

# The Summer Barometer

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Partly cloudy, chance of rain  
High 72, Low 53

## MOVING STILLS

Diversions, 8 • From the serious to the silly, OSU has a variety of statues

## STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

Forum, 5 • Ten Pas vs. LaPlante: Two regular Baro columnists duke it out on the issue of gun control in America

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.

Wednesday, July 5, 2000

Vol. CV No. 3

## Firefighters-in-training learn safety procedures at ODF school

Christen McCurdy

The Summer Barometer

Firefighters from all over the state travelled to Jewell, Ore. last week for four days of heat, rigorous exercise and intensive training — at the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire-fighting school.

The students — about 65 in all — spent June 26 through 29 learning safety procedures and gaining controlled hands-on experience with forest fires. Students came from firefighting districts all over Oregon to learn basic safety and firefighting skills. Instructors said they would build on those skills when they returned to fight fires in their home districts during the fire season, which began July 1.

"They'll go back to their home districts and get safety training and hands-on experience," said Mark Reed, incident information officer and timber sale forester. "That's a real valuable tool in firefighting."

ODF uses many college students to fight fires in the summer, since wildland fires are a seasonal problem which coincides well with being out of school, Reed said.

"A lot of us are here on internship programs," said Ben Harlow, a University of Idaho student who will spend his summer fighting fires. "ODF visited UI, OSU, Humboldt State and other schools with strong forestry programs to recruit interns."

"It's really a great way to get into the department and see what they're all about," Harlow said.

A number of OSU students and alumni attended the camp, including Laurie Brown, who graduated OSU in 1998 with a degree in wildlife science.

"I love the position, and the training is good," Brown said. "I've been working in the field of natural resources for 11 years, but I was never able to get involved with the firefighting aspect of it."

The training is spread over four days and culminates in a controlled fire fought by students on the last day. Prior to that, they were taught about and given practice with chainsaws, fire tanks and mop-ups — areas where the surface fire has been put out, but the actual fire continues to burn.

Students who participate in the training wear chaps, gloves, long-sleeve shirts, eye protection, earplugs and eight-inch boots — which, while far from being ideal summer wear, protect them from serious burns and injuries.

Firefighters use chainsaws to clear logs that may cause a fire hazard, such as those lying across forest paths.

"It's a very dangerous tool, and if not used properly, you can cut your leg off or do some



E.J. HARRIS/The Daily Barometer

ODF firefighters train on wildland firefighting tactics in the hills outside Jewell, Ore. in a four-day exercise that will prepare them for the year's coming fire season.

very serious damage," Reed said. The students were given basic experience running the chainsaws and sawing off pieces of a practice log.

Students also learned to handle tanks of extinguisher foam. While the tanks used vary from district to district, ODF will typically respond to a fire with a 200-gallon engine, backed up by a 500-gallon engine.

ODF uses a specially formulated foam to fight fires, which increases the surface area of the water and thus the department's firefighting capabilities. It also coats firewood to keep the remaining embers from catching on fire.

"It's not toxic," Reed said. "It's just soap. But we don't use it if there's any possibility it will end up in the rivers or the streams."

Instructors at the training camp also lit a pile of logs early in the morning and the surface fire was quickly extinguished. At the end of the day, students were given experience with mop-up. Students used hand tools to sift

through burnt logs and embers and make sure the fire was really out.

"This is the closest we can get to the real thing under a controlled situation," said Rolf Erlandson, one of the instructors supervising the mop-up session.

"It's slow and laborious and takes a lot of time, but it is obviously necessary because you can put the surface out and I guarantee you'll come back and find the fire has regenerated," Reed said. "I've seen it happen. You have to go over every log, turn over every stump."

Reed said that above all, ODF emphasizes safety — both in its professional training and public education concerns — and wanted to remind students to take safety issues under consideration this season.

"It's good to start thinking about safety concerns, like fireworks. And a campfire that's not in a designated campground is not a good idea."



## OSU investigates potential anti-sweatshop actions

Maija Gunderson

The Summer Barometer

Last April, the University of Oregon became one of many universities in the country to join the Worker's Rights consortium. The decision was made in response to the voices of students who demanded the university take a stand in the campaign against exploitative labor practices.

