

The Summer Barometer

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.

barometer.orst.edu

WEDNESDAY

July 17, 2002

Newsreel2
Diversion3
Forum4
Classifieds6
Photo Feature7
Sports8

SEEING BLUE
Former OSU athletic director accepts position at Kentucky SPORTS, PAGE 8



Vol. CVI No. 4

Tuition to rise as much as 8 percent

► Resident undergraduates can expect another 3 percent increase

By SCHELLENE CLENDENIN
SUMMER BAROMETER EDITOR

Oregon State students will be reaching deeper and deeper into their pockets this fall when paying for school.

In addition to the 8 percent rise in tuition for all graduate students and non-resident undergradu-

ates, and a 3 percent increase for resident undergrads, students will also be expected to lay down more money for student fees next fall.

The 3 percent increase charged to resident undergrads was part of a package that charged students 4 percent last year, capping the increase at 7 percent in the biennium.

"It's unfortunate that we, among other universities, will have to raise tuition," said Tim White, provost and executive vice president at OSU. "It's a necessary consequence as the amount of state

funding is less."

Without the rise, he said, the quality of education at OSU will decrease.

He said that with the increase in tuition, quality can be maintained in classes and access to many classes improved.

"We can't mess with one without messing with the others," White said.

The budget, however, is not set in stone.

| See BUDGET, page 6 |

Housing code passes with an eight to one vote

► New ordinance will cost landlords \$8 per unit annually

By SCHELLENE CLENDENIN
SUMMER BAROMETER EDITOR

After 15 years of contention and controversy, the Corvallis Rental Housing Code came quietly into existence. It had been hotly debated by landlords, OSU students and city council members alike.

"We were fairly confident going into the meeting that it would pass," said ASOSU President Bridget Burns. "It's something students have worked for for a long time."

The vote allows the ordinance to immediately go into effect, giving supporters the specificity they wanted from a housing code.

"I think it has been designed to be pretty straightforward" said Corvallis Mayor Helen Berg. "I know it's been a long time (since the inception of the housing code) but it has been carefully put together."

The code focuses on four areas — structural integrity of the rental, adequate plumbing, heating and weatherproofing of the unit — and states specifically the minimum requirements needed to consider the home adequate for habitation.

In order to pay for the enforcement of the code Corvallis renters will be charged a fee of \$8 per unit, per year, unless the unit is rented by persons on HUD or receiving government assistance, said Bob Loewen, Corvallis housing specialist.

Loewen said that although there will be times when the code will be most effective, he hopes that he will never have to go to the dwelling to enforce it.

ASOSU Attorney Audrey Bach said she was thrilled that it passed and that Corvallis renters will now have the code available as a resource that would enable them to live in safe housing.

Many landlords did not want the code to pass, saying that it was unfair to punish the many when it was only a minority of landlords that got the most complaints.

Burns said that plans are in the works to include a copy of the code on the ASOSU webpage to make it available to students.

▼
Schellene Clendenin is the editor of the Summer Barometer. She can be reached at 737-3191 or at baro.editor@studentmedia.orst.edu.



JULIA PATTEE | BAROMETER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nate Merrill, 15, of Corvallis, ollies into a bowl at the skate park downtown while friends watch and wait their turns. The skate park is a popular place to practice for the da Vinci Days skateboarding competition.

Corvallis gears up for da Vinci Days weekend

Skateboarding competition heats up da Vinci Days

By JENNA FIELD
BAROMETER NEWS WRITER

Along with the many activities taking place during the da Vinci Days Festival this upcoming weekend is a Skateboarding, Biking and Rollerblade competition. The Corvallis Parks and Recreation Center will be hosting a competition at the

Corvallis Skate Park located underneath the junction of Highways 34, 99 and 20. The event will take place this Saturday, July 20, from 11am to 3 pm.

"The event is local, free and open to anyone who wants to participate," said Phil Hasslen, owner and manager of Anthology Board Shop.

The da Vinci Days 2002 event is free to enter, and will hold competitions at beginner, intermediate and advanced skill levels. Prizes will be awarded for first through fifth

place. Anyone who wishes to participate is encouraged to attend.

Jude Parman, a senior in mathematics, is entering the competition this summer.

"This will be my first time competing. I have been a street skater for years, but never really a park skater. I am excited to finally compete on the local park," Parman said.

To enter the da Vinci Days Skate Competition, sign up at Slam City, Anthology, Cyclotopia, Corvallis Parks and Recreation or at the skate

park the day of the contest.

da Vinci Days Film Festival features filmmaking process

By STEPHEN ARTHUR
DIVERSION STAFF WRITER

The da Vinci Days are known for quality educational entertainment, and the Film and Video Festival is no exception.

| See DAVINCI, page 3 |

All gives students unique learning experience

► Talented middle schoolers spend 2 weeks studying diverse topics on OSU campus

By KIMBERLY DUNBAR
BAROMETER NEWS EDITOR

Making Millions, Creature Creation, Eggs-citing Food Chemistry, and Water Bottle Rocketry are not courses that are usually offered in the OSU catalog, but they are currently being taught here. Unfortunately, OSU students are not allowed to register. These classes are reserved for talented and gifted middle school students who are spending 2 weeks studying at OSU through the Adventures in Learning program.

Participants get the opportunity to work with faculty members from OSU as well as other institutions, public school educators and area professionals. Students come to the program because "they are interested in studying topics they don't get to in a normal school setting, like physics and archeology" said Judy Michael, Director of AIL. "And they get to interact with positive adult role models that are also enthusiastic about the topic."

Students who are eligible for AIL have just completed 5th through 7th grade and score high on achievement or mental ability tests, "so they learn different," Michael said. "The goal is to provide appropriate academic experiences to talented and gifted students who have unique learning needs." They receive no formal school credit, only the experience itself.

Jillian Smythe, an honors college graduate preparing to enter the MAT program at OSU, has worked for the program for three summers. She likes working with the kids because "it's fun to see the kinds of things they come up with and how excited they get about everything."

The 188 students attend classes of their own choosing for five hours a day, then an afternoon workshop such as Brain Bowl, Pottery or Outdoor Recreation. The classes are geared toward hands-on activities and real life experiences. "Right now I'm working with a class called Microbe Hunters, where the students study germs. There's also a fashion class where they design clothes and a catapult class where they get to build a catapult, launch

| See AIL, page 5 |



JULIA PATTEE | BAROMETER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ten-year-old Min Phillips learns the basics of radio broadcasting in the On Air at KVBR-FM class offered through the Adventures in Learning program this week at OSU.

WORLD

Three al-Qaida suspects detained in Spain; one had elaborate video

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Three al-Qaida suspects were taken into custody Tuesday, including one who had videotaped several American landmarks including the Golden Gate Bridge, the Sears Tower, the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center.

Police said they were convinced the footage, taken during a 1997 visit to the United States by one of the detainees, was much more than "tourist curiosity."

At least one suspect was recruited by a man whom Spanish authorities say helped prepare the Sept. 11 attacks and was linked to the al-Qaida cell that included Mohamed Atta.

It was a further indication that Spain, with a growing Arab immigrant population, may have been used by al-Qaida as the setting for crucial logistic support in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Spain is a focal point of the overseas investigation launched after the terrorist attacks on the United States. An FBI task force is working with law enforcement authorities in Spain to locate and capture suspected terrorists, including men with terrorist links who have traveled to the United States in recent years.

Investigators have already gathered ample evidence that Atta visited Spain twice in 1991 including a weeklong trip in July where he may have attended a series of meetings with other al-Qaida operatives.

Preservation group hopes to protect China's Great Wall from tourism

BEIJING (AP) — Built 2,000 years ago to keep out Mongol marauders and Manchu militias, the Great Wall of China now faces a more modern threat. And this time, it's from the inside.

City dwellers on holiday strew garbage over

the wall's battlements and carve their initials into its bricks. Villagers cart away pieces to make sheep corrals and developers are leasing land at the wall's base to build tract homes.

"The wall is already in grave, grave danger," said William Lindesay, an Englishman living in China who hiked along 1,530 miles of the wall in 1987 and has wrote a book about it, "Alone on the Great Wall."

Hoping to beat back the threat, Lindesay on Tuesday announced a new conservation group that will try to protect the most spectacular sections of the wall located around Beijing.

