

Party culture

Corvallis party life may put students' health, well-being at risk

By Sarah Weaver
News Reporter

Parties of all magnitudes in terms of size and levels of sobriety can be found in Corvallis, from kickbacks in the resident halls, themed fraternity parties, to large scale events like OSU's music festival Dam Jam and large tailgates during football season.

However, according to Lt. Cord Wood of the Corvallis Police Department, parties involving the consumption of alcohol put students at a higher risk of injury.

"Intoxication makes you more vulnerable and more likely to have something bad happen to you," Wood said.

According to Oregon State Police Station Commander Eric Judah, there are peaks and valleys in the party scene in regards to how many parties are thrown and how big they are.

For instance, fall term brings not only the start of a new school year but also Halloween weekend, a notorious weekend for party-goers across the state, as well as football season and the stream of tailgates that come with it.

Winter term, according to Judah, is a slower term for parties, but they still continue on a smaller scale.

However, when spring term comes and brings the nicer weather, parties start to be a more common occurrence, including the May trip to Shasta Lake in California as well as Dam Jam, Judah said.

OSP will often work with organizers of events such as Dam Jam to make sure the events are under control and safe for everyone, Judah said.

OSP often deals with on-campus situations such as parties in the residence halls, while the CPD deals with anything outside of OSP's on-campus jurisdiction. According to Judah, CPD also receives backup from OSP on busier nights when there are more students out and about than usual in town.

"If (CPD) have a lot of parties going on, we'll help them out. We'll bring OSP resources to help them out in those off campus areas," Judah said.

EMTs and the fire department also get assistance from OSP in their involvement in responding to on-campus issues. According to Judah, the fire department is one of the most often called upon branches of Corvallis first responders.

Parties in the resident halls, more specifically, calls for alcohol and marijuana in the rooms of residents are what OSP is most often called to deal with, according to Judah.

Judah also mentioned that some students who live in residence halls often go out and party, then come back to their rooms to continue the festivities, and it is then that OSP is called.

Being in possession of or consuming marijuana, alcohol, and/or tobacco may result in a Minor in Possession (MIP). Being in possession of any other intoxicant such as MDMA, cocaine, or LSD is considered a felony, which is punishable by serving time in jail.

Since the passage of HB-4094 in Feb. 2014, underage drinkers in Oregon can call

911 to seek medical assistance for alcohol related incidents without receiving an MIP. However, according to Judah, that's not the real reason behind the citation.

While Judah understands the intent behind the medical amnesty law, he believes that MIPs still have their place.

According to Judah, one of the reasons behind the MIP charge is to make sure that students can get help they may not have otherwise received through programs such as court-mandated diversion classes, sessions at CAPS and awareness programs through the Benton County Health Department.

It goes year-to-year on which residence hall gets the most calls to OSP every year, according to Judah. Sometimes it depends on who lives in the hall as well as the staff who is running it.

"Sometimes the resident hall staff is more attuned to what's going on in the residence hall," Judah said.

There is no one specific residence hall that has been getting the most calls to OSP so far this year, according to Judah.

Resident hall parties aren't the only kinds of festivities OSU students can find, including off-campus parties in houses and apartments or in fraternity houses, but not any of OSU's 11 panhellenic sororities.

According to Wood, the hosts of parties need to know who is at their parties and what they are bringing and everyone at the party has to be 21-years-old or older in order for alcohol or marijuana to be consumed - regardless of whether or not the host provided the substances.

"Legally, you need to know who is at your party," Wood said.

According to Wood, there are multiple kinds of safety that hosts need to consider, including their personal safety and the safety of their guests.

Hosts of parties also need to know that they are responsible for their guests and making sure they are safe and acting responsibly even after they leave, according to Wood.

"If someone drives away from your party and they crash and kill someone, you could be held civilly liable," Wood said.

Wood also stated that party-goers also need to take their own personal safety, as well as the safety of others, into account as they partake in weekend festivities. According to Wood, some party-goers often put themselves in risky situations, such as falling, by drinking to the point of over-intoxication.

"People fall from windows, people fall from roofs, people fall from fire escapes," Wood said.

Additionally, according to Wood, there's also the risk for assault that must be taken into account by party-goers.

Judah believes that the party culture in Corvallis cannot be made safer, due to the prevalence of alcohol in OSU and Corvallis party culture and its correlation to sexual assault.

"I don't think you can make it safer. I see this and people in the health field see it too,

See **Party**, Page 3



THE BLOCK

Calendar

THURSDAY, March, 31
Meeting
 12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Waste Watchers
 Location: Talkman Room 106, Memorial Union
 Discussion topic: Is there a New for a Universal language?

MONDAY April 4
Debate
 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. ASOSU
 Location: SEC Plaza
 Join us for the ASOSU 2016 Elections Debate. Candidates for President, Vice President, and Speaker of the House will be debating on topics related to campus issues and student life.

WEDNESDAY, April 6
Meeting
 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Death Cafe
 Location: 26th St. Beavery, 2641 NW Monroe St., Corvallis OR
 Come drink coffee, eat cake, and discuss death with interesting people.

Speaker
 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. University Events
 Location: Grass Roots Books and Music
 OSU authors will be honored. Information regarding their literary work will be available for guests.

THURSDAY, April 7
Discussion
 12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Baha'i Campus Association
 Location: Talkman Room, Memorial Union 106
 Discussion topic: Is a Uniform System of Weights and Measures Necessary?

TUESDAY, April 12
Speaker
 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. University Events
 Location: Grass Roots Books and Music
 OSU authors will be honored. Information regarding their literary work will be available for guests.

WEDNESDAY, April 13
Meeting
 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Death Cafe
 Location: 26th St. Beavery, 2641 NW Monroe St., Corvallis OR
 Come drink coffee, eat cake, and discuss death with interesting people.