The struggle against sweatshops has eluded major media attention but student demonstrators across the country have begun to demand that the presidents of schools like Georgetown, Harvard, and Michigan investigate the production of their goods.

OSU is now among that crowd. OSU President Paul Risser has assigned a task force

under the leadership of the Vice President for Finance and Administration, Robert Specter to identify all reasonable options for the university.

Options open to the university are many and, as students at UO are aware, can carry a variety of consequences. Organizations such as the Worker's Rights Consortium (WRC) and the Fair Labor Association (FLA) are often considered.

According to Risser, the WRC currently excludes businesses from their proposed negotiating and monitoring processes, which reduces the potential for influencing the actions of contractors.

The FLA, on the other hand, is more inclusive but has not yet been completely successful in securing public disclosure of factory addresses for apparel companies and contractors.



Week one: The problem

Week two: OSU's solutions

Seventeen colleges — including Duke, Notre Dame, and Princeton — have announced they would join the FLA. Some universities who feel that the standards enforced by the these organizations are weak have decided on a two-track system that allows them to join the group but continue to press the licenses directly. That means they will be able to insist on stronger standards. For students at the UO, the WRC was determined to be the

best option.

"We did not join until the issue had been reviewed for some months by a campus committee that included faculty, students, and alumni, and recommendations had been registered by student government and a vote of the University Senate," said UO President Frohnmayer in an internal e-mail.

The merits of these organizations need to be assessed and ultimately compared to the values and principles of the individual university. The OSU task force will investigate both groups to determine their effectiveness in promoting appropriate reform, Risser said.

According to Human Rights For Workers, the goal of the anti-sweatshop campaign is not to shut down foreign factories but to lift up the conditions within them.

The Summer Barometer

The Daily Barometer (USPS 411-460) is published Monday thru Friday except holidays and final exam week during the academic school year; weekly during Summer Term; one issue last full week in August; one issue week prior to Fall Term in Sept. by the Oregon State University Student Media Committee on behalf of the Associated Students of OSU, at Memorial Union East, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331-1617. Subscriptions are \$42 per year.

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NEWS

New Greek life director forsees many challenges

Bob Kerr will oversee all fraternities, sororities and independent cooperatives

Kristie DeRoia

The Summer Barometer

A barbecue was held Thursday evening to welcome Bob Kerr to Oregon State University.

Kerr, a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, will be OSU's new Greek life coordinator. His position, which was being temporarily filled by Will Keim, will officially begin July 17.

We have a social movement that is 2,400 years old with a threatened existence.

Bob Kerr,  
New Greek life coordinator

number one choice," Kerr said about the job opportunities he explored after finding out that his position in Colorado was being cut. He was determined to continue working at the collegiate level. Kerr said he has always enjoyed working with students and helping them to succeed.

Kerr has an extensive history in Greek life. He has, in fact, been at it for 30 years.

"It is a turbulent time nationally in Greek life," Kerr said. "We have a social movement that is 2,400 years old with a

Kerr comes to OSU from the University of Northern Colorado where he has been employed since 1996 working in campus programs and Greek life.

"OSU was absolutely my

number one choice," Kerr said about the job opportunities he explored after finding out that his position in Colorado was being cut. He was determined to continue working at the collegiate level. Kerr said he has always enjoyed working with students and helping them to succeed.