Restored sections of the wall around Beijing account for only about a dozen of the 390 miles inside China's capital. Lindesay wants other parts kept in their current weathered state and hopes to safeguard the spectacular vistas around the wall from what he called "view pollution."

With the backing of Beijing's Cultural Heritage Administration and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Lindesay's group plans to hire Chinese farmers to pick up garbage and make sure pieces of the wall aren't carried off.

The International Friends of the Great Wall will place signs along trails leading up to the wall reminding visitors not to smoke, litter or otherwise disturb the environment.

They eventually hope to lobby local governments to ban development that would tarnish the wall's natural setting.

NATION

Risk of side effects from heart drugs is lower than previously thought

CHICAGO (AP) — Beta blockers, drugs widely recommended for heart patients but vastly underused, are less likely than previously thought to cause depression, fatigue and sexual dysfunction, a study suggests.

Some doctors and patients may have shunned the lifesaving drugs because of the supposed side effects, but the new study should encourage wider use of beta blockers, the researchers said.

The researchers reviewed 15 studies involving more than 35,000 patients and found that the three symptoms are fairly common in heart disease patients regardless of whether they take beta blockers or not.

The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Beta blockers are used to lower blood pressure and treat various heart problems. They work by slowing the heart rate. Previous research has shown that they can reduce heart attack survivors' risk of death by 20 percent or more.

Commonly prescribed beta blockers include propranolol, sold under the brand name Inderal; metoprolol, sold as Lopressor; and atenolol, sold as Tenormin.

Beta blockers could probably help many of the more than 1 million Americans who have heart attacks each year, according to American Heart Association spokesman Dr. Richard Pasternak. Studies, however, have suggested that one-third to one-half of eligible patients are not prescribed them.

Pasternak welcomed the study.

"Physicians and patients are sometimes unduly afraid of side effects, and I think this puts this in a correct perspective," he said.

STATE

Short-handed crews struggle to contain worsening wildfires

MADRAS (AP) — Firefighters from as far away as Florida are being sent to Oregon to help battle wildfires that have scorched more than 100,000 acres, destroyed a number of homes and threaten more, officials said Tuesday.

"We've had from 120 to 150 new starts, mostly in the Douglas County area since Sunday," said David Widmark, spokesman for the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland.

"We don't even have people on some of these fires," he said.

Fires in the West have all but tapped out Oregon's wildfire fighting force. Many firefighters assigned to federal agencies in Oregon are fighting blazes in Colorado and Utah, while legions of independent firefighters also are scattered across the West.

But reinforcements are on the way.

"We have resources coming from as far away as Florida and Minnesota," Widmark said, adding that he didn't know how many firefighters will be arriving.

Gov. John Kitzhaber says he expects to call in 500 fresh Oregon National Guard troops for firefighting and get them on the ground as early as next week.

About 4,000 firefighters are battling at least 20 blazes that are burning on 120,000 acres in southern, central and eastern Oregon.

The Eyerly fire, a 17,300-acre blaze near Madras that has attracted the most attention because it burned 18 homes, was reported about 45 percent contained Tuesday.

The Geneva 2 fire — burning not far from the Eyerly fire on the Crooked River National Grasslands in the Ochoco National Forest and private lands — had grown to about 440 acres.

UNIVERSITIES

Barometer Editor one of eight selected for study mission

Allison Pyburn has been selected for the 10th annual Albert Finkelstein memorial study mission to Poland, Bulgaria and Israel. She is one of only eight campus newspaper editors in the country selected for the mission, which usually is oriented heavily toward Ivy League schools like Harvard and Yale. There have historically been very few chosen from state schools, let alone state schools on the West Coast. She will spend about 10 days in mid-August studying modern Jewish history and meeting key Jewish leaders in a program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League.

Pyburn serves as editor for the Daily Barometer throughout the school year. She was awarded the First Freedom Award by the Greater Oregon Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists this year.

— Barometer Wire Reports

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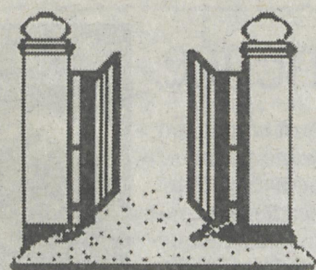


Questions? Please contact Rob Kleng at monkeyjabber@hotmail.com



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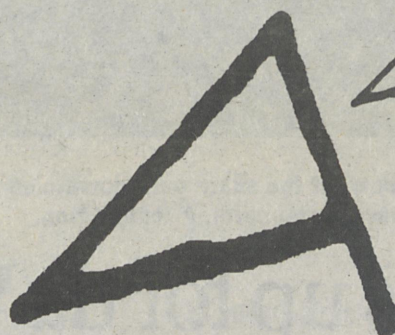
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Serial Thriller

Love and trials in Tuscany

By EMILY RADER

Ernestina felt a sudden pain in her lower back, near her kidneys. "Wake up, wench!" a man growled as he kicked her once more.

Fighting her way to consciousness, Ernestina realized that she was still blindfolded and gagged. At least the gag made it harder to tell that she'd been drooling while unconscious.

Realizing that the stranger was still kicking her, Ernestina struggled to use her hands and feet to defend herself but instead found that they too were tied. As far as she could tell, she wasn't tied to anything solid, so she settled for rolling to one side in order to escape the violently probing foot of her attacker.

"Enough of that," the man said. "I'm going to remove your blindfold and your gag, but there's no one around for miles, so no one will be able to hear you scream. Also, you're being heavily guarded. There is no point in planning an escape, so I don't want to see you try it. You won't get very far, even if you do manage to make it past your guards."

With a jerk, he removed her gag and blindfold. Ernestina moved her sore jaws about, trying to regain some measure of

feeling. Slowly, she opened her eyes, hoping that the light she found wouldn't be too harsh or glaring.

She was lucky; there was no light at all in the chamber in which she was being held. It meant that her eyes did not have to adjust, but she soon realized that it also meant she wouldn't be able to visually identify the man holding her captive. That in turn meant that she would have to hone her other senses in order to discover his identity.

Did she recognize his voice? His smell as he removed her blindfold? The texture of his skin when he touched her? The shape of his boot as he kicked her in the side?

With a sinking feeling, Ernestina realized that she did not immediately recognize any of these identifying characteristics. Nonetheless, she could not — no, she would not give up hope. She resolved to continue to pay as much attention to him as she could in her sensory-deprived prison, that she might be able to pick up distinguishing characteristics and with any luck, identify him.

At any rate, it wouldn't hurt to see if she could get him to answer any of the questions which had been begging to be asked

since she had regained consciousness.

"Where am I, and what am I doing here?" Ernestina asked, her voice wavering.

"Why did you bring me here? I haven't done anything to deserve this! What is to become of me, and when will I be able to leave?"

"We shall see about that," he responded in a whisper. "Just know that I am nothing more than your keeper; I do not know the answers to your many questions. And even if I did, I would be unlikely to give you a reply. For now, you will wait until my master comes."

"If you behave and are receptive to his suggestions, you may receive some small measure of freedom and comfort. If you decide not to cooperate, your lot will be worse than it is now. I suggest you consider your options until he arrives."

As the sound of the man's footsteps grew fainter in the distance, Ernestina sighed.

Oh, how would she escape? Would she ever see her father and her home again? Temporarily resigned to her lot, she let her body relax against the cold stone floor and closed her eyes to await her captor's arrival.

Horrorscopes

Aries —

Alright, Aries, it's safe to exhale now. You've survived your first round of exams and all that fun stuff; so sit back, relax, and start getting ready for finals.

Taurus —

Things are looking up, after last week's little slump. Y'know, it's all about finally getting enough good sleep. Just so long as it's not during lecture.

Gemini —

Love is in the air — or maybe it's just the extreme heat encouraging the shedding of clothing. Either way, maximize your time outside of class (and work) to reach out and touch someone.

Cancer —

Ponder this: "Scuse me, while I kiss the sky." No, it really has no pertinence to your life; we just wanted to see how many people we could get strolling around campus humming Jimi Hendrix.

