



68/45
Rain

Kriesch among first women to serve on Navy submarine

■ The student will train for 15 months after graduating from OSU's NROTC program

By Rebecca Johnson
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Up to this point, submarines have remained one of the few places deemed off-limits to women in the United States Navy.

The policy has recently changed and Erienne Kriesch, a senior in radiation health physics, is one of the first 19 women in the nation chosen to join the submarine community.

Discussion about lifting the ban has gone on for years, but only recently has the idea been given serious consideration. Women were allowed to serve on surface ships since 1994, but the ban was kept on submarines due to the costly issue of complying with privacy regulations, including providing adequate sleeping and restroom facilities for the females onboard, according to Navy officials.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates presented the Navy's decision to begin integrating women into the submarine force to Congress back in February, according to a Navy press release.

"There are extremely capable women in the Navy who have the talent and desire to succeed in the submarine force," Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said in the release. "Enabling them to serve in the submarine community is best for the submarine force and our Navy. We literally could not run the Navy without women today."

After congressional review, the ban was officially lifted on April 29 and women were immediately allowed to apply for positions on the underwater vessels. Currently, 15 percent of the active-duty Navy are women.

When Capt. Edward Campbell, commanding officer of the OSU Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps, saw how close the ban was to being lifted, he said he immediately knew the perfect candidate for the job.

"Ms. Kriesch's name was the first one that came to mind," Campbell said. "(She is) a gifted leader, hardworking, fiercely determined and continually demonstrates exceptional judgment in all assignments and accompanying challenges."

Campbell and other NROTC staff members encouraged and assisted Kriesch in applying for the assignment.

"We are all proud of her," Campbell said. "You don't really hear of many pioneering events anymore, but this is one of them."

Although working on a submarine is something Kriesch wanted her entire career, but was not allowed to pursue, she had to take a step back and make sure she was ready to meet the level of dedication necessary to complete the assignment, she said.



MELISSA CADY | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Erienne Kriesch is one of the first 19 women in the nation to be selected to join the submarine community, breaking the glass ceiling for female naval officers.

Kriesch came to OSU and enrolled in the radiation health program, where she maintained a 3.99 grade point average and will be graduating Summa Cum Laude at this year's ceremony.

Once the decision was made, Kriesch said the entire process happened quickly. She submitted her application packet about a week after the ban was lifted. A selection board then reviewed all the candidates and made their choices based on record and performance.

"They kind of let your work speak for itself," Kriesch said.

Each selectee was then flown to Washington, D.C. to be interviewed by a four-star admiral, primarily to make sure the candidates understood the challenge and were prepared to take it on.

"The interview went really quick," Kriesch

said. "He really made you think about a lot of things and wanted to make sure you were serious about taking on the assignment."

Once the interviews were over, Kriesch was told right then that she was approved to begin training toward becoming a submarine officer.

"It didn't seem real at first," Kriesch said. "Then it really hit."

For Kriesch, the assignment isn't about being a trailblazer; it's about doing a job that needs to be done, and done to the best of her ability.

"I've thought about this my entire career," Kriesch said.

Her career in the Navy started in 2005, when she began training as a nuclear machinist. She was raised in a small town in Kansas, hundreds of miles away from any ocean, with a family she described as "pretty normal."

"It was actually surprising that she decided to join the Navy," said Lianna Rasset, Erienne's mother. "We always told her to not let being a girl stop her from doing something."

After high school, Kriesch was looking for experiences outside her everyday surroundings and found the Navy gave her that opportunity.

Initially, she was not planning on going to school — at least not right away — but once she began training, the right people took notice of her natural abilities and aptitude.

"You can see her shine in everything she does," Campbell said.

She was quickly chosen for the Seaman to Admiral program and was on the path to becoming an officer.

Kriesch came to OSU and enrolled in the radiation health physics program, where she maintained a 3.99 grade point average and will be graduating Summa Cum Laude at this year's commencement ceremony.

"From the time she was young she has always set her goals high, maintaining a high GPA ever since grade school," Rasset said.