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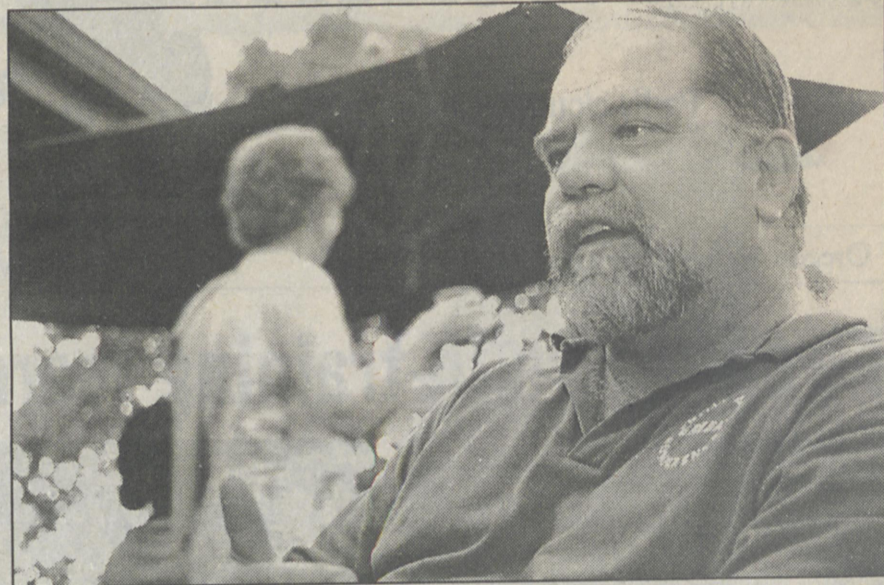


Photo by xxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxx

Bob Kerr talks about his goals for Greek organizations at a welcome barbecue held Thursday. He'll begin his duties on July 17.

threatened existence. Oregon State is in a position to do something extraordinary."

To this end, Kerr's goals include helping students use what he calls "competitive energy" to get involved in their communities.

Kerr said he's a strong advocate for student involvement. With November elections just around the corner, Kerr would like to see students use their right to vote.

As the new Greek life coordinator Kerr will be expected to work closely

with the department of student involvement at OSU. His responsibilities will include providing administrative support and consultation for 40 Greek organizations and privately-owned cooperatives.

Kerr expressed a great deal of excitement about beginning his new position. "I wish I was starting today," he said.

Kerr attended the welcome barbecue while in town to make housing arrangements.

Kerr is also a published author and poet.

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NEWS

Consuming culture (and hotdogs)



Sean Hanrahan

OSU students, staff and faculty members attended a cultural center kick-off barbecue Thursday afternoon. The event, held at the Black Cultural Center, celebrated the reopening of the centers for summer term.

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**New owner ruffles Peacock's feathers**

Linda Culbertson

The Summer Barometer

For some Corvallis university students, the Peacock is more than a downtown bar — it's an institution.

Upstairs, The Top of the Peacock — in fact an entirely separate bar from the one downstairs — has become a popular late night hangout, complete with beer, music and dancing.

And, according to new owner John Carter, a little too much rowdiness.

"It's gone downhill quite a bit since it was one of Playboy's top picks," said Carter, an OSU graduate.

That was in 1997.

"It's called 'The Top of the Cock' right now, which I think is a little lewd. Frankly, it's developed a bad rep," Carter said. "Unofficially, they call it 'The Dirty Bird'."

To combat that image, Carter said he will spend \$100,000 to renovate the Top of the Peacock.

"We're putting in new carpets and new couches and 25 new TVs," he said.

He expects to have the remodel done by September. A contest to rename the bar will continue until Dec. 31.

Among Corvallis students, reactions to the impending name-change are mixed.

India King, a student at Linn Benton Community College didn't like the idea of changing the name.

"They're not renaming The Top of the 'Cock?'" she asked. "A lot of people will be mad if they do."

But OSU student Jeff Belder thinks a more appropriate name is a good idea.

"It makes no sense to have a name that has nothing to do with the business," he said.

Former Peacock owner Tommy Connor didn't feel a name-change would stick for the bar's most common clientele.

"It'll always be The Top of the 'Cock," he said. "The kids gave it that name."

Connor did acknowledge the need to make changes at the bar.

"I'm excited for Johnny," he said. "The Peacock needs to go in a new direction, and I believe he's the one to do it."

Carter said he still wants students to consider The Top of the Peacock their hangout, but he wants them to be in a clean, safe atmosphere.

Once that task is complete, he said he'll move to fixing up the downstairs.

"We're going to put in a new bar downstairs, big windows in the front and tiles on the floor" he said. "We will have spent about \$250,000 by the time we're done."

The bar will remain open throughout the renovation, Carter said.