THURSDAY, April 14
Meeting
 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Pulitzer Prize Winner Rita Dove Reading
 Location: CH2M HILL Alumni Center
 Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rita Dove has been selected as the 2016 recipient of Oregon State University's Stone Award for Lifetime Literary Achievement.

WEDNESDAY, April 20
Meeting
 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Death Cafe
 Location: 26th St. Beavery, 2641 NW Monroe St., Corvallis OR
 Come drink coffee, eat cake, and discuss death with interesting people.

THURSDAY, April 21
Discussion
 12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Baha'i Campus Association
 Location: Talkman Room, Memorial Union 106
 BioLogos - Theistic Evolution

Classifieds

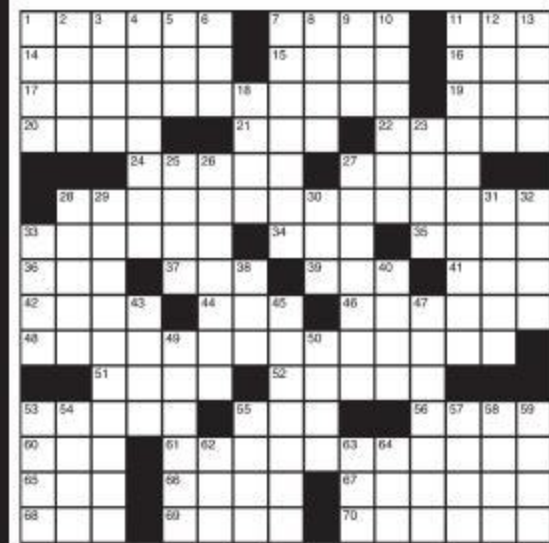
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Today's Crossword Puzzle

- Across**
- 1 Library recess
 - 7 Brief amt. of time
 - 11 Karaoke need, briefly
 - 14 Slanted
 - 15 With 34-Across, concert band instrument
 - 16 Big fuss
 - 17 Parody involving molten rock?
 - 19 Sneaky job
 - 20 APA member?: Abbr.
 - 21 Med. test
 - 22 Eight-time co-star of Joan Crawford
 - 24 Teeth: Pref.
 - 27 Note
 - 28 Wind god's whaling weapon?
 - 33 Crybaby
 - 34 See 15-Across
 - 35 Arctic flier
 - 36 Stalling-for-time syllables
 - 37 Honor earned by 27
 - 38 Super Bowl QBs
 - 39 Light lead-in
 - 41 Scoreboard fig.
 - 42 Director Preminger



- 44 It borders It.
- 46 Sparkling wit
- 48 Blubbery Belgian?
- 51 8th-century Japanese capital
- 52 Runs while standing
- 53 Try a new color on
- 55 June portrayer in "Henry & June"
- 56 Repeat, but more softly each time
- 60 First name in shipping
- 61 Hollywood harlequin?
- 65 Java
- 66 Eclectic quarterly digest
- 67 Hard to read, maybe
- 68 Animal in some fables
- 69 He says to Cordelia, "Thy truth, then, be thy dower"
- 70 Cerebral ...
- 11 Apple with a Force Touch trackpad
- 12 Fan club focus
- 13 Lane-closing sight
- 18 Physical leader?
- 23 Gear on stage
- 25 Kind of tchr.
- 26 Buddhist state
- 27 Klingner's first name on "M*A*S*H"
- 28 Vital supply line
- 29 Where to find Java
- 30 Magic show prop
- 31 ... the cold
- 32 Democratic donkey drawer
- 33 Litter cry
- 38 Wrinkly little dog
- 40 ... Royale, Michigan
- 43 Skin care brand
- 45 Pool party?
- 47 Be the subject of, as a painting
- 49 Furious
- 50 Not much at all
- 53 Indian noble
- 54 Love deity
- 55 Forearm bone
- 57 Egyptian Christian
- 58 "The thing with feathers / That perches in the soul": Dickinson
- 59 Cameo stone
- 62 Suburban trailer?
- 63 The Trojans of the Pac-12
- 64 "Alice" spinoff

Wednesday's puzzle solved



- Down**
- 1 ... breve
 - 2 Pastures
 - 3 Home team at Cleveland's "The Q"
 - 4 Uninterrupted
 - 5 Mph
 - 6 Former PBS host LeShan
 - 7 Place setting items
 - 8 Tough march
 - 9 1940s stage for Ike
 - 10 ... eel

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Horoscope

Today's Birthday (03/31/16). Plan a passion project this year. Disciplined studies and trips pay off. Use anxiety as motivation. Romantic partnership reaches new levels (after 3/23), fanning flames for a two-year collaboration phase (after 9/9). A turning point arises with your work and health (9/1). Changes require adaptations (after 9/16). Choose love.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Career opportunities seem within reach. Stay focused. Consider what's best for family. If it goes against your grain, turn it down. You gain profound insight into a problem. Teach someone what you're learning.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Travel and academics hold your focus. A formidable barrier blocks the path, so step carefully. You can see what wasn't working. Keep practicing. Work with someone who sees your blind spot. Have a backup plan.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Manage shared finances with your partner. Difficulties

become apparent. Listen carefully, and avoid blame or argument. Focus on what can be done. Make an important call. Keep your sense of humor.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Collaborative efforts get through where a solo push fails. Keep your patience with partners and roommates. Deep breathing is good now. Negotiate to refine the plan. Let go of old baggage.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — A change of direction at work does you a lot of good, but may take you by surprise. Cut clutter to make space for what's ahead. Reconnect with your base.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Relax, and take it easier. Pay bills before spending on treats. Simple luxuries satisfy, like open sky and hot water. You don't need gifts to express your love. Remind people what you appreciate about them.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — Family matters hold your focus. You and a housemate may have differing opinions. Slow down and proceed with caution, or you'll break something. Avoid harsh words by listening more. Go for