Even though she is graduating, her schooling is far from over. Kriesch, along with the other 18 women selected, will begin training this summer to be certified to serve on a submarine. This includes training on the complex systems and nuclear components of a submarine, driving the large vessel, and necessary leadership skills for overseeing submarine crew members.

"It's pretty intense schooling," Kriesch said. "It takes hard work and dedication."

Altogether, the training will take about 15 months to finish. Once completed, the women will be assigned to a crew, initially on the larger vessels — including guide-missile attack and ballistic missile submarines, which require less renovation in order to meet privacy regulations.

Rebecca Johnson, senior reporter
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Corvallis community supports 2025 plan

■ Increased enrollment means more money will be funneled into the local economy

By Michelle Ofelt
THE DAILY BAROMETER

The 2025 plan evokes positive and negative opinions from OSU students, faculty and administrative personnel. However, the Corvallis community prevails as one of the strongest supporters of the university's expansion and diversification efforts.

"The plan impacts Corvallis positively," said Charles Tomlinson, the mayor of Corvallis. "It's a good thing. The students are the economic driver."

President Ed Ray announced a plan last fall to propel OSU into the top 15 land-grant universities in the country, and to become an international research facility by 2025.

Ray listed several factors that must be achieved to reach this goal, which include increasing enrollment to more than 30,000, doubling the amount of research grants acquired, doubling the annual fundraising level and increasing the number of tenure or tenure-track faculty. OSU officials say the university realignment in the fall will aid in the success of the 2025 plan.

"One of the things we notice is that in 1994 we had 14,000 students and last fall we had about 22,000. So our community has seen a 15 percent increase in 15 years, and I believe that we've dealt with it well," Mayor Tomlinson said.

Local residents share the positive feedback for the plan.

"I'm all for it, since we don't have any other industry," said Jack Nickerson, Sweet Home's Holley Elementary School principal. "I'm for anything to expand the campus and get students here."

The business sector is optimistic about the future of OSU because with every new student who arrives, more money is pumped into the local economy.

"I think the businesses have felt a positive impact from the students," Mayor Tomlinson said. "Students spend a lot here. They are a positive economic engine."

The city's employment division sees the proposed influx of new students as a hiring competition factor for local businesses.

"Local businesses hire the most qualified person, so if a student comes in and is the most qualified, they'll get hired," said Linda Weaver,

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Users voice concerns over Facebook's privacy policies

■ "Instant personalization" allows Facebook to share user information without consent

By Yadira Gutierrez
THE DAILY BAROMETER

With more than 400 million Facebook users around the globe, a prominent and controversial issue surrounding the social network is the user's right to privacy.

The most recent adaptation to the Facebook's user settings is called "instant personalization," which allows partner sites to automatically access a user's profile information and friends list.

Facebook is sharing the information with companies such as Microsoft, Yelp and Pandora.

The change can catch people off-guard because the user's information is automatically shared without the individual's consent. To opt

out of "instant personalization," users must change their settings.

"Users of social media or any online service need to understand what they are using and be critical of it," said Todd Simmons, director OSU News and Communication Services. "The University uses social sites such as Flickr and Twitter for communication or marketing purposes, and it's very important that institutional users, not only students, are well-orientated."

Some users believe Facebook should be obligated to ask for permission to share content and to notify users of changes.

"I think Facebook should let users know if they are opting us into programs," said Mariam Rehman, a freshman in psychology. "When it comes to privacy, they should be considerate enough to tell us if someone can access our information."

Even though she disagrees with Facebook's protocol, Rehman said she plans to continue using Facebook to stay in touch with family

and friends who live far away.

With the prominence of social networking sites, the legal haze surrounding online privacy becomes more apparent.

"If there's a big enough break and pushback by the people, there will be some change," Simmons said. "Some privacy policy changes can be discrete, and that's why you have to be aware and read the fine print."

To certain users, the problem with reading the fine print is that there is too much of it.

"I didn't read the privacy policy when I got Facebook," said Cassandra Feyder, a freshman in English. "It was too long."