**Quit Line helps 15,000, some OSU students**

Melia Cox

The Summer Barometer

After 20 years of smoking Mary Martin decided to quit for her 40th birthday. The Oregon State University senior became one of the 15,000 Oregonians who have called the The Oregon Tobacco Quit Line in the past 18 months.

After seeing a story on the news Martin picked up the phone and called.

"I wanted to quit for my daughter," she said. "I didn't want to become a burden on her in my older age due to smoking-related illnesses. I just couldn't imagine myself carrying around an oxygen tank just to keep breathing."

The quit line provides a trained counselor to talk to people who need help taking the first step in quitting.

"They were extremely helpful in finding me opportunities that were in my financial means," Martin said. "They referred me to a group in Washington that my insurance would pay for."

Martin was set up with a counselor that helped create a plan specifically for her.

"I always got to speak with the same counselor — it was very personal," she said. "She was an ex-smoker as well and I could really relate to her."

The quit line will provide a free Oregon Tobacco Quit Kit, which includes a worry stone and other helpful tools to keep smokers' hands busy.

"People need to have something to pull on, unwind, or bend," said Doug Pitts, a smoking counselor with the quit line. "Anything to keep their hands busy helps because a lot of smoking behavior involves manipulation."

"I only smoke in social situations and at times of stress, like during finals weeks and when I go out with friends," said Pat Irvin, a senior at OSU.

Martin understands the reasons behind smoking, but she feels the long term effects are not worth it.

"I know about the emotional ties to smoking and I know about trying to relieve stress, but I just couldn't go on being a bad example for my daughter," she said. "I remember how proud my daughter is of me when I think about having a cigarette. Instead I saved the money from not smoking and bought us bikes and helmets."

The specific program the Oregon Quit Line offers is not available in any other state.

"Anyone who lives in Oregon and wants to quit can call us for free and talk for 20 or 30 minutes" Pitts said.

The program is funded by a tobacco tax increase that was approved by voters in 1996. Ten percent of the new revenue is allocated to tobacco use prevention and reduction. Oregonians who want to quit can call toll free 1-877-270-STOP.

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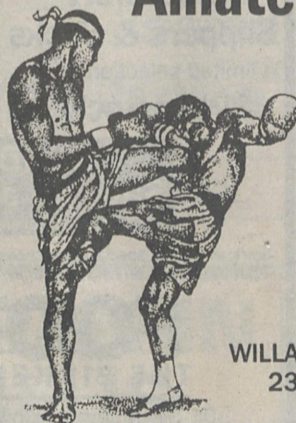
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## EDITORIAL

### Like kittens stuck in an ethics tree, so too are the jobs of our lives

We all got together and decided that we like firefighters.

For one thing, they put out fires. We all generally agreed that was a good thing.

They also drive cool trucks and wear red suspenders.

Firefighters are just easy to like.

So why not journalists?

For one thing, we, um, well we, yeah...

The simple fact is that some jobs are easy to like (read: pre-school teacher) while others are scorned (read: lawyer).

Whether there is any legitimacy to that is another question.

What makes a job likable or dislikable? When we say that we hate politicians, do we really mean that we hate politicians? Do we really think that, on average, politicians are not nice people while, on average, forest rangers are nice people?

Truth be known, there are bad firefighters and good lawyers, bad preschool teachers and (believe it or not) good journalists.

Truth be known, there is bad and good in the world, and it goes beyond what people choose to do for a living.

Some jobs require people to deal with ugly truths that most of us would like to forget. Politicians have to compromise their ideals because compromising is their job. Journalists sometimes have to reveal unflattering information about people because they have to report the truth. Lawyers have to argue their case as best they can regardless of what the truth is — that's how the system is set up.

While it's difficult to take care of children and save them from fires, there's little moral ambiguity involved in choosing those careers. Good journalists, lawyers and politicians have to ask themselves whose interests they really serve, and will do so on a daily basis. Just as many of them choose not to, or choose to serve the wrong interests altogether.

But the criteria that make a good firefighter or a good teacher are set. A good preschool teacher cares about children, and goes the extra mile to make sure they succeed. It's cut and dry. A firefighter knows that his or her job is to tame the flames.