Leo —

Make time for yourself, Leo. Crank the A/C, and be sure to have a bowl of ice cream, a glass of water and the remote all within easy reach. You know and we know, summer is about SNL reruns on Comedy Central.

Virgo —

You thought you got away from us just because you left town, eh? Well know this, Virgo: gone, but not forgotten. Now cough up that five bucks you owe and quit hiding.

Libra —

Your creativity will lead to unbridled financial success. In bed. Yeah, gotta throw that in at least once a week.

Scorpio —

Your generosity will ensure success, both professionally and personally. That is, if you care to put your trust in fortune cookies and eight-balls.

Sagittarius —

This weekend is your time to shine, Saggi. We're talking dates every night, raging social scene and maybe even good scores on your finals.

Capricorn —

Yes, we understand your financial and academic stress, but don't sweat it, Capricorn. You should really be spending

your energy worrying about that new haircut. Hate to bring up the already painfully obvious, but we just can't respect you with that do.

Aquarius —

Be on the lookout for ... right, and you really thought we'd tell? If we said what "it" was, you wouldn't have to be looking out for it, now would you?

Pisces —

It's just not gonna happen this week, Pisces. Sorry to break it to you, but at least now you can be ready for when the crap hits the fan. Consider hiding in your office, making only an occasional appearance to go for food. Yes, we see you in there ...

da Vinci: Something for everyone

Continued from page 1

The film festival is divided into genres, which include films selected by a panel of judges. Some of the films to be shown are independent short films, such as "Kung Fu Teenaged Bigfoot," and "The Detective Kent Stryker One Man Film."

Adam Sullivan, who has a comedy award at the festival named after him, is showing his film "The Indigo Wisemen."

There will also be showcases that feature films made by high school and college students from around the country, as well as documentaries and some experimental films. "Routine," by Andi Green, is an experimental film focused on a woman's mental struggle to separate herself from the working herd mentality.

The animation category will contain films with various styles of animation that range from stop motion photography to computer animation.

"There are so many good animators out there, and it is great that some still take time to make short films like these," said Jon Lewis, judge for the ani-

mation category.

The two-day film festival will also examine what is required to make a movie, by watching films made by people with various experience and perspectives about the art form. In some cases, the writers and directors of the films will be available to meet the public; they will be open to hear comments on their films and answer questions.

The festival will expose that the real "nitty gritty" of filmmaking occurs behind the scenes and not with collagen-sculpted actors. Established in those stages of planning are the subtle nuances which affect the audience without their conscious knowledge.

This year the keynote film presenter is David Metzger, who is involved with the musical orchestration aspect of film production.

Metzger is a Corvallis native and has worked as a musical orchestrator for television, film and stage productions. His career includes work on the films "Training Day" and "Armageddon," as

| See DA VINCI, page 6 |

MOVIE LISTINGS

Wednesday, July 17

AVALON CINEMAS

160 N.W. Jackson Ave.; 752-4161

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 7:00, 9:00

REGAL 9TH ST. 4 CINEMAS

1750 N.W. Ninth St.; 928-7469

Men In Black II (PG-13)

12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

Minority Report (PG-13)

12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10

Road to Perdition (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55

The Bourne Identity (PG-13)

11:45 a.m., 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50

REGAL ALBANY 7 CINEMAS

1350 S.E. Waverly Dr.; 928-7469

Eight Legged Freaks (PG-13)

11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

Halloween: Resurrection (R)

1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55

Like Mike (PG) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

Lilo & Stitch (PG)

12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:05, 9:10

Mr. Deeds (PG-13)

12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45

Reign of Fire (PG-13)

11:30 a.m., 1:55, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40

The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course (PG)

12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35



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EDITORIAL

Fabricating the grade

Picture yourself in fourth grade for just a moment. Do you think you could have responded to and earned a passing grade on an essay question that asked you to "write about a time you had a great day at school?"

And if not, would you expect that there was then something wrong with the quality of your education or with the way the question was written?

Apparently the state Board of Higher Education in North Carolina decided the question wasn't written clearly enough when 53 percent of fourth-graders failed the single essay test. Subsequently, the disappointing results have been thrown out.

The results of the same writing evaluation in North Carolina were thrown out for seventh-graders after 37 percent failed the test. Education officials attributed the failing results to too much time to take the test, saying that the extra time led students to add extra sentences to the ends of their essays.

Faulty wording, which we can find no evidence of in the essay question, could be a justifiable reason for dismissing the results of a test — but too much time? That is just plain ludicrous and seems only a poorly disguised attempt to push more failing kids through a failing system.

Is there realistically any possibility that it was solely the fault of the tests that so many children failed, or is it representative of a problem with the structure of the educational system as a whole?

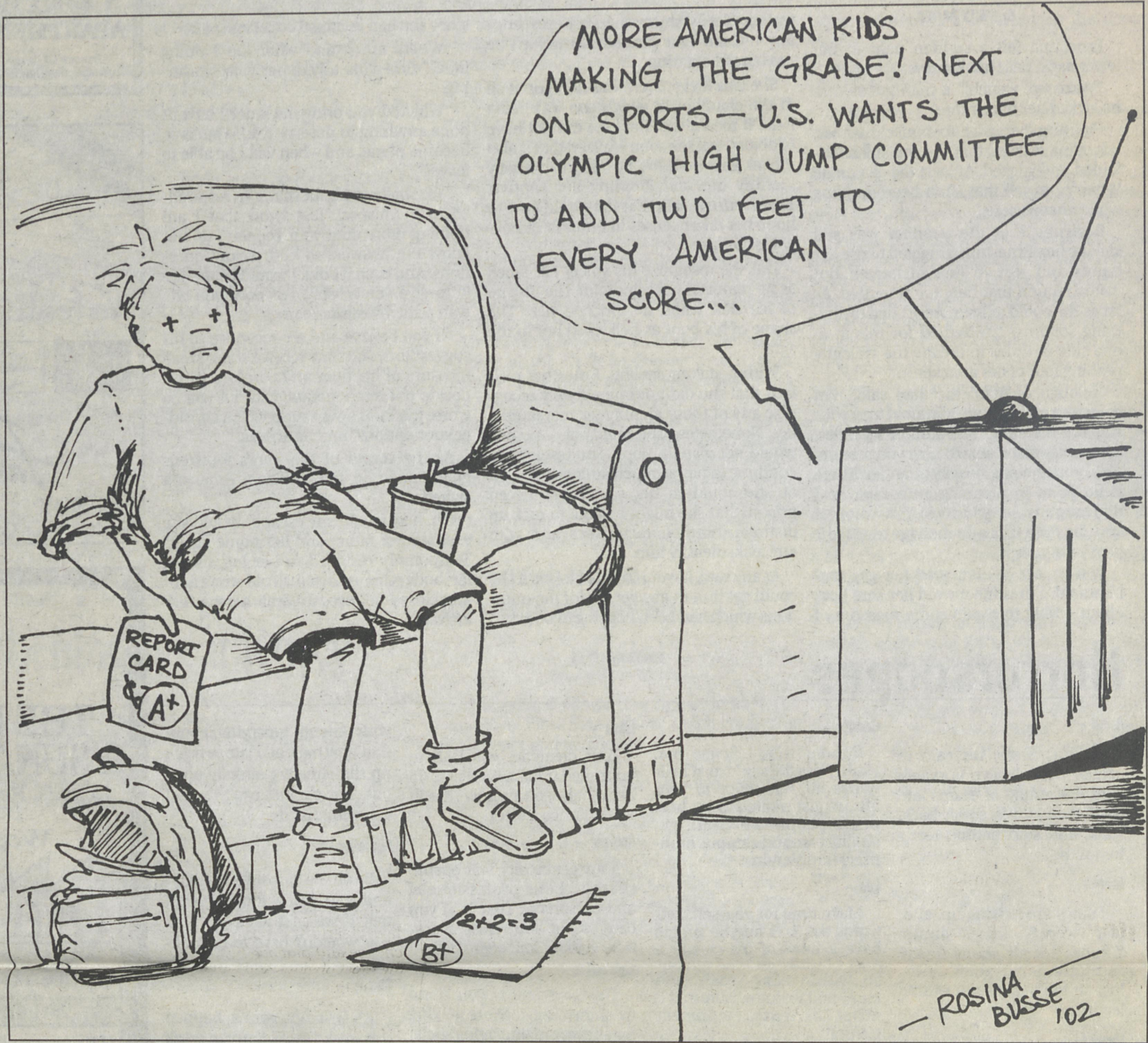
Something is wrong with the goals of a system that focuses on fabricated positive results, rather than admitting there is a problem and attempting to rectify it.

