conferences.

Early in the term the Senate reduced the amount that the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) asked for. They originally asked for \$3,735 but the Senate only granted them \$2,475.

“Some of the connections are tenuous at



**Emma Kallaway**  
ASUO President



best,” Gower says in reference to student group’s arguments about how they benefit campus.

So far this year though the Senate has split on funding conferences. The PRSSA was reduced while the upcoming Powershift ‘09 received the whole amount that they asked for, \$4,515.

The difference between the two is that the PRSSA conference is off campus while Powershift will be held here in Eugene. Also, Powershift supporters like OSPIRG and the Coalition Against Environmental Racism (CAER) fundraised for the event before contacting the ASUO.



**Nick Gower**  
Senate President

Kallaway believes that bringing Powershift to the UO will be a good thing.

“Because [Powershift] is being held at the UO it’s going to be kind of a Mecca center for environmental work for all of the West Coast,” she said.

Kallaway believes that getting the University’s name out positively will increase

the worth of the degrees from the school.

Even Gower is a proponent of conferences that happen on campus. He said that technically all students must be allowed to attend an event that is funded by the I-fee. This includes things like the Land Air Water Public Interest Environmental Law Conference held in the Knight Law Library.

While that particular conference is generally geared towards law students because a large chunk of it’s budget comes from the ASUO undergrads must be allowed to attend even if they choose not too. Despite that even larger conferences like the Land Air Water sponsored might see reduced funding.

“I think it’s representative of the budget crisis that we’re in,” Kallaway said. “Limited amount of surplus funds and no overrealized funds. In past years they could dig in to that and spread it around more.”



*Scott Younker is a senior contributor for the Oregon Commentator and knows who let the dogs out.*

“They aren’t an incidental fee funded group, an ASUO recognized group or a contract group—they aren’t allowed to have office space,” said Miller.

Since OSPIRG isn’t any of these groups, why were they still being allowed to use EMU office space? When I pointed out to Miller that there were many legitimate student groups that desired office space he added, “The cost of the office space—such as heating, cooling and electricity—is a burden on the EMU as well.”

OSPIRG has been in their office space all summer and into the fall, using EMU-paid utilities but they have yet to vacate the premises.

“That’s probably my fault. I didn’t get it on the EMU House Committee agenda fast enough last spring,” said Miller.

Unfortunately, he also told me that OSPIRG was allowed to keep their office space over the summer because not enough student members of the board were available to pass a binding resolution, “It was at the top of my list this fall, though. I had it on the agenda for fall term before school even started,” he said.

Miller admitted that mistakes were made as far as OSPIRG’s office situation went. When

I asked him what they were doing to remedy the problem he told me, “OSPIRG has been notified they are no longer allowed to do any kind of business in Suite 1 and they are to vacate. Meanwhile, the process has begun to choose a new program or programs to occupy that space.”

When asked how he was going to advertise the space and who was interested he said, “Well we already have four groups on a waiting list for space. We will be advertising in the EMU and hopefully we will be able to choose the right program for that spot.”

As far as OSPIRG goes on this campus, that remains up in the air. Its members, as far as I’ve seen, are still lurking down in Suite 1, not to mention the bombardment of their “re-funding” campaign including those delightful little yellow fliers I’m sure you’ve all been privy to seeing. I also have to question the organization’s transparency, as the situation regarding “where our money comes from” seems to be a question with rather murky answers.



*T. Dane Carbaugh is the Publisher of the Oregon Commentator and has a cute orange kitty named Tony.*

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# Swine Flu Over the Cuckoo's Nest

**Campus Warning – All people infected with H1N1 virus must report to the health center for processing and quarantine. Those not in compliance will be flu-shot on sight.**



Ian Summers

Causing campus-wide hysteria is a simple task. All it takes is a restriction of football tickets, alleged sweatshop use or a simple variation of the flu virus and people make drastic leaps-in-logic that would make even the Eugene Weekly proud. In the particular case of our current swine-flu “outbreak,” the mere possibility of people being infected has caused near panic on our campus and throughout our community.