clarity. Decrease clutter.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Breaking news reveals a startling turn of events. Study background details before weighing in. Discover the undercurrents and hidden resources. Take abrupt action to grab a passing opportunity. You're gaining influence in a growing conversation.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 9 — Prioritize positive cash flow. Pay bills, and send invoices. Sell or give away stuff you no longer need. Establish efficient routines to save money. Keep things frugal, even when a windfall lands in your yard.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 9 — Take charge, and motivate others to participate. An opportunity requires action, and you see something possible. Slow down to navigate sharp turns. Get out and explore what's going on. Invite someone interesting.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — Peace and quiet suit your mood. Private productivity generates satisfying results. Read instructions and histories. Plan upcoming engagements in detail. Think carefully before making an important decision. Home draws you in magnetically.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Find ways to increase shared assets. Insurance? Investments? Manage accounts, and get feedback from a partner. Set up meetings, and resist temptation to spend on non-essential frills. Get expert opinions. Share ideas for profit and savings.

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Sudoku

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7						9		
4			6					
1			4	3	5			8
				1				3
		4						
6		1	3			7		
				9				3

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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News



BARBARA DAVIDSON | LOS ANGELES TIMES

Coal dust fills the air at the Absaloka coal mine in Montana.

Coal: a polluted past

By William Yardley
Los Angeles Times

SEATTLE — Environmentalists and energy experts have been saying it for a while now. So have private investors and federal regulators. Lawmakers across the West are increasingly saying it, too: The reign of King Coal is over.

Gov. Kate Brown of Oregon just signed into law a measure that would eliminate coal from the state's power supply in less than two decades. Here in Washington, the Legislature also just adopted a plan that would eliminate coal. Last year, California moved to use renewables for half of its electricity by 2030.

And then there is Utah.

In the final hours of the state's legislative session this month, the Utah House of Representatives began final debate on a measure to loan \$53 million for a planned export facility in San Francisco Bay that would ship Utah coal to Asia. The idea is to provide a guaranteed market for coal mined in southern Utah, a region hard hit by the declining domestic coal market.

Opponents were exasperated that the plan — developed in secret last year by an investment banker who moonlighted as head of the Utah Transportation Commission — had suddenly emerged as legislation and made it to the floor barely a week after being introduced.

"If we were businessmen or a bank, and we were putting out \$53 million, would we get an independent review before making that decision?" Rep. Joel Briscoe, a Democrat and the minority whip,

asked the chamber. "I think we would."

But speaker after speaker rose to say that no outside analysis was necessary. Utah coal is cleaner than most, they said. So clean it will actually help China solve its pollution problems. Wary investors will be proven wrong, they said, just as they were during the Great Recession.

Besides, this was about more than coal. This was about protecting rural jobs and families beaten down by federal regulation and limited economic options. Perhaps, they said, Utah could use the access it would gain to the terminal to export oil or potash, grain or alfalfa. Or even, somehow, the message of the Mormon church.

"Let's bless the world," Rep. Derrin Owens, a Republican, told his colleagues on the Senate floor. The bill passed, 57-17, with six lawmakers not voting. Gov. Gary Herbert, also a Republican, is expected to sign it into law.

If he does, experts say, Utah will be going against well-established momentum. While coal is expected to remain an important part of the nation's energy supply for many years, the rise of cheap natural gas and renewable wind and solar energy has sent its value into steep decline.

Utah acted on the same day that one of the nation's largest coal companies, Arch Coal, facing bankruptcy, announced that it was suspending its long-standing plans to develop an ambitious mine in Montana in part because demand in Asia had plummeted.

It was also the same day that the

United States Energy Information Administration released estimates showing national coal production declined 29 percent in the first 10 weeks of 2016 compared with the same period last year.

It acted even as the editorial page of the *Deseret News*, one of Utah's more conservative publications (and that is saying something), said that the bill had "too many red flags."

Yet it did not necessarily act out of character with all corners of the West. Montana lawmakers and some tribal leaders there have expressed deep frustration that states on the coast have fought efforts to export coal, with some governors and tribal leaders traveling to the coast to show support for port projects.

Wyoming, which produces more coal than any other state, has pledged \$15 million toward a testing center that will look for ways to turn carbon dioxide into new products, and it has spent smaller amounts to promote the industry. Last year, it passed a law giving its public-private development arm, the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, the ability to invest as much as \$1 billion in projects out of state if it can sell bonds for them. The idea was to help build coal export terminals.

But the state has made no such investments and Jason Begger, executive director of the Wyoming agency, said in an interview this week that doing so would be risky in light of the current market and resistance to coal terminals on the coast.

"You never say never, but it

would probably be unlikely that our bonding authority would ever be used on a port project," Begger said.

Other than Utah, he said, referring to coal-producing Western states, "I'm not aware of any states that have stepped up and actually provided a mechanism to provide funding to a port project."

The Utah plan did not begin in the Legislature. Last spring, Jeffrey Holt, a longtime investor in port and infrastructure projects who also served as chairman of the state transportation commission, helped develop a plan that would use \$53 million in federal royalty payments from mining leases to help four coal-producing counties invest in the project. Holt and his firm, the Bank of Montreal, stood to gain more than \$1 million in the deal and a related rail line.

Holt tried to keep the plan secret, saying in emails later made public that "the script was to downplay coal." The plan was criticized by environmental groups, who wrote to the Utah attorney general's office raising questions about the legality of the arrangement. In December, Holt abruptly resigned his position on the transportation commission, but he was present at the Utah Capitol this week as lawmakers considered the bill.

The law passed by the Legislature would use state money to fund the port project, but it would reimburse the state with the federal royalty money.

"It's being laundered," said Ted Zukoski, a lawyer for Earthjustice.

Los Angeles Times

Party

Continued from page 1

we talk to people about preventing sexual assault, and alcohol is the number one date rape drug out there," Judah said.