On January 8, 2002, Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. One of the basic principles of the act is to increase flexibility and local control of education. While ideally every child making the grade seems a noble goal, does it not rather encourage school administrators to lessen standards for students to ensure that everyone passes at any cost to the actual education of the student?

If no incentive exists because there is no possibility of failure, doesn't this type of thinking ensure the stupidity of future generations?

We think the answer to both of these questions is yes. Instead of guaranteeing that no child is left behind, or that test scores yield positive results, shouldn't there be a guarantee that every child is educated and evaluated based on what they have or haven't learned — instead of on whether or not the school has passed a high enough percentage of their students?

Editorials serve as a platform for Barometer editors to offer commentary and opinions on current events, both national and local, grand in scale and exceedingly diminutive. Opinions expressed here are a reflection of the Editorial Board's majority.



We're not Ebert and Roeper... but they suck

In an attempt to show off my prowess for picking movies, the following list of flicks prove that I am the king of the couch. Christina will attempt to provide an alternative in each category that can compete with those I have chosen, but it ain't gonna happen.

Joe Tremblay

thing. I will never listen to Beethoven or drink milk in the same way ever again.

Trilogy — "Star Wars." As if there could ever be any contention, and regardless of what you think of the new ones, George Lucas deserves a medal for the creation of this masterpiece. Yoda has got to be the coolest pointy-eared, kung fu dyslexic

super midget ever to walk the universe. Speech problem he has.

Horror — "Garfield's Halloween." This one gave me nightmares for weeks when I was a four-year-old.

Foreign — "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." I'm usually not a huge fan of most foreign movies, but this one just about made me blow my proverbial wad. Subtitles have never been so cool.

80s — "Labyrinth," and "The Dark Crystal." As far as I'm concerned, the 80s were basically a wasted decade for anything from music to

As an employee of a video rental store, my taste in movies is impeccable, my recommendations — flawless. In our latest installment, Joe and I have scoured our brains to help you bored Corn-valley residents catch up on flicks you HAVE to see. So, grab some popcorn and settle in for a crazy column.

Comedy — "Wet, Hot, American Summer." Bar-none, one of the kookiest, hil-freakin'-larious movies ever. Janeane Garofalo and a Jewish summer camp ... why, that's the greatest comedic pairing since Joe and I.

Action — "True Lies." Arnold. Sex. CIA. There's even a little girl hanging from the wing of a plane, for the love of God.

Now, that's suspense. Chick-Flick — "Steel Magnolias." One of a few movies that makes you cry — really hard — and then laugh — really hard.

Drama — "Good Will Hunting." A) Matt Damon and Ben Affleck are hot. B) A troubled genius searches for his

identity (this really hits home for me, being a troubled genius and all)

Classic — "Sabrina." The original with Bogie, Audrey and William Holden, not the sad remake. It's a poignant search for one's true love.

Trilogy — "Back to the Future." I recently re-watched all three of these films and all I have to say is: Michael J. Fox should have won an Oscar, or at least the Golden Globe, for his work in the advancement of time travel.

Horror — "Silence of the Lambs." Just thinking about a suit made of human skin makes me want to vomit.

Foreign — "Amores Perros." Watch it. Love it. I never thought I'd be enchanted by a movie about dogs and their owners, but I didn't want to miss a second.

80s — "Sixteen Candles." Joke about her all you want, but Molly Ringwald was the screen goddess of the 80s. Unlikely love and self-enrichment, with a crazy best friend mixed in. Freddie Prinze Jr.'s career was born.

Christina Stewart

| See TREMBLAY, page 5 |

| See STEWART, page 5 |

Letters

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The Summer Barometer
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 Oregon State University
 Corvallis, OR 97331-1617
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The Barometer (USPS 411-460) is published Monday through 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 September 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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THE DAILY BAROMETER
 Memorial Union East 106
 Oregon State University
 Corvallis, OR 97331-1617

Periodicals postage paid at Corvallis, OR 97333 and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to:

E-MAIL •
 baro.news@studentmedia.orst.edu

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The language of violence

Lars Maxfield

I am blown away at thousands of different ways humans act. Such amazement is justified because it takes over a million words to describe them all (This is in English, and excludes scientific jargon, by all rights a separate language).

From rude, crude or prude — we have a wide variety of responses to a situation — be it proud, loud or cowed. This gives us as English-speaking humans a great many choices of deed, creed and need.

So I wonder, if we destroyed certain words — a censorship of titanic, monolithic, gigantic and somewhat large proportions — can we curb the actions of man?

In "1984" George Orwell describes a concept he coined "doublepeak," in which the Powers that Be controlled the thoughts, passions and actions of the masses by taking words away, shoving words together and creating words for behavior that didn't exist before.

This is a thought that I consider having a great deal of merit. For example, to steal takes planning, at least to steal anything of great worth (Trust me, I've seen plenty of robbery movies — I'm an expert). The planning takes organization of thought, an understanding of cause and effect, teamwork, co-ordination and greed.

"Here's the deal — You keep the lasers occupied, the dogs playing fetch, make sure the security guards don't stop playing with their puds. I'll grab, nab, snag, take, lift or purloin the diamond." Really, would this be possible if we didn't have the words for theft?

What if we just didn't acknowledge the existence of the idea with words? At the root of this thought is the argument of nature vs. society — are humans defined by a spectrum of behavior that is human nature, or is our behavior programmed into us by the society we live and work in? Because if we are only limited to the behaviors that are natural then of course we will continue to steal whether there are words for the dirty deed or not. The magpie and pack-rat don't describe their actions in words of guilt or justification, they just do it.

But if we are programmed by our society then the destruction of the idea could mean the apocalypse of the act and only the end of innocence could bring the evil back.

To answer this question, I think it best to look at children. For the most part their behavior is unsullied by the wills and wants of others. The infants of the world might be considered test beds for behaviors — natural or contrived by society. I spent this last Friday with a 19 month old girl and it was fascinating to see her interact with the world. She was greedy, curious, impatient, happy, uncomfortable, surprised, whiny and, going out on a limb a bit, I'd describe some of her less tangible expressions as thoughtful, worried, expectant, confused and at peace. Granted, a year and six months is a long time out of the womb and it could be argued that "society" has gotten its hooks into her behavior, but it's far less tainted than say me or you and still it comprises a surprising amount of different feelings and desires.

This would argue then for the nature side of the balance. But then we also have so many socialization processes like not picking your nose or saying please and thank you that become automatic after years of training.

I think every parent has had to give the "go put that back, it's called stealing" speech at one time or another, (chalk another up for the nature side) but obviously most people don't steal things — not even little things.

Along with the fact that in times of economic prosperity crime rates go down, you have a decent argument on the side of socialization.

Obviously I'm not coming to some point, or conclusion. This is an argument that's been going on for generations and I don't think will be settled for many generations more because both have so many arguments that can be made for and against. But is nice to think, that someday no one will be mugged, raped, assaulted, battered, beaten, abused, screwed over, ridiculed, murdered or lynched, because humans throughout society have decided we won't put up with that behavior anymore.

Lars Maxfield is a columnist for the Summer Barometer. The opinions in his column do not necessarily represent those of the Barometer staff. He can be reached at Baro.forum@studentmedia.orst.edu.

Courts correct on vouchers, Pledge

The Constitution is a strange thing. We hold it to be the infallible pinnacle of human government and law. In this we forget that it is a living document. It is vague in writing and constantly needs refinement by the judiciary to clarify it and maintain its contemporary nature. In our days of bioterrorism, cloning and Internet pornography, we find many issues the Constitution does not specifically and sufficiently address.

The federal courts have taken two large steps in the clarification of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. That is the one



Sanjai Tripathi

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

In the Pledge of Allegiance case before the 9th Circuit Court and the school vouchers case before the Supreme Court, the judiciary has made some symbolically charged and generally unpopular changes to American primary education. In both cases, they also made the correct decision.