Sales of hand sanitizer have gone through the roof, and everyone is rushing to get the H1N1 vaccine, which always seems to be in short supply. Including some people in Cottage Grove that waited in line for as long as 4 hours yesterday to be administered a shot. Seriously? Waiting in line for 4 hours? It’s a flu shot not a Star Wars film c’mon people. It seems that all it takes is a little virus rolling around and people just get itchy to shoot up with any semi-sketchy vaccine they can find, even one that contains weird ingredients like egg protein, formaldehyde, MSG, and Thimerosal (all of which are in the current H1N1 vaccine.)

Even the higher-ups at the University have freaked out and required syllabus revisions that allow for lax attendance policies and contain extensive information on the methods for preventing infection. What better way to encourage students to attend class than telling them that they will not be held accountable if they do not show up. Now everyone who has so much as a snuffle (or hangover) claims they are *Swinfected* and ducks out of class for a few days with little to no repercussions. I preferred it when cutting class took a bit more strategy, ingenuity, or downright apathy and wasn’t as easy as saying “Um, I think I might have the swine flu!”

Now these precautions would be warranted if there was a real health threat but H1N1 is nothing more than another example of media hype and the Mean World Syndrome in effect. Don’t believe

me? Here’s the proof: Not one of us at the OC has been infected. If the swine flu is really as hardcore as everyone is making it out to be than it would have surely latched-on at least one of the OC staffers by now.

Take me for instance, I generally consume copious amounts of alcohol, frequently smoke cigarettes, rarely exercise or shower, continuously pound coffee and sleep only the bare minimum of hours necessary for survival and have yet to come down with anything more than a manly cough. Normally I would put this down to dumb luck but since everyone else I know that shares my free-thinking lifestyle is also un-infected, I am pretty certain that the severity of H1N1 has been grossly exaggerated. Either that or my previous assumption that all the OC staffers are superhuman is true.

I guess I’ll get to my point about now. I find it disheartening that our campus community, people who are supposed to be “thought leaders of tomorrow” or some bullshit, are so easily freaked out by the media’s portrayal of a virus that is no more serious than the good ol’ influenza we all know and love. I am also discouraged that people’s ability to critically think is so easily disrupted every time a little “health threat” rolls around. Has the old adage of “don’t believe everything you read/see/tweet” been forgotten? My advice to everyone is to keep living it up and not worry about a virus that you may or may not get. Oh fuck! Someone just sneezed near me. Where’s my hand sanitizer?




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*Ian Summers is a contributor to the Oregon Commentator and believes that swine flu shots make children artistic.*

# Another Perspective

Chris McKee

*Another Perspective is the place the OREGON COMMENTATOR gives to students who are not connected with any campus media outlet a chance to make their voice heard, regardless of political affiliation, race or religion. We do not edit the submissions--they are printed as they are received and are accepted even if your ideology differs from ours. If you would like to write for AP, please e-mail us at ocomment@uoregon.edu*

For most of those who are reading this, Halloween has come and gone; costumes now sit in their closets once more, candy wrappers are sprawled across the floor, horror movies sit on the shelves once more and some are only recently starting to get over their hangovers.

It is under this false sense of security that most people assume the horrors that Halloween celebrates have come and gone. Now people are ready to return to writing their essays and finishing their midterms. In short, reality resumes at the University of Oregon.

But reality has some tricks up its sleeves for its students. A terror lingers in the shadows that threaten the University and its students. If Measures 66 and 67 get rejected in Oregon's special election on January 26, 2010, the state stands to lose more than \$700 million in public service funds, including a minimum loss of \$3 million for the University.

The story? In a press release published on October 8, Secretary of State Kate Brown announced that Measures 66 and 67 were qualified for a special election. These referenda were created as a challenge to HB 2649 and HB 3405 - tax increases that the 2009 Oregon Legislature passed.

To place a referendum on a statewide ballot requires four percent of the votes cast for governor in the previous election, or 55,179 valid signatures. In all, each respective measure received 98,842 and 99,471 valid signatures, or roughly 80 percent of all signatures submitted for verification.

So who exactly would be impacted by these tax increases anyways? In a state where the U.S. Census Bureau found the average

household income to be \$50,169 in 2008 - well below that of the other West Coast states - the great majority of Oregonians will not see their taxes increase. If anything, some might actually see their taxes decrease.

Measure 66, if passed, would increase the tax rate by 1.8 percent for household income above \$250,000 and personal income above \$125,000, while the tax rate would increase by two percent on household income above \$500,000 and personal income above \$250,000. Income taxes on the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits received in 2009 would be eliminated as well.