According to Judah, there's also simply a higher risk of incidents, when people over-drink or are partaking in drugs.

"If you have people drinking alcohol to an excess or taking drugs, there's a risk factor," Judah said.

According to sophomore English literature major Michelle Miller, fraternity parties are random in the sense that no two parties are exactly alike and one can see that if they engage in party-hopping, going to more than one party in a single night.

According to Miller, some fraternity parties or functions are preceded by a sober period where the two or four houses at the party or function will play games to get to know each other before the rest of the party.

People at fraternity parties can act as randomly as the parties themselves, according to Miller. Sometimes people will act differently or try new things such as drinking games or dancing styles in order to impress someone or just to try something new.

"I've seen people try to play beer pong to impress someone and miserably fail," Miller said.

The drinking culture at fraternity parties is also varied, according to Miller. Some students go to parties and don't drink at all and according to Miller, there is not that much pressure to drink.

"I've never really felt pressured to drink at a frat party, and I've never met anyone who has," Miller said. "Just because you're in college doesn't mean you have to drink every weekend and go out on Thirsty Thursday."

In addition to being an attendee of fraternity parties, Miller also hosts parties at her apartment. According to Miller, house parties are often smaller events that are more focused in social bonding with a small group of friends.

"For me, it's mostly a small get-together with some friends to relax after the school week," Miller said.

According to Miller, the environment of the house party can depend on whether or not people are drinking as it can sometimes dictate what takes place for the rest of the night.

At Miller's house parties, every guest knows at least one person in the apartment she shares with her three roommates. The environment of the party can also depend on the people in attendance, according to Miller.

While the parties are fun, according to Miller, sometimes issues will arise, including people getting too drunk or staying over for too long.

"Sometimes people get really drunk and belligerent and I've had to kick people out and other times we are completely sober," Miller said.

According to Miller, people have wanted to keep the party going far past what she had originally expected and she has had to ask people to leave out of respect for her roommates sleeping upstairs.

"I've have to be the uncool mom roommate and tell people to leave," Miller said.

According to Judah, something students and community members can do is educate themselves on party culture, safe drinking practices, and partying in a safe and legal way. Judah said students need to consider the possible outcomes of their actions, including legal ramifications, especially surrounding the use of marijuana.

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News

New hearing aids create authentic sounds

By Dee DePass
Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — After three years and millions of dollars, Starkey Hearing Technologies recently unveiled a next-generation hearing aid that promises to channel both realistic speech and authentic-sounding music to the hard of hearing.

Officials of the Minneapolis-area manufacturer said their new Muse hearing aid uses separate "signal processors" for the first time. They are banking on it to be a hit with baby boomers, veterans and others who will not be separated from their music even as they age and lose some ability to hear.

While hearing aids have long helped convey speech, the task of relaying authentic-sounding music has proved elusive. The complex range of quickly shifting frequencies and gyrating

combinations of bass, midrange and treble have made music hard to capture realistically.

"But we refused to accept that music can't sound good," said David Fabry, Starkey vice president of audiology and professional relations.

That determination paid off. In January, Starkey introduced its wireless Muse hearing aid and four other "Made For Life" hearing products during the Starkey Expo in Las Vegas.

In March, the company brought Muse and its other high-tech products to audiology customers in South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. In mid-April, the products head to the American Academy of Audiologists conference in Phoenix and then to the Department of Veterans Affairs in May.

About 500 researchers and product developers worked on

the new hearing aids. The company worked with musicians and focus groups to make sure the device captured music in a full-bodied way, said officials.

Fabry declined to discuss Muse's market potential but said it is "significant" because it brings a level of technology to the industry that is not currently available.

"This is a milestone for us," Fabry said. "We certainly expect this to contribute to the bottom line."

The new high-definition Muse is wireless and models either fit behind the ear, sit visibly inside the ear or hide invisibly inside the ear canal. Prices range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per ear.

Muse uses more powerful microchips than in the past and new software that allows users to seamlessly hear words and music, whether they are on a smartphone or Blue Tooth device or listening to iTunes, a live concert or conversations in quiet libraries or noisy restaurants.

The device employs Starkey's new 900sync wireless technology, Synergy hardware platform and Acuity operating software to process multiple sounds simultaneously. It lets audiologists custom fit patients by adjusting 24 channels or bands and can synchronize sounds entering the ears of a patient wearing two very different hearing aids.

"I'm excited to fit my first patient with these," said Stephanie Rogers, head audiologist for Audibel Hearing Healthcare's 10 stores in Mississippi and Alabama. She



STARKEY HEARING TECHNOLOGIES

A new hearing aid called the Muse is designed to facilitate genuine sounding music.

trained to use the devices at Starkey's headquarters and likes what she saw. Muse's bandwidth is 10,000 hertz, compared to the old 6,000 to 8,000 hertz limits of Starkey's past products.

"This will help my patients get that full music sound," Rogers said. "My patients with high frequency hearing loss often complain that they can't hear the lyrics in the music or vice versa. Or that the music sounds flat. It's an area we are always battling and asking how can we make music more pleasant."

The new technology is allowing more flexibility in Starkey products and could be a hit among her aging baby boomer patients who are beginning to experience hearing loss, and who refuse to be separated from their music, she said.

The timing is perfect, Fabry said.

About 8,000 baby boomers are turning 70 every day, according to AARP.

That means the market is expanding, Fabry said.

Besides Muse, Starkey launched its iPhone-compatible "Halo 2" device, new tinnitus controls and a new wireless "SurfLink" remote microphone that lets hearing aid users zero in on speeches even during noisy conventions and seminars.

The fresh investments are expected to help Starkey, which has been accused by some in the industry of lagging behind its European rivals in technology developments.

The company recently dropped from the second-place to third-place supplier for the

Department of Veterans Affairs. Officials hope the new updates will change that.