Not that correctness, in the legal sense, is definable. As stated above, Constitutional law is under constant revision. Correctness and legality are in the eye of the beholder. However, there are basic principles that are plain to see if one chooses.

The establishment clause is such a principle. It simply states that the government's job is neither to promote nor inhibit the people's right to choose and believe in a higher power in any way they see fit.

To ensure this and even further refine the definition of the so-called separation, the Supreme Court has recently developed tests to judge whether government action is in violation of the establishment clause.

The first asks whether the action in question constitutes an endorsement of a particular theology. The violation here being that those left out of the favor of government suffer a de facto discriminatory impingement of their rights.

The second test asks whether a particular law clearly inhibits someone's freedom to choose and practice his or her religion. This is the most obvious and agreeable test.

The third test asks whether the government action was taken with a secular purpose. The law commonly takes into account intent when passing judgements, and this clause exists to ensure that the government keeps with the spirit of the establishment clause.

These tests weren't in the Constitution specifically. They were created by the Supreme Court to ensure that the Constitution was followed in ideal.

In the school vouchers case, it is certainly true that most of the voucher money goes to

religious schools. However, the important fact is that parents are free to choose any school they want. They don't have to send their kids to religious school.

The effect of the vouchers is to effectively privatize the education system. This indeed has serious deleterious consequences. Opponents of vouchers want to find some Constitutional justification for their argument. It is easy to assume an idea so bad would be illegal, but this is simply not the case. By sponsoring school vouchers the government isn't endorsing religion, it is subcontracting education.

Similarly, seemingly everyone in this patriotic renaissance era feels that the Pledge of Allegiance is great. Therefore it is simple to assume that a court decision against the pledge must somehow be wrong and illegal.

Of course, as stated above, legality is in the eye of the beholder. There are some pretty valid legal arguments regarding standing and Supreme Court precedent in this case. However, the 9th Circuit Court decision is consistent with the conditions the Supreme Court has created and the principle of the establishment clause.

When congress inserted the phrase "under God" into the Pledge they had a distinctly religious purpose. It is stated in the text of the bill, "The inclusion of God in our pledge ... would ... acknowledge the dependence of our people and our Government on the moral directions of our Creator."

Many apologists would have us believe that is not a government endorsement of religion. They say that "under God" isn't specific enough to call it an endorsement of a religion. However it is clearly an endorsement of religion itself, specifically monotheistic religion. And when one examines the intent of congress it is clearly the Christian religion that is being endorsed. This is in violation of the first and third tests. It is mostly in accord with the second, but the violations of the others are egregious enough.

The apologists are also saying that the Declaration of Independence makes specific reference to the Almighty. This is indeed true, but that document is not a legal code. As great as it was, the Declaration was a press release. The Constitution is the law of the land, and it makes no reference to our allegiance to God.

The addition of "under God" to the Pledge is wrong. It is not right to force people to embrace God when they embrace their government. Similarly, it is not the governments job to prevent any public funds from going to religious schools.

The First Amendment tells us that the government should not be used as a tool for religious ideology. It cannot endorse nor inhibit the free practice of their beliefs by individuals. That is the true freedom that the founders fought for and that makes our country great.

Sanjai Tripathi is a columnist and Forum editor for the Daily Barometer. The opinions in his columns do not necessarily represent those of the Barometer staff. He can be reached at sanjaitripathi@netscape.net.

Versus: Tremblay, Stewart flick picks

Continued from page 4

movies. Jim Henson, however, managed to produce two of the greatest films of all in a decade that should otherwise be incinerated.

Seasonal — "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Who wouldn't want to live in a town inhabited by creepy claymation characters?

War — "Full Metal Jacket." A no-holds-barred triumph that offers a very real interpretation of life in the Vietnam War.

Western — "Tombstone." If ever I had doubts about the acting ability of Val Kilmer, they were quieted by his awesome performance as Doc Holiday.

Worst — "Legend of the Rollerblade 7." If any movie ever sucked, this one is worse.

Actor — Kevin Spacey. With unparalleled performances in "The Usual Suspects," "Seven" and "American Beauty," and more than acceptable performances in his others, who else could claim this spot?

Director — Stanley Kubrick. A cinematic genius, his movies always manage to be thought provoking and more than just a little disturbing.

Joe Tremblay is forum editor for the Summer Barometer. The opinions in his columns do not represent those of the Barometer staff. He can be reached at Baro.forum@studentmedia.orst.edu.

Continued from page 4

Seasonal — "A Christmas Story." A lamp attached to a leg and two brother's named Ralhie and Randy. Oh man, I love this film.

War — "Glory." As those close to me well know, I am a fanatic of WWII flicks, but this one makes me verclemp. Great soundtrack.

Western — "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." My dad made me watch it when I was young, and I will make my kids watch it too. It's a fun story about the one gang I would probably ever want to join: Hole-in-the-Wall.

Worst — "Girls Gone Wild." Okay, I haven't technically seen the movie, but I can only imagine.

Actress — She's been mentioned before in this article and I will mention her again. Audrey Hepburn, the queen of American cinema.

Director — Mel Brooks. A comedic genius in his own right. In an industry where idiotic slapstick farce is regarded as comedy, Brooks' films prove that comedy can be virtuous and lucrative, not to mention a rewarding genre.

Christina Stewart is copy editor for the Summer Barometer. The opinions in her columns do not represent those of the Barometer staff. She can be reached at Baro.news@studentmedia.orst.edu.

AIL: Special classes provided for kids

Continued from page 1

it and try to hit a target," Smythe said, "we have a lot of fun here, both the students and the teachers."

Most kids in the program are from Oregon and Washington, but one girl flew all the way from Korea by herself to join the program. She is staying with a friend she made here last year.

"What I hear from them [the students] the most is that they like to be able to talk to kids their own age, but yet their own level. At

school, often these kids feel the need to dumb themselves down" Smythe said. Most schools currently do not have programs for talented and gifted kids. Smythe said that talented and gifted kids tend to be better behaved.

"Of course, they are still kids." What the kids like the least, Smythe said, is "they don't like having to walk very far and they complain about the food."

Kimberly Dunbar is the news editor for the Summer Barometer. She can be reached at 737-2231 or Baro.news@studentmedia.orst.edu.

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Harrison work will slow traffic da Vinci: Variety of events featured

BAROMETER WIRE REPORTS

New bike path construction on Harrison Boulevard could cause delays of up to 20 minutes as the road will be narrowed to one lane of traffic beginning July 15.

The work will begin at the Fifty-third street intersection and continue East to the intersection of the Circle Boulevard multi-use path according to Peggy Pierson, emergency services coordinator for the Benton County Sheriff's Office, emergency management division.

The road will remain passable at all times, but both drivers and bikers should allow for more

travel time.

Once the paved shoulders are complete, an overlay will be constructed from Fifty-third to the Corvallis city limits, approximately 600 feet west of Merrie Street, she said.

Construction will be suspended during the Benton County Fair from July 30 through August 3 to allow for heavier traffic in the area.

The new bike path, which is currently sporadic in places along the roadside, will allow safer travel for bicyclists.

Sullivan Construction, based in Albany, will be in charge of the work.

Continued from page 3

well as receiving a Tony Award nomination for the orchestration of the Broadway version of Disney's "The Lion King."

Metzger's presentation will cover the process of film orchestration from the first note to the final production, and he will be lecturing on the role that music plays in the art of film creation. Metzger will also use examples from his own career to point out how music, or the lack thereof, can have predictable effects upon viewers.

The film festival will also include a class on storyboard production for films and animation. This class will be taught by Todd Kesterson, who is a visiting assistant professor at the University of Oregon, and will focus the class on practicing storyboard techniques and developing stories through storyboards.

The storyboard is a crucial step to master before filming. It is this stage that fleshes out the screenplay and gives the director the opportunity to create an environment and decide how the characters will react to it.

The da Vinci Days Film and Video Festival will be held at the La Selles-Stewart Center from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 21.

An admission button for da Vinci Days is required to attend the Film and Video Festival. David Metzger will give his presentation on Saturday, July 20, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Austin Auditorium. The storyboard workshop is from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 20, and costs \$15; there are only 25 slots available.