On the other hand, Measure 67, if passed, would raise the \$10 corporate minimum tax - which has not changed since 1931 - to \$150 for most businesses, or 0.1 percent of total Oregon revenue for corporations with total state revenue of over \$500,000. In addition, the corporate profits tax would increase by 1.3 percent. Corporations would only have to pay either the minimum tax or the profits tax, not both. Also, filing fees for Oregon business would increase by \$50, while fees would increase for out-of-state businesses by \$225.

If passed, these two measures should bring in an estimated \$727 million to fund education, health care, public safety, and other social services at their current levels. Measure 66 would bring in \$472 million, while Measure 67 would bring in another \$255 million.

In a year where states all across the nation must grapple with crippling budget deficits, many state governments have been forced to tighten their belts and cut back on government spending. The Center on Budget and Policy

Priorities reports that Oregon faces a \$4.2 billion deficit for its 2010-11 budget, or 29 percent of its \$14.6 billion general fund budget.

Even with stimulus money factored in, there are \$2 billion in proposed cuts in the budget, according to Portland news channel KGW. Since approximately 93 percent of the state general fund budget goes to the social services mentioned earlier, one can bet that these will be the areas most impacted by any budget cuts.

In fact, they already face serious budget problems. In particular, the University has increased its tuition and fees by about 15 percent from last year, according to an article by the Oregonian, to \$7,428 a year for full-time, in-state undergraduates. This is the highest of Oregon's tuition rates and the most dramatic of tuition increases. Although the increases are expected to bring in about \$33 million, the downside to this should be immediately obvious to the average student.

Measures 66 and 67 would ease the burden that many of us face by increasing the taxes that upper class Oregonians and businesses pay, while allowing our public universities and other statewide services to avoid further budget cuts. Not only that, but Oregon would increase its chances of receiving matching federal money by passing the ballot measures.

Anti-tax activists argue that passing these measures would further extend the progressive nature of Oregon's tax structure. While technically this is true, as far as state income tax is concerned, it is misleading.

Under current state law, Oregon has only three income tax brackets. Anyone making \$3,050/mo. or below pays five percent of their income; those who make \$3,051-7,600 pay seven percent, and anyone making above \$7,600 pays nine percent. Even if a new tax bracket is added for the richest Oregonians, the great majority of taxpayers in the state will continue to pay the same rate. Besides, the increased rates are expected to drop by 2012, when Oregon will have adopted a new budget, to 9.9 percent for the highest bracket of personal and household income, and one percent for the profits tax.

Another issue of concern for anti-tax activists is that the increasing of business taxes would encourage businesses to pack up

and move elsewhere. However, 75 percent of the current business profits tax is currently being paid by out-of-state corporations. The remaining 25 percent – businesses such as Nike and Columbia Sportswear – pay less taxes as a percent of gross state product than they would in Washington, Idaho, Nevada or California, and this will continue even if the measures pass. In fact, Washington's Business & Occupation tax, at .47 percent, is almost five times higher than the proposed minimum tax rate.

At any rate, however, the most important thing to keep in mind is the necessity to fix our budget gap so that our social services, including our colleges and universities, do not have to suffer further budget cuts. One need look no further than California to understand why. Facing an even greater deficit – at \$46.6 billion – the government placed four tax measures on the ballot that would have increased income and sales taxes, which voters famously rejected. Now California is forced to make further cutbacks in its social services while writing IOUs to its loaners.

As Americans we have a long, rich tradition of protesting any form of taxation that goes back to the colonial era, and certainly people continue to have the right to do so – as they should. However, what we as students and as Oregonians stand to lose far outweighs the concerns of the richest among us and out-of-state corporations. If we want to avoid the fate of California, we cannot allow anti-tax rhetoric to jeopardize our state budget and, along with it, our health, education, and safety.




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*Chris McKee is the Oregon Commentator's brand spankin' new AP writer.*

In our day and age today we are bombarded by “so-called” facts. Whether it’s a statistic about car crashes, a deadly illness, or a delicious beer, most of the time those facts are taken and a viewpoint is formed on why “this” is bad for us or why we shouldn’t do “that.” Some people take those facts and just spit them out without thinking. The problem with this is you can basically take any fact and form it into whatever opinion suits your need. I decided to take facts from a so-called “bad” subject and form my own “positive” view on them.