"One of the most significant aspects of this platform is that we built it to optimize sound quality for both music and for speech, which are both critical hearing environments," Fabry said. "It is a very significant attribute."

Starkey has been through much turmoil in the past year, with a mass firing of several executives and ensuing legal battles. The company has maintained that it has the talent to move ahead despite the challenges associated with the turnover.

Star Tribune

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Sports



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Think the UConn women are too good? Quit whining and defeat 'em

By Larry Stone
The Seattle Times

How about those Huskies? No, not THOSE Huskies. Not Washington's sensational women, whose unlikely Final Four foray is the feel-good story of the year in Seattle sports — and gaining traction nationally.

I'm talking about the other women Huskies — the ones from the University of Connecticut. The ones who not only never lose, but crush teams with such soul-sapping ferocity — and mind-numbing regularity — that the backlash is resounding.

A Massachusetts-based columnist asked, "Is UConn's women's basketball team too good for the game?"

No, not The Boston Globe's Dan Shaughnessy, though he did reiterate that oft-posed question last week, concluding that "the UConn women are so good they have stripped their sport of all drama and competition and made it similar to performance art." And drew the predictable and acid-tongued ire of UConn coach Geno Auriemma, who long ago tired of apologizing for his team's dominance.

Actually, the previous query was the headline in a 2010 article in the Springfield Republican, in which columnist Ron Chimelis explained why his paper doesn't print UConn's box scores: "To me, that's like printing the final vote of an uncontested election."

That was six years ago, mind you, and the Huskies have, if anything, accelerated their obliteration of the women's



basketball scene. In pursuit of their fourth straight national title, Connecticut has won 73 consecutive games overall (every one of them by double digits), 120 of its last 121, 22 straight in the postseason, and is crushing teams this year by an average of 40 points.

The question of whether UConn's near-monopoly of women's basketball hardware is bad for the sport is one that has been asked every year since, and now has reached a crescendo. The Huskies, who won 90 straight games from Nov. 16, 2008 until Dec. 29, 2010, have put together a streak of success not seen since John Wooden was winning 10 titles in 12 years with UCLA. Auriemma is going after his 11th.

And it's a question that suddenly has local relevance, considering that Washington is one victory over Syracuse away from a national championship match that would almost certainly be against

Connecticut.

I'd bet the UW Huskies would tell you, if they weren't bound by the sacred prohibition against looking beyond the next game, that they welcome the challenge of playing Connecticut. But so did Southern Miss — a No. 5 seed with a 28-8 record — in the Sweet 16, and they lost by 60 points, 98-38. That was one of four UConn wins this season by 60 or more points, to go with six by 50 to 59 points and 15 by 40 to 49 points.

My initial conclusion was the easy one, the narrative that's gaining momentum — the Connecticut Huskies are, indeed, ruining women's basketball by taking the competitive aspect away.

But the more I thought about it, the more that not only demeaned Connecticut, which plays the game with brilliance, grace and strength, and Auriemma, who may well be the best pure coach in college sports, but also the entire

women's game. (Auriemma also exudes an arrogance and cockiness that can be extremely off-putting — but doesn't that describe many top men's coaches, as well?)

I don't know how anyone who followed the women's tournament, particularly, Washington's stunning run through the field as a No. 7 seed (joining No. 4 Syracuse in the semifinals) can say that it wasn't worth watching. There was, perversely, even more parity and crazy upsets in the women's tournament than the men's.

That entertaining parity exists a rung below Connecticut, to be sure. There's much truth to the overwhelming conclusion that everyone else is playing for second place.

But UConn stands as a beacon for the rest of the field to strive for — and rest assured, they will eventually be caught, and beaten. No dynasty is forever, though it might take

Auriemma's retirement, just as it took Wooden's to end UCLA's reign.

I'd put it this way, because the truth, as usual is not absolute — Connecticut is both exhilarating and detrimental for women's basketball. People love dominance, but not too much of it. They like to see a team or superstar reach pre-eminent status — and then get knocked off that perch. It happened with Tiger Woods, and it's going to happen with the Golden State Warriors, who are today's darlings and tomorrow's bully that must be stopped.

Connecticut might be squelching the drama now, but they're also putting down a challenge that should invigorate the sport. They are showing the supreme possibilities of utter greatness in women's basketball — and inviting others to do the same.

It's a siren call that must be heeded soon, however, before people tune out for

good. If I were advising a high school girls basketball superstar, I'd suggest she go be part of the team that brings down Connecticut. To me, that would be a far more satisfying achievement than being just the next cog in the UConn Huskies' relentless machine.

Connecticut seems infallible, but just four years ago Baylor beat them out for the title with a 40-0 record. Another Brittney Griner is no doubt lurking out there, maybe with the yearning to topple UConn.

Way back when, Pepperdine coach Gary Colson led the chorus of men's coaches who bemoaned the UCLA run of titles from 1964 to 1975. It was ruining basketball, they harumphed. To which Wooden, of course, had an answer:

"The same thing was said about the Yankees in baseball," the iconic coach said after beating Kentucky for his final title in 1975. "Whether it's an individual or a team, whenever you reach a plateau of excellence, there are always a lot of people who want to see you knocked down. Then, when that happens, they don't know what they were complaining about. There were those who wanted to see Joe Louis get whipped when he was heavyweight champion all those years. Then, when he did, they were sorry."

I don't think anyone would be sorry if Connecticut got knocked from its lofty perch. But much of the complaining going on now needs to be re-directed toward embracing the challenge of getting it done.

The Seattle Times

The Bottom Line

TWEET OF THE DAY



Walking around campus today with my backpack on. No I don't have class anymore. Perhaps I just have an identity crisis now #GradProbz
Ruth Hamblin @ruthhamblin

NUMBER OF THE DAY **73**

The No. of straight games that UConn has won. The second longest streak in WBB history.