Da Vinci Days features art, science and technology

By **TEHRA PEACE**
BAROMETER SCIENCE/TECH EDITOR

This week, OSU will play its part in the 14th annual da Vinci Days festival, which combines art, science and technology.

The festival, inspired by the scientist, artist and philosopher Leonardo da Vinci, will run from Friday to Sunday.

OSU faculty will give lectures on topics ranging from the physics of music to gene mutation and cancer. La Selles Stewart Center will host an alternative energy display, featuring wind energy and hydrogen power. Cooks will demonstrate the technology by serving vegetarian food off the hydrogen powered grill.

OSU's department of electrical and computer engineering will feature TekBots, small robots that run mazes. Last year's freshman in the department constructed TekBots as the first part of an ongoing project which will continue

through to their senior year.

Another robot produced by the department will carry a pen, and participants will be encouraged to create art by operating the robot by remote control.

The project, said Gale Sumida of the college of engineering advancement, is a joint effort between students and faculty in the department.

"Whenever we do anything, it's a huge team effort," she said.

Well-known robots from TV shows like "Robot Wars" and "Battle Bots" will also be on display, said Tony Perez, executive director of da Vinci Days. The robots will not fight each other, Perez said, but they will destroy a washing machine, a dryer and a kitchen sink, among other items.

Perez said that these events are made possible because Corvallis businesses, the art community and OSU are willing to work together. Perez said that they look to companies like Hewlett Packard for the technological aspect, artists and galleries for art and OSU researchers for science.

Other events will include a scale model of the solar system, a catapult contest and lectures.

The scale model of the solar system, which runs from July 3 to July 21, is spread throughout Corvallis. The four foot sun is downtown at Citizen's Bank — the rest of the planets are in secret locations. Kids are given a map with clues to find the nine planets. The farthest planet from the sun, Pluto, will be a tenth of an inch across and 3.25 miles away. The first 100 kids to complete the journey will win a free weekend button to da Vinci Days.

The OSU Society for Logic and Reason will co-sponsor a lecture by James Randi, a founder of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Whereas Randi has made a name for himself investigating paranormal claims, on Thursday he will speak about pseudotechnology in the new millennium. Perez said that Randi will be "exposing scams in technology as opposed to scams in the physic and paranormal world."

Admission to da Vinci Days is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children for a three-day pass. For more information about da Vinci Days events, visit www.davinci-days.org.

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Budget: Numbers still not set in stone

Continued from page 1

According to Tom Anderes, vice chancellor for finance and administration of the Oregon University System, universities are operating on assumptions because, right now, the budget isn't final.

Mark McCambridge, vice president for finance and administration, agreed.

He said that at this time administration cannot be positive that the current OSU budget, \$191,588,001 will remain the same.

White said that, although budget numbers are numerically up, the problem is costs surrounding health insurance, energy costs, salaries and underfunded requirements are up.

"That's where the tightness of our budget comes from," he said, "the increases."

Depending on actions taken by the governor, the numbers could change drastically, should

he veto any portion of the solution that the legislature has agreed on, McCambridge said.

But White isn't worried.

"We're very confident that this will be the budget for this year," he said. "We may even do better than last."

In spite of concerns that some students will travel elsewhere for an education if tuition continues to increase, White said that students will not be priced out of an education as long as an adequate financial aid package is made available.

"I think within this state there is less state support for education," White said. "We are disinvesting in education from K through 16. I disagree with the state of Oregon as a group of citizens deciding not to invest in education."

Schellene Clendenin is the editor of the Summer Barometer. She can be reached at 737-3191 or at baro.editor@studentmedia.orst.edu.

Barnhart: Leaves behind great legacy

Continued from page 8

President Risser and his leadership."

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As he accepted his new position, Barnhart introduced the UK athletic department to five pillars of success.

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I remember a similar five pillars to success being implemented in the OSU athletic department four years ago. They have helped to strengthen the foundation upon which it stands today.

Barnhart's presence will be missed.

He was an athletic director who ran a successful business.

But more than that, he was an athletic director who created a family of OSU athletics.

I know there are few, if any, other athletic directors out there who make an honest effort to get to know their athletes, much less invite teams and athletic organizations into their homes for dinner.

An era has ended.

We say goodbye to a mentor, colleague, leader, and friend as he rides off into the sunset.

A sunset burning bright orange as we look toward the future of OSU athletics.

Jill Personius is the sports editor of the Summer Barometer. She can be reached at baro.sports@studentmedia.orst.edu.

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INSIDE VET MED

► Plans to build a small animal hospital are in the works

BAROMETER WIRE REPORTS

Students enrolled in veterinary medicine at Oregon State are learning hands-on how to care for the pets that are often like family to those they live with.

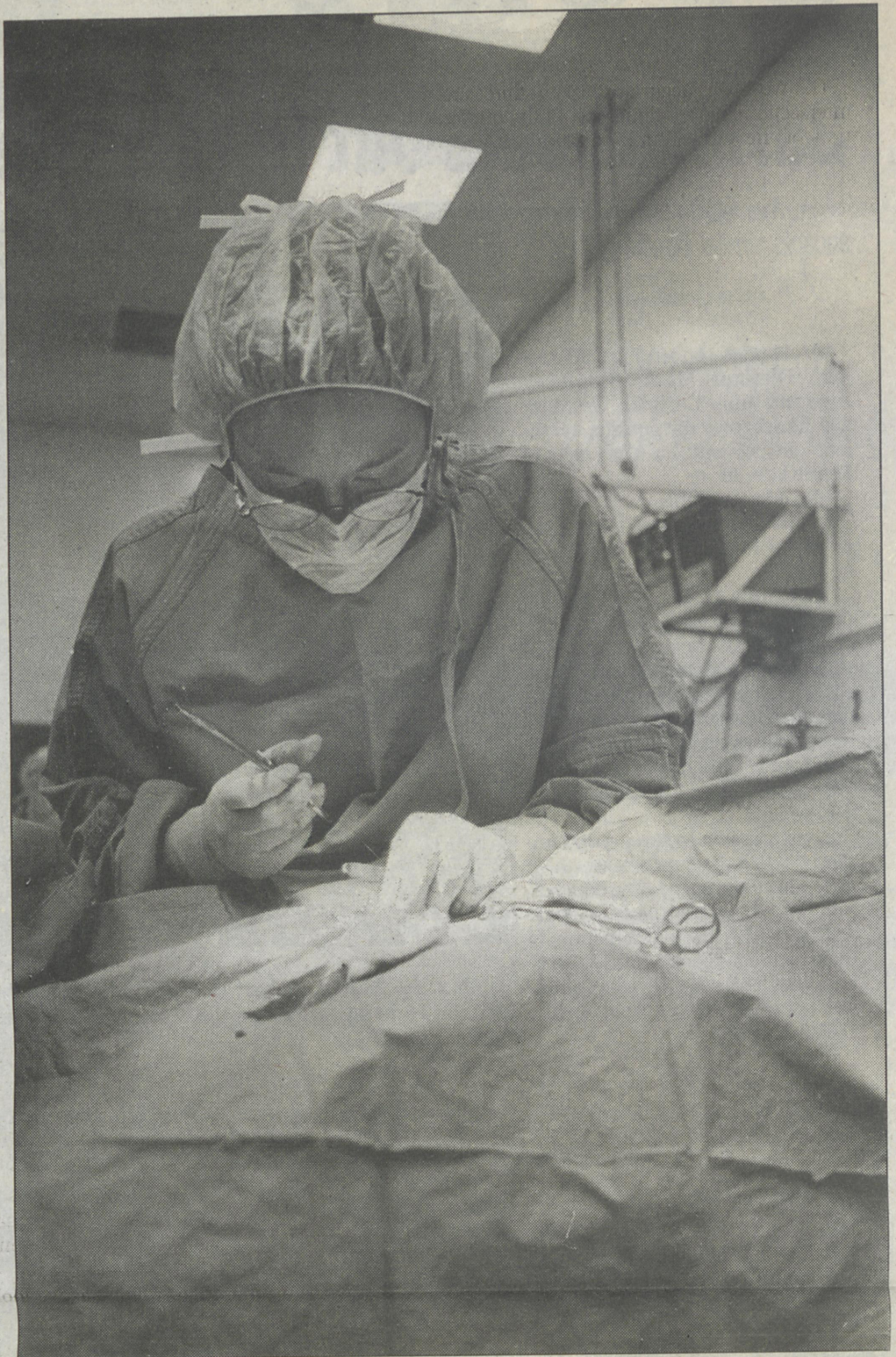
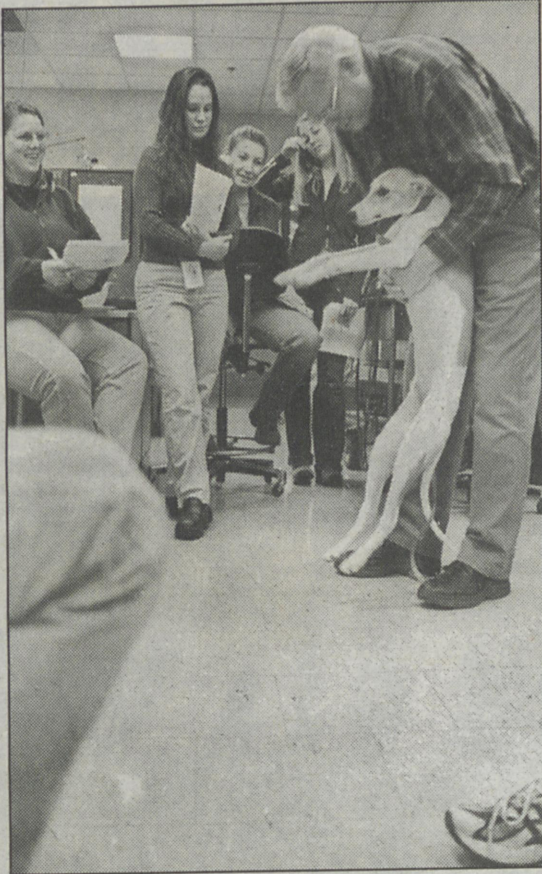
They are given instruction on how to care for livestock at the large animal hospital on campus.