So I present...

# On the Bright Side Of: GLOBAL WARMING

by Pete Lesiak

The Northern hemisphere has experienced a temperature rise of 1 °C to 3 °C over the last 50 years and Canada, Alaska and Russia are experiencing initial melting of permafrost.

**Vladimir E. Romanovsky**  
Associate Professor  
Geophysical Institute UAF

I have always thought of vacationing in Russia during spring break, but I’ve never been able to bust out my new banana hammock due to the ice. Hopefully now that the temperature keeps rising I can whip it out, glorious tan and all, for those pale Ruskies to gawk at. Similarly, I feel a rise in temperature would keep me from having to buy a new sweater every fall because I lost the one from last year. This not only gives me more money to buy beer, but Global Temperature Rise is also killing child labor in third world countries. Think about it, if I don’t buy the sweater every year, why should some big whig company make it? In fact, everyone should just focus on making sandals and swimsuits because that’s all we will really need to wear in the future if things keep going at this rate.

NASA satellite data shows that there has been a 50% decrease of perennial Arctic ice between February 2007 and February 2008.

**Walt Meier**  
National Snow and Ice Data Center

I believe that means there is still 50% left for margaritas....

The rise in global temperature is endangering Arctic wildlife such as Polar Bears and Emperor Penguins, forcing them to the edge of extinction.

**Steven Amstrup**  
**Celine Le Bohec**  
Arctic Biologists

Finally, I’m glad to hear there is finally justice for Polar Bear attack victims everywhere. Also those damn penguins will finally stop putting me to sleep on animal planet with there constant marching, and I can get back to watching what’s really important... Animal Attack Videos!

One of the more certain consequences of human-induced climate change through the twenty-first century is a global-mean rise in sea-level of up to 1 m.

**J.A. Church**  
Cambridge University Press

In my opinion this just means a beach closer to home. So start buying property inland, because when sweet mama ocean washes away that mess of sin and filth we call California and the East Coast, you and I can sit on our ocean side paradise and pound back Corona's. Also when you think about it, we could all be living in Waterworld someday. You remember that movie? It's hard to turn down gills, especially when Kevin Costner shows us how we could all be bad ass mutant fish men. I'M AQUAMAN BITCHES!!

Due to increased CO2 levels in the atmosphere, ocean acidification levels will rise endangering aquatic life...

**The Royal Society**  
London,UK

Since all the fish are being killed off anyway, I don't feel so bad pissing in the ocean over and over again. That and dumping chemical waste... I for one also feel safer knowing that sooner or later I will be able to swim in the ocean without the fear of a feisty fish swimming up my shorts or being molested by an aroused dolphin.

**There is a lot more where that came from, but in reality I don't think global warming is a good thing. I don't want all the polar bears to die and I don't want the entire coasts of North America to drown in a torrent of cleansing ocean. Ok maybe California a little, but that's beside the point. What I'm trying to say is don't accept everything some stranger with a fancy degree or title tells you, or any stranger in that matter. Think for your self and do a little research into a topic and then form your own opinion, because for all you know they might just be throwing out quotes from wikipedia. How do you know I didn't do that also? Do your research, use your brain, and be an individual.**

**Independent thought is our only true freedom... use it.**

# SPEW... and a big win...

## ON FOLLOWING THE RULES

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“The biggest mistake made by American police chiefs is to issue Tasers to paranoid police officers.”

~Bob Saxton in a letter titled “Paranoid Response” in the Eugene Weekly. Tasers? What about issuing guns to paranoid police officers?

“And come to think of it, kids seem to have an inordinate interest in spanking in any case, whether or not Mom and/or Dad practice corporal punishment. Why is that?”

~Chuck Kleinhans writes to the Eugene Weekly. Why do you have such a vast knowledge of spanking young children Chuck?

“Please keep small people out of dog parks, regardless of the size of the canines allowed inside.”

~Height-ist Karin Timmermans writes to the Eugene Weekly. You midget-haters make us sick.

## ON ELEPHANTS

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“When giddy cars full of children and adults pull up to the Wildlife Safari in Winston, Ore., soapy elephants greet them, spraying water over the hood of the car with their comical trunks and clumsily running a sponge over the windows.

While the scene may seem harmless, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals begs to differ.”