UPCOMING EVENTS

W. Golf	4/1-4/3 @ Liz Murphy Classic
Baseball	4/1-4/3 vs. Washington
Softball	4/1-4/3 @ Stanford
W. Basketball	4/3 vs UConn @ Indianapolis

Sports

Crean a winner, Self, Emmert losers during March Madness

By Mark Story
Lexington Herald-Leader

In the swirl that is March Madness, not all the winners end up in the Final Four:

Winner: Tom Crean. On Dec. 2, after Indiana lost 94-74 at Duke in the proverbial game that wasn't that close, the Hoosiers stood 5-3. Crean's coaching seat may as well have been a blast furnace.

So it was a rather remarkable coaching achievement that saw Crean and Indiana's season end at 27-8 in the Sweet 16 —after winning a Big Ten regular-season title.

For all the scorn Crean takes on 'UK basketball Twitter,' he has been an NCAA tourney "Cat killer."

At Marquette and Indiana, Crean is 3-1 against Kentucky in the Big Dance with one victory over each of the past three UK coaches—Tubby Smith (2003), Billy Gillispie (2008) and John Calipari (2016).

Crean has beaten UK when it was the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament and riding a 26-game winning streak (2003, albeit with Kentucky's best player, Keith Bogans, hobbled by a badly sprained ankle). He's now beaten UK when it was a trendy Final Four pick with the best backcourt (Tyler Ulis and Jamal Murray) in the country.

After falling to East Regional No. 1 seed North Carolina on Friday night, what Crean has not yet been able to do is get Indiana past the round of 16. He's 0-3 in regional semifinals.

Amazingly, tradition-rich IU has advanced to the Elite Eight only once since 1993 —Mike Davis' unexpected run to the 2002 NCAA title game.

Loser: Bill Self. No. 1 seed Kansas lost a gut-wrencher to No. 2 seed Villanova in the South Regional finals in Louisville on Saturday. No disgrace in that. However, it was the continuation of a troubling trend for the Jayhawks and their coach.

Since winning the 2008 NCAA championship as a No. 1 seed — thanks, largely, to a late-game Memphis collapse in the finals —Kansas has entered the NCAA tourney four times as a No. 1 seed: 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016.

The Rock, Chalk, Jayhawkers have not made the Final Four in any of those years.

Self is the poster coach for the fickle nature of the one-and-done NCAA Tournament.

In addition to the 2008 national championship, he led the No. 2 seed Jayhawks to the NCAA title game in 2012 before falling to Anthony Davis and Kentucky.

Yet in 13 years as Kansas coach, Self has lost in regional finals four times and failed to make it out of the first weekend five times.

Under Self, Kansas has won or shared 12 straight Big 12 regular-season championships. That is one of the most

impressive feats in 21st century college sports.

Self might be the best regular-season coach in the country. He may also be the most underachieving NCAA Tournament coach.

Winners: Roy Williams and Jim Boeheim. One coach's program (Boeheim's) has already been punished (in part) for academic fraud. The other coach's program (Williams) is still under (an interminable) NCAA investigation for the same.

Yet, having each reached the Final Four, North Carolina's Williams and Syracuse's Boeheim should be smiling like The Cheshire Cat this weekend in Houston.

Loser: Mark Emmert. It's going to be fun, in a perverse way, to watch the NCAA and its president squirm through the "Cheaters' Ball" of a national semifinal between North Carolina and Syracuse.

The ACC Atlantic Coast Conference teams are 18-5 in the NCAA Tournament. With North Carolina and Syracuse facing off in a national semifinal, the ACC is guaranteed a team in the national championship game.

Is it a coincidence the ACC has two teams either under or recently under NCAA investigation in the Final Four and had a third team, Louisville, self-impose a post-season ban because it, too, is under scrutiny over alleged cheating?

Loser: Mike Krzyzewski. The Duke coach had no business scolding Oregon's Dillon Brooks for hitting a deep 3-pointer — and celebrating it — at the end of the shot clock in the final seconds of the Ducks' 82-68 spanking of the Blue Devils in the round of 16.

In games that are clearly decided, it's become custom as a matter of sportsmanship to take a shot-clock violation when the impending victor has the ball for a final possession but can't run out the game clock.

Krzyzewski reprimanded Brooks for violating the unwritten code in the post-game handshake line, then made the incident a far bigger deal by misleading the media about what he said to the Oregon player when asked in the post-game news conference.

Once audio of the encounter emerged, Krzyzewski apologized to Oregon.

Had Coach K taken the question in the news conference over what he said to Brooks as his chance to apologize, he could have saved himself some over-the-top, national-level, media grief.

Lexington Herald-Leader

Final Four is ethically suspect, why no SMU?

By Tim Cowlshaw
The Dallas Morning News

Larry Brown said he was over it. He said he was just sitting back and enjoying the NCAA Tournament. Then he went on a familiar rant about the NCAA punishment that kept SMU out of March Madness this spring.

Is this a column about feeling sorry for SMU? Hell, no. Brown lied to investigators, caught himself, changed his story and admitted to wrongdoing. And when you're a serial offender like Larry Brown, the NCAA is going to lay down the law.

But that's only part of the story. Saturday's late game in the Final Four at Houston has Syracuse playing North Carolina. Where have we heard these schools mentioned lately?

Didn't Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim serve the same nine-game penalty for violations this season that Brown served? And hasn't North Carolina been under investigation for academic fraud going back two decades for at least a couple of years now?

How did those teams not only get invited to the tournament but thrive while SMU, which probably would have been a 4 or 5 seed had it been eligible, got left behind?

Louisville also missed the NCAA Tournament due to a self-imposed ban following an investigation into recruits being provided strippers and sex, based on a book published last year.

"I don't want to be lumped with Louisville. That's a moral issue," Brown said. "Ours was an online course that wasn't even an SMU course, that's what's so ridiculous."