Until now, students working toward degree in veterinary medicine have been sent to attend classes at the small animal hospital at Washington State University.

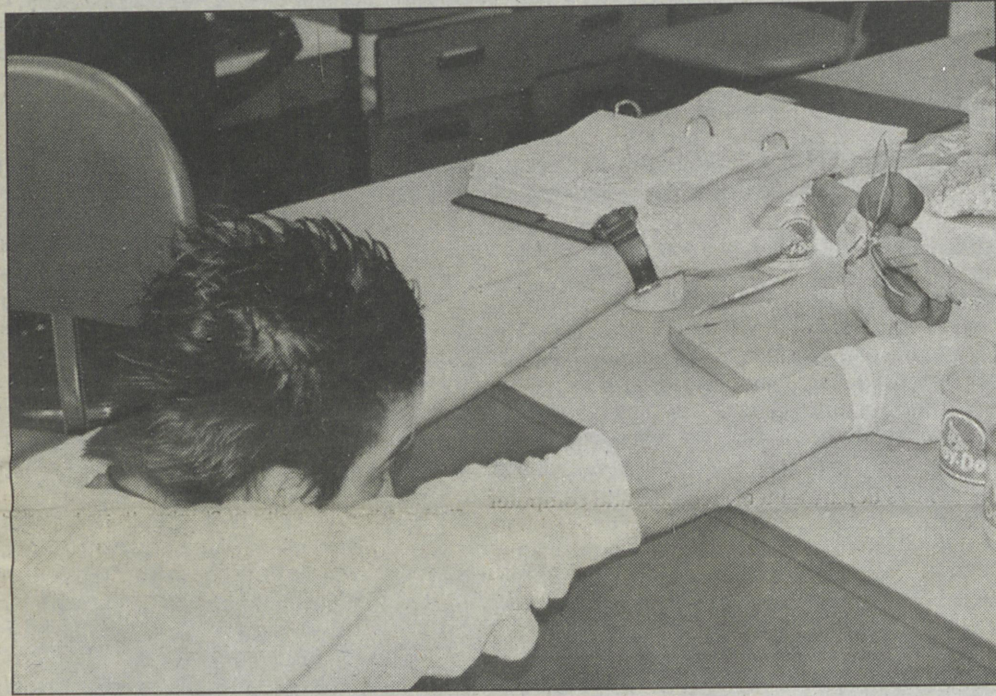
Plans are currently in place however, according to Mark McCambridge, vice president of finance and administration at OSU, to build a small animal hospital on campus.

Beginning in Sept. 2003, students will be able to remain in Corvallis to earn their degree.

**PHOTOS BY
TOM OLIVER**



TOP LEFT: Professor of anatomy Dr. Hal Engle, demonstrates a neurology exam to first year veterinary students on his dog Charlie. ABOVE: Julia Alpert, a senior veterinary medical student spays a cat during a monthly spay day. BOTTOM LEFT: Fernando Fukuzato, a first year veterinary student, builds a brain from Play-Doh as part of a neurology class.



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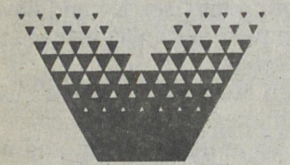
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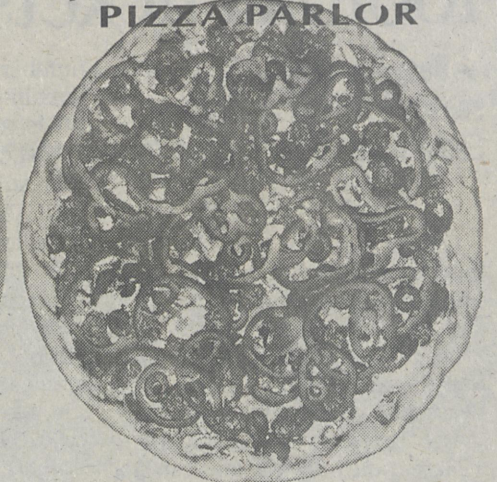
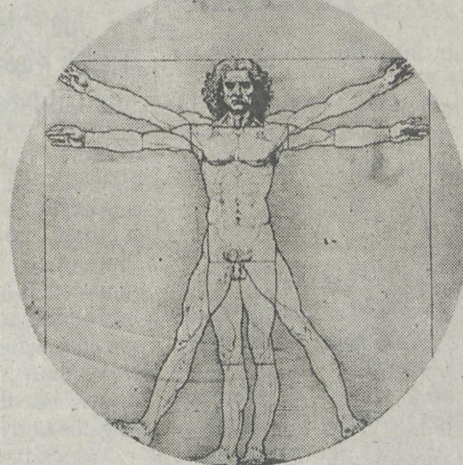
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Barnhart sets out to tame Kentucky's Wildcats

► Former OSU Athletic Director accepts similar position at UK

By JILL PERSONIUS
BAROMETER SPORTS EDITOR

It's old news concerning OSU Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart's departure from Corvallis. On Monday, he accepted the position of athletic director with the University of Kentucky Wildcats.

It's understandable.

As a Kansas native, there's the desire to be closer to friends and family.

There's the challenge of working the same miracles he worked here, on a needy athletic department.

There's also a return to the southeastern conference, familiar to Barnhart after 12 years with the University of Tennessee before coming to OSU four years ago.

And, of course, UK showed him the money.

Barnhart signed a seven-year contract with UK that could be worth up to \$525,000 annually, with bonuses, but he is guaranteed at least \$375,000 with his participation in media endorsements. At OSU, Barnhart was in his second year of a five-year contract, which only made him \$300,000 a year.

It's not unusual to see coaches, athletes and athletic department administrators college-hop throughout their careers. To some, we simply remind them not to let the door hit them on the way out. To others, we hold back the urge to grab their leg and not let go. To those like Barnhart, and they are few and far between, we wish them luck as we watch them drive off into the sunset leaving a legacy of uncontested leadership and the awakening of an athletic program that was headed nowhere just four short years ago.

A former OSU athlete, I was recruited just after Barnhart was hired. Many of OSU's teams were "rebuilding." It didn't take long to figure out this really means they were at the bottom of the collegiate heap.

After four years, there are few teams that have not demonstrated that they have moved beyond this label, and gone on to be competitive on a national level.