We know bad firefighters and bad teachers when we see them, because they come into the profession with the wrong intentions. But at least we know what their intentions should be.

It's a little tougher to say what makes a good politician, a good journalist, a good attorney. The public just doesn't have a criteria by which to judge them...uh, us rather.

We at The Summer Barometer like to encourage a healthy ambiguity. That is, assume the best about a person, regardless of what he or she does for a living.

That's not to say that we're naive. We realize how many Jesse Helms there are out there, turning the word politician into a profanity. But we're also not foolish enough to believe that that's the only kind there are.

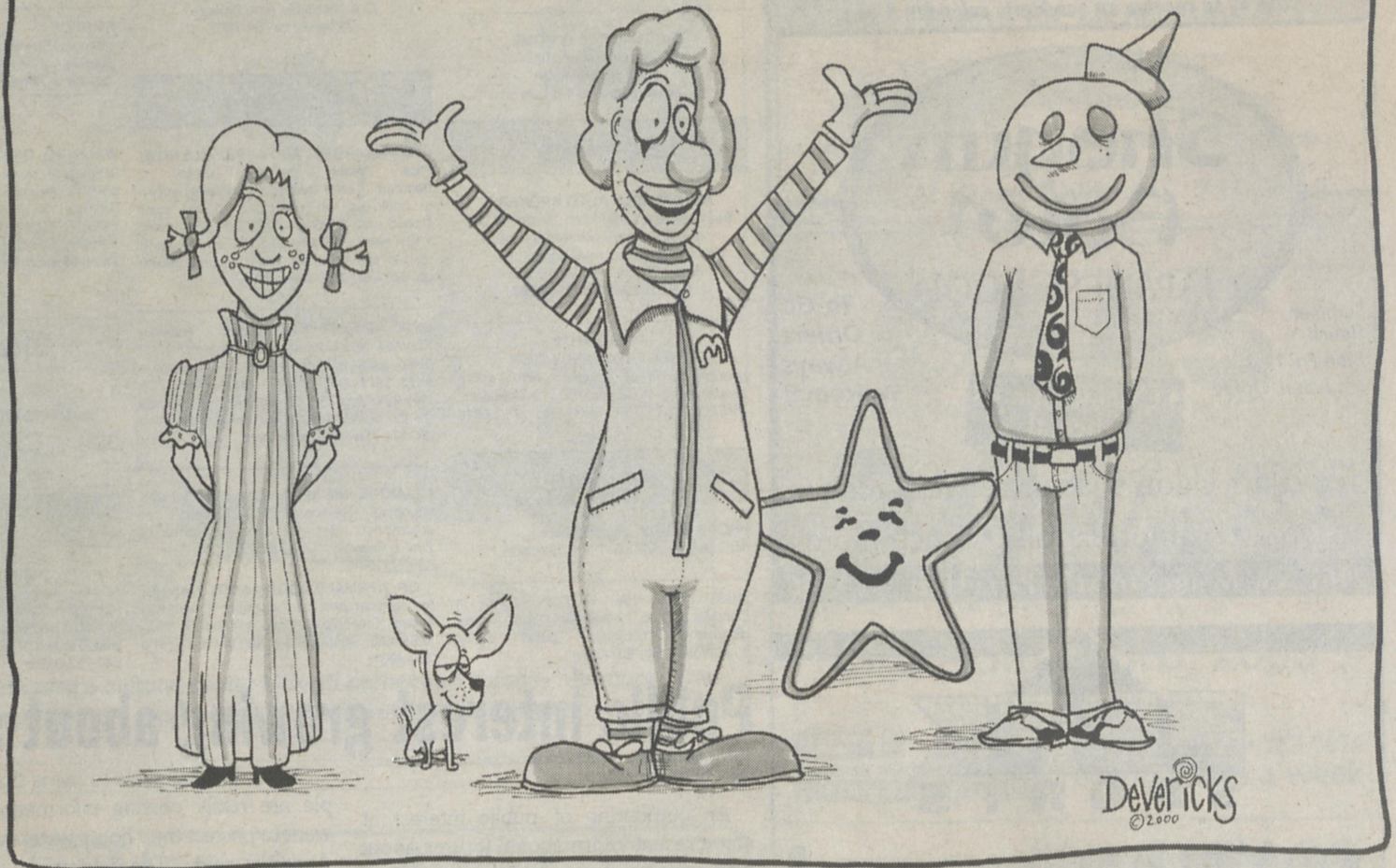
And to all the evil, self-serving firefighters out there who know that rescuing cats from trees is a great way to get chicks: We're on to you.