But when investigators found that an athletic department secretary took the course for former SMU player Keith Frazier and Brown initially lied about it, the NCAA extracted its pound of flesh.

Meanwhile, Syracuse's problems, according to the NCAA, came about

"over the course of a decade" where the head coach was found to have failed to monitor the program.

But the genius move by Syracuse came last February. Sitting at 15-7, looking as if the team might miss the tournament for the first time in seven years, the school self-imposed a postseason ban. Now, it didn't look like a stroke of genius when the team finished ninth in the ACC this year and had a 19-13 overall record.

But the Orange have found a way in this tournament, no game more incredible than the rally from 15 points down in the middle of the second half against No. 1 seed Virginia. Now, Boeheim gets to play the lovable (not easy for him) underdog in Houston this week.

And he's doing it against a Carolina team that, according to reports, invented classes, giving athletes including basketball players back into the Dean Smith era passing grades for non-existent classes.

Compare that to the Keith Frazier situation, and SMU's violation really was a drop in the bucket. But at small schools, there is always the sense that the NCAA shies away from punishing the powerful state schools. In this case, the NCAA simply dragging its feet in the investigation has allowed Roy Williams' team to make a run at another title before the hammer falls.

Brown's a North Carolina alum, so he wasn't about to go off on the Tar Heels. He just wants the NCAA to punish the guilty.

"If they found I was complicit in the Frazier situation or anything else, punish the head coach. If the school is complicit, punish the school. If a player is involved, punish the player," Brown said.

"Not one of our players (Frazier has transferred to North Texas) really had anything to do with what happened, and they got punished. We were 25-5, and all five games we lost were conference games."

But 25-5 stayed home while 19-13 sneaked into the bracket and has found its way to the Final Four.

The Dallas Morning News

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Forum



SEAN BASSINGER | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Stay web surf savvy

By Sean Bassinger
Forum editor

I love the Internet.

Since the first days of looking forward to America Online login periods at school (because this was the ONLY way we knew how to find Cartoon Network on the web), I continue to make new connections, learn new information on fascinating topics (outside of Wikipedia) and unwind with many forms of entertainment.

Sometimes, though, I wonder whether or not we're squandering an amazing tool.

The Internet as we know it first originated through various projects from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to better exchange information through various network packets, according to the Internet Society website. Since then, the Internet has evolved into a central source of fast information access for public, commercial and (some) private uses.

And cat pictures. Holy crap, we have cat pictures galore.

Don't forget the videos as well.

Still, this is something I file under the "harmless entertainment" category, which is totally fine in my book.

What concerns me more than anything in regards to the information superhighway is how we continue to share and discuss legitimate and illegitimate information.

Take unmarked satire news sources, for instance.

Many people know that The Onion, "America's finest news source," is a parody of all things journalism and mass media. The same organization recently created a site known as "ClickHole," a hilarious parody of sites such as BuzzFeed, and "StarWipe," a satirical online celebrity magazine. These sites clearly have a purpose and a goal:

to amuse and entertain in the name of satire.

A few others, however, take it to the next level. They may even disguise themselves as a legitimate news source, spreading tidbits of fake information in an effort to gain traffic and click hits.

I can't count how many times I've seen sites disguised as legitimate ABC, NBC or CBS syndicates that turn out to be completely fake domains—you can usually tell at second glance if you pay attention to the web address; there are usually 10-20 characters too many.

Thankfully, websites such as Snopes have us covered if something seems too unbelievable to be true. Snopes allows contributors to gather information and fact check on whether or not the ocean of data we encounter online appears to be completely fabricated.

Though social media sites such as Facebook often mark their trending articles with a "satire" disclaimer, sometimes Snopes will even reassure us that an Onion article is fake if enough people share it with concern.

One such article—dated Nov. 15, 2015—was about SeaWorld animals being placed in plastic bags when park employees cleaned the tanks. This was satire, though some folks needed an additional reminder.

The Internet is an amazing tool that we only continue to improve upon, but we need to remember that not everything we see or read online is necessarily true.

This is also why, for ages, newspapers (ours included) and books still run corrections if any audience member happens to come across an inaccuracy or error. This is less of a sign of unprofessional behavior, but more of a mark of dedication to make sure legitimacy stays established.

It is therefore the responsibility of each Internet user to make sure that the information they share and consume is as accurate as possible.

If not, seek out ways to improve the information or find more reliable sources.

And if it's completely made up with no disclaimer or intention of satire, avoid it at all costs.

Meanwhile, happy cat viewing.

The opinions expressed in Bassinger's column do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff.

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Online courses offer flexible class options

By Jackie Keating
Forum contributor

With online classes more common than ever before, many of you may be mulling over the possibility of switching that 8 a.m. on-campus class for the online version.

I am currently taking both forms of classes, and there are definitely pros and cons of each.

First, I'll start with the online class: It's new, it's fresh, it's exciting. The most obvious upside to my Ecampus class is the flexibility it offers. I can sit down and do the work whenever it is most convenient to me, and therefore work it into my schedule instead of building my schedule around it. It's especially nice this term since the sun is out and I can "be in class" at the Memorial Union Quad, for example. This would be an especially good option for those who are working multiple jobs, or who have tight schedules for any reason.

I also like the fact that my online class offers the opportunity to meet people from all over the country, whereas the overwhelming majority of people in my on-campus classes are from Oregon. I have a girl in my Ecampus class from

Texas, a boy from San Diego and another from Georgia, for instance. We've introduced each other on Canvas' discussion forums, and it's fun to think that each of us is interacting from totally different settings.

Lastly, the Ecampus course I'm taking allows me to interact with the professor one-on-one, since we are required to Skype her a couple of times during the term to check in with how the course is going. Since many people don't end up going to office hours on campus, I think the required check-ins would probably be beneficial.