~An excerpt from an article in the Ol’ Dirty about an elephant car wash. Clearly, the people at PETA have never been to an elephant car wash. If they did, they’d see how fucking awesome it is.

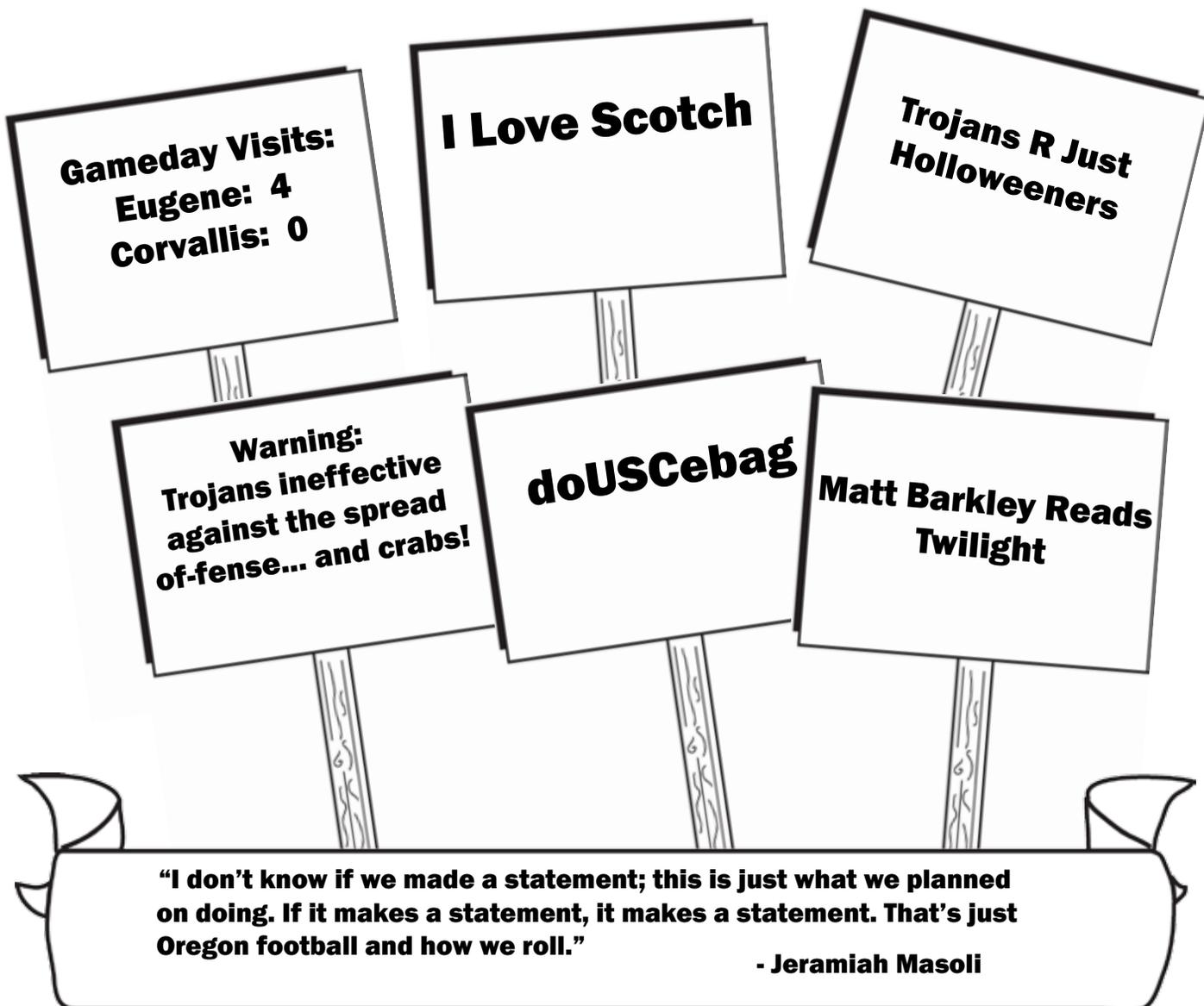
“I don’t think they should even be able to own elephants.”

~University of Oregon senior Lacey Reddick as quoted in the same article. Not be able to own elephants? Jealousy is an ugly emotion.