The opinions expressed in this editorial are those of The Summer Barometer editorial board.

- Matthew D. LaPlante
- Sean Hanrahan
- Nick Heydenrych
- Christen McCurdy
- Kara Sutton-Jones
- Jake Ten Pas

<Baro.News@studentmedia.orst.edu>

## JUST A FEW REASONS AMERICANS ARE OVERWEIGHT



### Getting a shot out: Gun Control

#### Second Amendment as sacred to gunowners as First is to me

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution states, "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of the free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." While the language and reasoning sound a bit out-dated to my modern ears, I passionately support the principle represented therein.

But save that "I gotta' have my guns to help defend my family against the U.S. Government," survivalist crap for the tourists. I'm not buying it.

If our government wanted to ban breathing without officially certified breathing permits, you know what? It would, and you'd like it.

#### Vs. Columnist



JAKE TEN PAS

And if you didn't like it, it wouldn't really matter anyway, because our government could squash any demonstration you could possibly imagine, and then have the corporate media spin it so you would look like some kind of mentally unbalanced fanatic for wanting your unalienable right to clearly privately owned air.

Idealism is no excuse. Janet Reno can and will do whatever she wants to, so quit the militia, brew yourself some strong coffee and take reality for a test drive.

There are soft spots in the fat, bloated, dragon-like belly of the U.S. Government, just waiting for a crafty archer to come along and penetrate them with a well-placed arrow. And they're not as hard to find as you might think. Take the Constitution, for instance.

Though Charlton Heston chooses to ignore this principle, the Constitution was drafted to help protect a particular set of rights that any responsible citizen of this country should unquestionably possess. So what if the founding fathers had some ulterior motives for creating the constitution? In the long run, it has proven to be an invaluable ally to those who treasure their civil rights.

And whatever you do, don't forget that there are gun owners out there who treasure their right to bear arms every bit as much as: the devout worship their right to freedom of religion, the dissatisfied appreciate their right to assemble and petition, and writers like me cherish their right to free speech and press.

Maybe the idea of a militia is a bit outdated. Does that change the wording of the Constitution? No. And to be honest, I wouldn't go back and rewrite history even if I could. The fact is that the right to own guns is protected by that document, and even if militias are as outdated as wooden teeth, I'll protect that right lest other portions of the Constitution be altered as well.

I don't own a gun, and I have absolute no desire to alter that situation in the future. But that doesn't mean that I can take my individual set of beliefs and graft them onto the Constitution, let alone another person's life. I support my neighbor's right to bear arms, and I hope that in turn, he'll support my right to attack everything he holds dear in the paper each week.

#### Military and police policy obsoleted right to bear arms

Charlton Heston was elected this year to a third term as President of the National Rifle Association.

A third term — the NRA's constitution only allows for two terms. The group voted to change that so that Moses could keep walking on water.

Mixed religious metaphors aside, I would like to make clear that the NRA's constitution is in no way as sacred to me as that of our nation. But, Charlie's third term does serve to illustrate a point: constitutions can change.

Our forefathers saw to it that this was the case. That's why we have the Second Amendment — that's what an amendment is — a change.

It is when constitutions can not change that a people is truly in danger of oppression. Change is the reason why our Constitution has lasted where others have failed. It is also why gun control does not panic me.

If our forefathers could have foreseen drive-bys and school shootings, other provisions would have been made. They didn't.

But the provision that was made was made with the mind that a people might be able to rise up as a well-regulated militia to stop tyrannical rulers. The Second Amendment was designed to protect the right of potential militia members to store their weapons. It was designed to protect a people's right to protect it's freedom.