While surfing the Internet, Feyder stumbled across "instant personalization" by accident.

"I was logged on to Facebook and decided to go on Pandora," Feyder said. "As soon as I logged on, it had a personalized welcome with my name and music my friends liked. I was kind of taken aback by it, but I just shook it off. It did make me think if it was just Pandora that

my information was being shared with."

Feyder said she's considering closing her Facebook account.

Other people, like Elise Steinhaff, a senior in graphic design and business, are more aware of how their information is used.

"I had not heard (any discussion) of the instant personalization feature, but I do keep up on all the changes and I have opted out," Steinhaff said. "I adjusted all my privacy settings so my information is not exposed to the whole world. I control who views what."

Like many things, there are both positive and negative aspects of using Facebook. Simmons said he thinks the website is a great way to reconnect with others, but reminds people that it should be used wisely.

"Whatever you're doing or saying online, it's available somewhere," Simmons said.

Yadira Gutierrez, staff writer
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Former Colombian model arrested in Argentina on drug charges

VENICE, La. — Nearly four hours after BP's latest attempt to cap the runaway leak in the Gulf of Mexico got underway Wednesday afternoon, the oil giant's chief executive said he would not know for another 24 hours whether the plan is working.

Speaking from a command center in Houston, Texas, BP CEO Tony Hayward said the operation was going according to plan, but cautioned against trying to reach any conclusions based on the live video feed of the stricken well a mile below the surface.

"It's unlikely to give us any indication of what's really going on," he said. "Increases or decreases are not an indicator of success or failure at this time. We will be continuing for at least another 24 hours and it will be 24 hours before we will know whether or not this has been successful."

That timetable diverged from one offered by Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who told reporters in Venice, La., that he expects to know Wednesday night whether the attempt is working.

"What they have told us is it will take a couple of days for it to be fully implemented, but that they should know in a matter of hours," he said.

"We should, hopefully, know something later tonight," he said, adding that he planned to get an update from the Coast Guard as well as from the oil giant.

Whatever the timing, patience was in short supply. More than a month after the April 20 blast that killed 11 workers and uncorked the oil flow into the Gulf, Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser on Wednesday blasted the federal government's response and called for its point man to step aside.

"Thad Allen should resign," Nungesser told CNN, referring to the U.S. Coast Guard admiral who has been leading the government's effort. "He's done absolutely nothing. He's an embarrassment to this country."

Nungesser, who had just completed a tour of the stricken area, bemoaned what he had seen. "The same oil that's been out there two weeks ago is still out there, and nothing is being done," he said. "The marsh is dying. It's dead."

He said the Coast Guard should demand that BP begin cleanup efforts immediately. "They had no plan to keep the oil out, even though they said it wouldn't come ashore," he said. "They had no plan to clean it up. They have no plan to make the fishermen whole. It's like it's being run with a bunch of seventh-graders. This is absolutely ridiculous."

Nungesser said he was holding out hope that President Barack Obama's return visit to the region on Friday will result in the kind of action he is seeking. "When he comes back, he needs to

change the command that's in charge of this," Nungesser said.

The parish president specifically called on Obama to support plans touted by Jindal for the Environmental Protection Agency to issue dredging permits so that a berm can be constructed to protect the state's threatened marshlands.

The EPA has said it is studying the proposal.

The latest effort to cap the flow began at 1 p.m. (2 p.m. ET), when BP began pumping thick, viscous fluid twice the density of water into the site of the leak. If all goes according to plan, the well would then be sealed with cement.

Hayward, noting that the effort has never been carried out at such depths, has said there was a 60 percent to 70 percent chance of success.

Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry, the federal on-scene coordinator for the oil spill response effort, granted the authorization for BP to move forward with the operation, which had originally been slated to start several days ago.

"If it's successful, and there are no guarantees, it should greatly reduce or eliminate the flow of oil now streaming into the Gulf from the sea floor," Obama said after discussing the top kill procedure with Energy Secretary Steven Chu, who was in Houston at the command center. "And if it's not,

there are other approaches that may be viable."