# ESPN COLLEGE GAMEDAY SIGNS

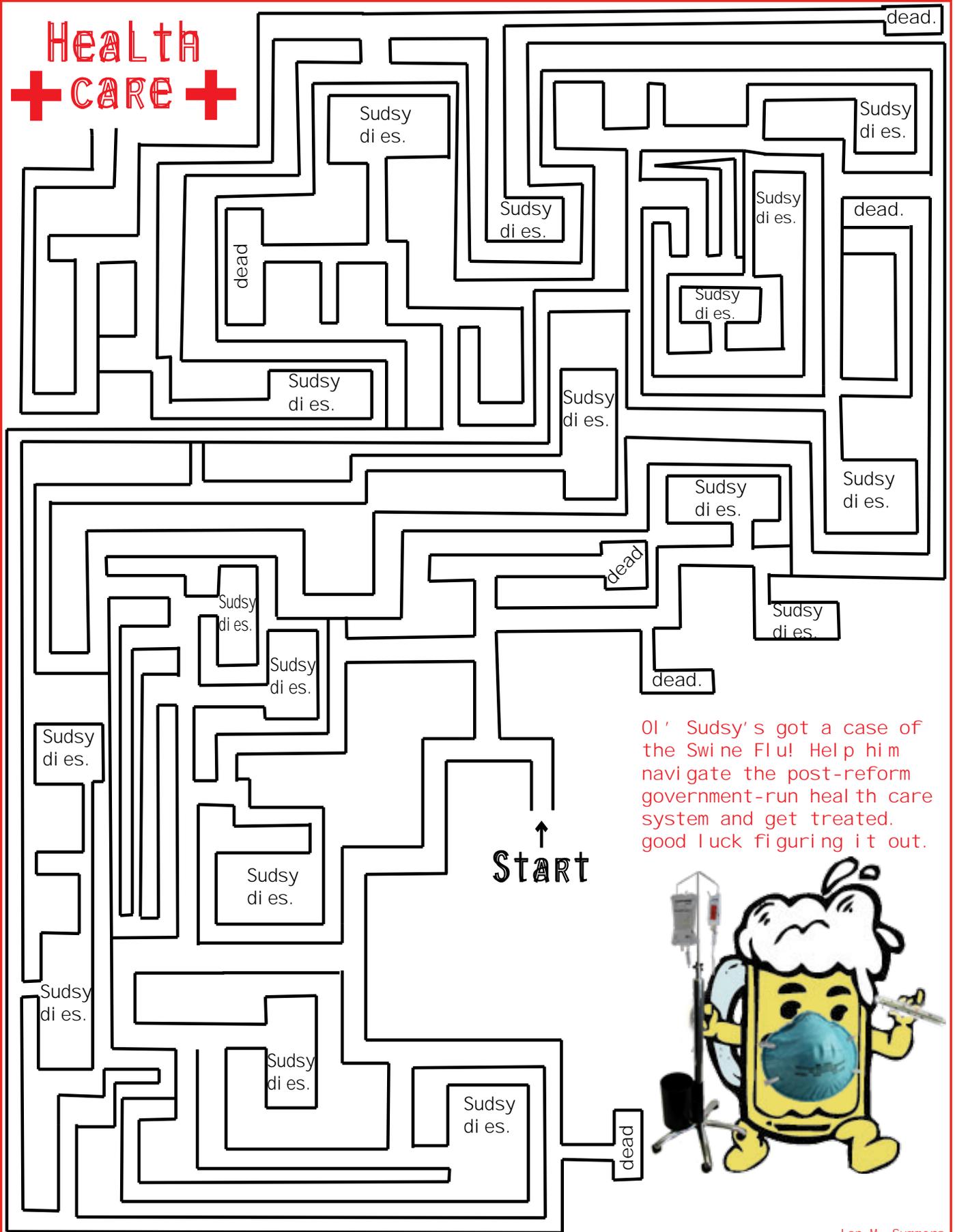
OREGON 47  
USC 20

*On Halloween day ESPN's College Gameday showed up at Autzen Stadium. The following is a list of signs held by members of the crowd, courtesy of the "That Fan" blog ([thatfan.wordpress.com](http://thatfan.wordpress.com))*



# LEST WE FORGET...

Health  
+ CARE +



Ol' Sudsy's got a case of the Swine Flu! Help him navigate the post-reform government-run health care system and get treated. good luck figuring it out.