But we no longer define freedom as an absence of domestic tyranny. Our military does not defend us from our tyrannical rulers, but rather protects our nation's interests — mostly overseas.

And the technologies developed to help enforce that policy — assault weapons and attack helicopters and nuclear weapons — have rendered the Second Amendment obsolete.

Even an extremely well-armed militia — lets say the Branch Davidians — cannot defend itself from tyranny.

I will not bother to describe the scene in Waco, Texas on April 19, 1993 — you've seen the tape. There was a day when a man could defend his family and his property with a gun. That day has gone.

The Second Amendment is obsolete.

That is not to say that public-ownership of firearms should be banned, but that a blanket Constitutional right to own almost any kind of weapon in any quantity no longer protects a people from the government. It only protects a society that watches each month as another few people are killed by firearms.

If the government wants you, they can come and get you. You can be very well armed, but you will never be that well armed.

That's not the fault of those who favor gun-control, but rather those who allowed our nation's military to get so powerful and our nation's federal police forces to go with them.

Maybe, as we change the Second Amendment, we might want to consider changing that as well.

#### Vs. Guest




MATT LAPLANTE

# Vs.

Each week, award-winning Barometer columnist Jake Ten Pas will square off against a guest columnist in "Vs." The opinions expressed in Vs. are those of Jake Ten Pas and Matt LaPlante. Comments can be sent via e-mail to <Baro.Forum@studentmedia.orst.edu> Please include you name and phone number in any response.

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**Public interest growing about safety of well water**

OSU News Services

An outpouring of public interest at some recent informational forums about well water suggests there are a lot of Oregonians who are concerned — often with good reason — that their drinking water is not safe, and want to find out what they can do about it.

Several "Well Water Clinics" operated by the Home-A-Syst program at Oregon State University recently concluded in the central Willamette Valley. About 1,000 concerned residents attended those and other sessions. This was "a level of interest that was far more than we had anticipated," said Gail Glick Andrews, an Extension water quality educator with the OSU Department of Bioresource Engineering.

"What this indicates to me is that people are really craving information and want to protect their home water supply," Andrews said. "The odd thing is that many of them thought they were the only ones who didn't know much about this issue. The reality is that many or most people are poorly informed."

One major step that could help address that problem, Andrews said, is new information available on the Internet that will help people learn what they can do to protect their well water supplies. The web address is <osu.orst.edu/extension/wellwater>.

According to Andrews, as many as one-fourth to one-half of the private wells in the state have surface contaminants in them. In some areas, up to three wells out of four may have problems or the users have concerns about nitrate levels.

And with summer approaching, Andrews said, the time is ideal for people to inspect their well systems, have the water tested and make any necessary changes or repairs while the weather cooperates.

"The most basic thing that people don't understand about private water supply is that they personally are the regulator, inspector, maintenance manager, accountant and consumer," Andrews said. "This is not something that's taken care of by some government agency. So if people want clean, safe water to drink from a private well, no one else is going to do anything about it."

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**CD KORNER**

**Groove's party tracks could bring underground over**

A techno compilation that actually works, the soundtrack to Groove might surprise some otherwise techno-phobics

**Chad Keller**

The Summer Barometer

Digging up the underground for pop culture enjoyment, I found that the new soundtrack from the independent feature film "Groove" emits a positive vibe and funky-disco beats typical of subterranean rave culture.

"Groove", produced by Sony Pictures, is the first feature film to explore the complexities of the uniquely 90s subculture known as raving. The movie focuses on three specific characters of San Francisco's eccentric youth, who go on to experience an unpredictable and memorable night in the Bay Area's fabulous underground rave scene. But the makers of Groove did more than release an urban dance documentary, they also put out an accompanying soundtrack that offers a change of atmosphere as well as 12 solid tunes of disco-funky house and trance.