Barnhart's determination and enthusiasm helped make that



Associated Press Photo

On Monday, Mitch Barnhart was officially named the new athletic director at University of Kentucky. After four and a half years at Oregon State, Barnhart leaves a legacy of athletic department accomplishments.

happen.

And that's just on the field.

Barnhart was able to foster the development of OSU's sports programs while also reducing the athletic department debt by \$8 million dollars.

He unearthed the funds to build the indoor football practice facility, softball complex and make baseball stadium renovations.

He made OSU athletics history by coming up with the largest cash donation, \$5 million, to rename Parker Stadium to Reser Stadium, as well as generated more income for the Beaver Athletic Student Fund.

How about football worth watching? What more could you ask for?

Unfortunately, the Wildcats were watching too. They knew that Barnhart's slaving away behind the scenes was key to the turnaround.

Barnhart will replace Larry Ivy, UK's former athletic director, who resigned last March after some serious recruiting violations in the football program and a poor review of

the university's athletic department.

Ironically, football and successful NCAA certification are two issues Barnhart passed with flying colors here at OSU. That may be the reason for his being chosen over the other finalists for UK athletic director, Jim Copeland, athletic director at Southern Methodist University, and Keith Tribble, executive director of the Orange Bowl Committee.

Although Barnhart could not be reached to comment on his new position, one can be certain he has his work cut out for him at UK.

Inheriting a top basketball program at UK solves the one problem Barnhart was unable to improve during his reign at OSU, but he'll need all the luck he can get to turn around a Wildcat football program currently on NCAA probation and with a record of 4-18 in the past two seasons.

Bob DeCarolis, senior associate athletic director at OSU, will serve as athletic director for the time being, although he has not been given the

title of interim athletic director.

Even though DeCarolis was unavailable for comment, he is reported to have talked with Barnhart about joining him at UK, but has decided to pursue the athletic director opening here.

OSU President Paul Risser is out of town and also unavailable for comment, but told reporters DeCarolis is a candidate for the position, but the university will also conduct a nationwide search to replace Barnhart. President Risser expects a new athletic director to be appointed within three to five weeks.

OSU Senior Woman Athletics Administrator Marianne Vydra acknowledged that much is up in the air right now. "You have to trust the process and go with the flow. Things happen for a reason and people make choices. I'm sad to see him go, but also happy for him. I trust the heads that are around this [search for a replacement] and I support

| See BARNHART, page 6 |

Limited OSU season football tickets remain

► Beavers open 2002 season at home against Eastern Kentucky August 29

BAROMETER WIRE REPORTS

Oregon State has only 54 season football tickets left unsold as of Monday, according to the Beavers' athletic ticket office.

Oregon State has sold 22,946 football season tickets for the 2002 Beavers' football campaign.

The 54 season tickets remaining represent the only way fans can still get a ticket to the Northwest Dodge Civil War game against Oregon on November 23 at Reser Stadium. All single game tickets to the Civil War contest have already been sold to current season ticket holders.

The price of an OSU season ticket is \$195.00.

Oregon State has seven home games scheduled for Reser Stadium in 2002, starting with Eastern Kentucky on Thursday, August 29. Game time is 7:00 p.m. The Beavers will open the season with a record nine consecutive sell-outs of Reser Stadium. OSU has won 16 of its last 18 games at Reser Stadium.

At the present time, the following

number of individual game tickets remain:

Eastern Kentucky, 1,531
UNLV, 1,236
Fresno State, 449
UCLA, 25
California, 340
Arizona, 963
Oregon, SOLD OUT

The Beavers sold out Reser Stadium on a season basis for the first time in history during the 2001 season. Season ticket sales were cut off at 23,011 in July of 2001.

The 2002 OSU Football Season Ticket Drive is sponsored by OSU Federal Credit Union.

Tickets may be purchased at the OSU ticket office in Gill Coliseum or by calling 1-800-GO-BEAVS or 541-737-4455. The ticket office hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit cards are accepted.

The newest television partner of the Pacific-10 Conference, TBS Superstation, will televise Oregon State's home game with UNLV on September 14 nationally with a 4:00 p.m. start. The OSU-UNLV game will be the first game of the five-game TBS package with the Pac-10.

Women's basketball announces two new coaching promotions

► Jualeah Woods and Heath Alexander each step the ladder for the Beavers

BAROMETER WIRE REPORTS

Oregon State head women's basketball coach Judy Spoelstra announced Wednesday that assistant coach Jualeah Woods has been promoted to the second assistant position while Director of Basketball Operations, Heath Alexander, has moved into the third assistant coaching position on the Beaver staff.

Woods, beginning her third season as an assistant for Oregon State, will take over the role of recruiting coordinator and will run all daily operations involving recruiting. She will continue her on-court role of instructing the OSU guards.

"Jualeah did an outstanding job last year in helping Fee (Felicia Ragland) improve," said Spoelstra.

A 1994 graduate of the University of Southern California, Woods helped lead the Women of Troy to four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, including three trips to the Sweet 16. A four-year starter at small forward, Woods ranks seventh in USC's record book for 3-point field goals made in her career.

Woods played professionally for one season as a practice player for the Long Beach StingRays of the American Basketball League during the 1997-98 campaign.

Woods has six years of coaching experience after serving as an assistant and head coach at Santa Monica High School and an assistant coach at University of California prior to her tenure at Oregon State.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to move into this position and look forward to all of the challenges and rewards that it will bring," said Woods. "It's disappointing to see Steph (Norman) go, but it was an opportunity she couldn't pass up."

"While at OSU I had a wonderful opportunity to be a part of a family atmosphere from administrators, to coaches, and the staff, I will always cherish the experience," said Norman.

Alexander, a 1998 graduate of the University of Oregon, served as Director of Basketball Operations for the Beavers last season.

"I'm excited about this opportunity," said Alexander of his appointment as an assistant. "It's been a goal of mine to move into a coaching role and I look forward to continue to learn from the other members of the Oregon State staff."

Tasha Rassuli

No matter what happens, they'll always have their fans

Last week basketball star Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers was issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of assault. On July 3rd, Iverson, along with his uncle, Gregory Iverson, went looking for his wife, Tawanna, after a dispute the two had.

Soon after, Iverson used a weapon to threaten two Philadelphia men at his cousin's apartment.

Iverson is charged with four felony counts and 10 misdemeanors. The star was ordered to stay on house arrest until he surrenders to these charges, but can we really believe that he is going to be sent to jail for this?

Iverson's own team, the 76ers, have made a statement claiming that no matter what happens to him, he will be welcomed back to the team. This is becoming a too familiar situation for the fans that follow Iverson and the hundred other athletes out there who are getting in trouble with the law.

In January of 2001, Jason Kidd was charged for hitting his wife and chose to go get help instead of serving time in jail.

In February of this year, former New Jersey Nets star Jason Williams was charged with 1st degree manslaughter when his own limo driver was found dead at his home. He was let out on bail.

As humans, we all make mistakes. But, if anybody in the real world were to commit these crimes, excuses wouldn't be accepted.

We wouldn't be able to hide out in our houses and pick a day that we would surrender, as Iverson did, and we wouldn't be able to afford a 270,000 dollar bail like Williams, on a crime that we claim we didn't commit.

So the question is, do athletes get special treatment for the crimes they are accused of committing?

Yes, they do.

Most likely, in the case with Iverson, he will be looking at a plea bargain with his extravagant lawyer and will only serve a short amount of community service and have to get some sort of anger management counseling.

With fame and money it's easier for athletes to bribe witnesses and coax them not to testify, and without witnesses there is no case.

In the real world, if a person were to be charged with these types of crimes they would be charged and brought to trial and we wouldn't be hearing about it.

Too often are we finding the people we are looking up to should be the people we look down upon.

As fans, we are torn between not admiring our favorite players or renouncing what goes on within their personal lives.

Most likely, these circumstances will not change how fans feel towards Iverson because these things happened at home and not on the court.

Whether or not athletes who behave badly influence fans has been a long wasted debate. We are thinking about it now, but give it a few months and it will be out of our minds by the time he hits the court in the fall.

Tasha Rassuli is a sports writer for the Summer Barometer. She can be reached at baro.sports@studentmedia.orst.edu.