However, there are certainly things that a regular, sit down class on campus offers that my online class can't. One is the ease with which one can ask a clarifying question in a regular class and get an immediate answer. If I'm having a hard time on an assignment in my Ecampus class, I have to email the professor and hope for a quick reply, or turn to one of my E-classmates.

Which, of course, leads to the next issue, which is the lack of physical, human interaction that occurs in the online edition of my course. There's something comforting about sitting in the same seat with the same people around you in a scheduled on-campus class. There might be a class clown who makes the course entertaining, or a friend you like to study for tests with. Although the students in my online class seem very friendly and helpful, the fact that we can't actually see each other gives a disconnect that's all too apparent and a bit disconcerting.

Lastly, the online classes can be risky if you—like me—are

I encourage students to keep their options open, but Ecampus may not be for everyone.

a procrastinator. For my particular class, nothing is due until the end of the week, which makes it very tempting not to crack open my textbook until everything is actually due, thus sending me into a panicky tornado on Fridays. If you're a disciplined individual who can commit to doing work every day without prompting or supervision, Ecampus might be a good option for you. Otherwise, you may want to stick it out in your on-campus class.

All in all, I'd say that I prefer the more friendly and human setting offered by regular classes. There are more opportunities to ask questions as well as to talk to classmates in person and be held accountable to show up and learn. However, I'm not going to totally disregard online classes, because I think they could prove really helpful, especially in the summer when I won't be in Corvallis.

I encourage students to keep their options open, but Ecampus may not be for everyone.

The opinions expressed in Keating's column do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff.

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Letters

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be printed on a first-received basis. Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include the author's signature, academic major, class standing or job title, department name and phone number. Authors of e-mailed letters will receive a reply for the purpose of verification. Letters are subject to editing for space and clarity. The Daily Barometer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submissions. Each reader will be allowed one published letter per month.

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Students deserve to have debt relief

By Alan Collinge
Los Angeles Times

Something unusual happened in late February. Commentators on the right and left, liberal Thom Hartmann and conservative Ike Brannon, published essays on the same day, Feb. 22, saying the same thing: Americans should have the right to discharge their student debt in bankruptcy proceedings, just like all other loans. Perhaps this historic convergence means we're finally ready for change.

Our bankruptcy system goes back to the 18th century. When the founders — many of whom suffered at the hands of British creditors — wrote the Constitution, they specified that Congress had the authority to create a uniform, federal bankruptcy system, listing that power ahead of the power to declare war, to raise an army and navy, and to coin currency.

It wasn't until nearly 200 years later that Congress targeted student debtors, making bankruptcy uniquely unavailable to them. The rationale was that students were fleeing, en masse, to bankruptcy court promptly upon graduation. But we now know that less than 1 percent of student loans were being discharged in bankruptcy court

at that time.

Absent bankruptcy protection, the student loan industry functions without checks and balances. Lenders have no reason to seriously evaluate a prospective borrower's ability to repay a loan, because they can make more money on defaults than on loans that remain in good stead. If a debtor lacks the funds to pay interest, lenders have collection powers that would "make a mobster envious" — in Sen. Elizabeth Warren's words. They can extract huge sums from clients, often many multiples of what was originally borrowed.

Borrowers who default on student loans are relegated to a lifetime of socioeconomic insecurity. In addition to sustaining damage to their credit scores, they can be fired from public employment, their wages garnished without a court order. They can lose their professional licenses and even their driver's licenses.

Those who manage to pay their way out of default through a hugely expensive loan "rehabilitation" process wind up in default again more than 60 percent of the time. Ultimately, borrowers in default can look forward to giving up a portion of their Social Security or disability income.

In this lending and collection environment, the price of college has (predictably) skyrocketed. The nation now owes nearly \$1.5 trillion in student loan debt, up from \$500 billion eight years ago. The average undergraduate leaves school with \$35,000 in loans, and the lifetime default rate on these loans is somewhere between 25 percent and 50 percent.

But defaults are only a part of a much larger problem. Research by the Institute of Higher Education Policy found that an astonishing 63 percent of people who left school in 2005 were either in default, deferment, hardship forbearance or otherwise delinquent by 2010. Given the continued rise in college prices and flatlining wages, this trend has probably worsened since then.

Behind the scenes, the Department of Education (which booked about \$50 billion in profits on the lending system in 2011 alone) stands with the banks and their lobbyists in fighting to perpetuate the status quo. It is clear that the department has jettisoned the public's interest and represents instead the entities it is supposed to be overseeing: the lenders and the schools.

The fact that voices from both the

right and the left are finally coalescing around this blatant injustice is encouraging. We are now halfway through the presidential election campaign, however, and we have yet to hear from either Democratic or Republican candidates (except Jeb Bush, who is now out of the race) on the question of bankruptcy and student loans. The solutions some have offered to the student debt crisis, including Sen. Bernie Sanders' proposal for tuition-free college, will do almost nothing for the 44 million people who have already been through school, have the debt to show for it, and vote.

Candidates should seize on this issue. Donald Trump, no stranger to bankruptcy proceedings, could enlighten the electorate about the importance of debt relief to a prosperous nation. Sanders could sponsor companion legislation to any of three bills currently in the House of Representatives that would return standard bankruptcy protections to student loans, thereby demonstrating to the voters that he's as progressive as he claims. Hillary Clinton could point to legislation she introduced while in the Senate that would have created a student borrower bill of rights, and

Suffice to say, this issue is getting very serious.

use the bankruptcy issue to affirm that she's still on the side of citizens, not banks.

A few days before Hartmann and Brannon published their essays, news broke that federal marshals had arrested a man for violations stemming from a nearly 30-year-old, \$1,500 student loan. The man was released upon agreeing to repay more \$5,000, including a \$1,300 bill from the court. Sources in the federal marshal's office said that they were preparing to serve an additional 1,500 similar warrants in the Houston area.

Suffice to say, this issue is getting very serious.

Alan Collinge is the founder of StudentLoanJustice.org. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

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