You might think these underground events are a way to connect to your innermost expressions, or you might think it's just a bunch of drug-crazed youth jumping around with funny things that glow in the dark. But whatever you think about the all-night dance phenomenon known as raves, the makers of the new movie "Groove" are out to prove

that you can't ignore the music. Brimming with energetic rave anthems and an added live mix effect, "Groove's" soundtrack rises above and beyond the common flick album. I'm not saying there haven't been techno soundtracks before (Hackers, Mortal Kombat, and The Matrix to name a few), but with normal flick CDs you always get stuck with those out-of-place tracks by random artists that all of a sudden wreck any and all unity that the soundtrack had going for it.

The soundtrack to "Groove", on the other hand, redefines itself as exactly the opposite of these other compilation blunders. The CD employs the mixing merits of veteran DJ WishFM (a.k.a. Wade Hampton) of San Francisco, to provide a continuous mix format, layering each song into the next, and ultimately creating a whole album experience rather than the normal stale song roster. The live DJ aspect of the soundtrack adds to the entire mood of the album and pushes the listener forward into the hard-to-capture, synergistic rave atmosphere, an element that the actual movie counterpart is striving to convey.

Displaying his signature mixing style, WishFM builds the album's energy step by step beginning with mellow, disco-style lounge jams, then ascending to progressive house beats, and finally climaxing with such HI-NRG trance anthems as Orbital's "Halcyon + On + On", Libra Presents Taylor's notorious hit "Anomaly — Calling Your Name", and Bedrock's trance delight "Heaven Scent."



**Groove: The Soundtrack**

**ALBUM:** Groove: The Soundtrack  
**LABEL:** Kinetic Records in conjunction with Sony Pictures  
**FEATURING:** Orbital, Bedrock and others.  
**VALUE-TO-YOU:** An enthusiastic \$19.32

But the CD doesn't just pay homage to big name artists. Both the constructing and wind-down portions of WishFM's set introduce the fresh faces of disco/house newbies such as Baby D Love, DJ Garth with E.T.I., Hybrid and W — who actually performs one of the most danceable downtempo tracks on the album, "Duke's Up."

You don't have to be a basshead to appreciate these tunes; even the most techno-phobic can enjoy the uplifting party tracks delivered on the movie's compilation release. With its continuous high-energy mix and big name line-up, the soundtrack to Groove provides an unbeatable dance compilation for the buck.

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# OSU DIVERSIONS

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Joy Selig

## Still History

Story by Nicholas Heydenrych

Photos by Sean Hanrahan

The Summer Barometer

When people think of the Fourth of July, they imagine fireworks, flags and barbecues.

But Independence Day is also about history and what brings us together as a nation. With that in mind, we took a look at some of the statues around campus and the history behind them.

The statues on the Oregon State University campus have a wide range of artistic and historic themes. That range includes the solemn reclining figure outside of the library — dedicated to the plight of refugees — and the contagious smile of Benny the Beaver inside the Memorial Union commons.

Some statues are there simply for artistic value, but most have a story behind them. One such story is told by the statue “The Quest,” which depicts Alice E. Biddle. In 1870, Biddle was the first female to graduate from Corvallis College, now known as OSU.

Another story is that of gymnast Joy Selig. Selig was a three-time National Collegiate Athletic Association Champion, seven-time NCAA All-American and four-time Academic All-American. A statue was erected in her honor in 1994.

Other statues, such as that of Benny the Beaver, have a history of a much lighter tone.

According to OSU staff archivist Carl McCreary, a 1947 copy of the Oregonian documents a plaster Benny the Beaver used for OSU football games. The plaster statue was mounted on a four wheel trailer and painted bright orange and wheeled to games.

University of Oregon students stole the plaster Benny several times and on each occasion returned him unharmed, save for a gaudy lemon and green paint job.

This pattern continued for years until the plaster Benny eventually returned home smashed in 1947. He was replaced in 1966 by the redwood Benny the Beaver statue now found in the MU commons.

Other statues commemorate OSU's academic and institutional history. In the library's special collections section you'll find a bust of two-time Nobel prize winner Linus Pauling, and in the MU lounge you can see a bust of former OSU president Dr. August Leroy Strand.

Strand was president from 1942 to 1961. Strand Agricultural Hall is named for him.

The few statues featured here merely skim the surface of a rich university history, that all OSU students share.



Alice E. Biddle



Benny the Beaver



Refugee memorial