Obama plans to announce Thursday "strengthened inspections" and an effort to tighten safety regulations for offshore drilling, an administration official said.

He is also expected to discuss other recommendations that came from a 30-day review he ordered shortly after the April 20 explosion aboard the drilling rig Deepwater Horizon that triggered the leak and left 11 men missing and presumed dead.

If the top kill effort does not succeed, pressure for the White House to take action is sure to increase.

"If this thing doesn't work, then the president ought to turn this over to the military," said Sen. Bill Nelson, a Democrat from Florida. "You've got to have BP's cooperation because they have the best technical instruments, but we have got to have somebody in charge and I think the U.S. military is best suited to do that."

Administration officials have said BP is best equipped to plug the leak. In preparation for the operation, BP put equipment into place early Wednesday. A team of experts examined conditions inside the five-story blowout preventer to determine how much pressure the injected mud will have to overcome.

— CNN

CALENDAR

Thursday, May 27

Meetings

ASOSU Judicial Council, 6pm, Snell 246. Regular meeting of the ASOSU Judicial Branch.

Events

Student Events & Activities Center and MU, 2:30pm, 5:30pm & 8:30pm, MU Pangea Cafe. MUVies — The Blind Side.

Lutheran Campus Ministry, 5:45-7:30pm, Luther House, 211 NW 23rd St. Quest — Simple supper, spiritual discussion.

OSU Food Group, 5-9pm, International Forum Room, Snell Hall/MU East. OSU Emergency Food Pantry: 3-5 days of food provided to low income individuals. Enter near Goss Stadium and Waldo Hall.

Fairbanks Gallery/New Eyes New Sounds, noon-12:45pm, Fairbanks Hall. Fairbanks Gallery presents: "Pine Language: The Harvey - Foss Experience." Local indie band "Pine Language" goes acoustic for the afternoon in Fairbanks Gallery. Come, bring your lunch. Free!

Freehold of Turris Nimborum, 7pm, Women's Building #205. Dance class/practice. Everyone welcome. No experience or partner necessary.

Speakers

History Department, 4pm, MU Journey Room. Lecture: Suzanne Jill Levine, UC Santa Barbara, "Translation Is Writing: Burges in/on Translation."

Tuesday, June 1

Meetings

ASOSU Senate, 7pm, MU 109A. 69th ASOSU Senate

Events

Student Events & Activities Center and MU, 2:30pm, 5:30pm & 8:30pm, MU Pangea Cafe. MUVies — Shutter Island.

Lutheran Campus Ministry, 11:30am-1:30pm, Luther House, 211 NW 23rd St. "Come & Go" lunch. Good food and informal table talk.

OSU Chess Club, 4-6pm, MU 207. Join us for chess games! Free and open to all skill levels.

'This did not have to happen,' Stupak says of oil spill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Democrat leading congressional hearings into the causes of the Gulf oil spill said Wednesday that the catastrophe could have been avoided if the companies responsible for the Deepwater Horizon oil rig had heeded a series of warning signs in the hours leading up to the rig's explosion. Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Michigan, also said that many

of the federal regulatory agencies charged with protecting the public have been "devastated" due to a lack of funding during the Bush administration.

Stupak sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and is the chair of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Stupak's subcommittee issued a report

Tuesday that detailed a number of warning signs missed by rig operators prior to its explosion on the night of April 20.

"Two hours out (from the explosion), the fundamental flaw was made," the Michigan Democrat said on CNN's John King, USA. At that point, when gas and fluid began to spurt out of the well in an indication that pressure was building, "you

should have started shutting things down," said Stupak. "They didn't. They moved forward."

Asked about apparent similarities between the lack of federal regulatory oversight in this case and in recent mining tragedies, Stupak told CNN Chief National Correspondent John King that federal agencies do not have the resources they need to engage in adequate regulation.

"These regulatory agencies — and I'm not being partisan here, but — in the last administration were devastated. People were laid off. People were let go. They were down to skeleton crews. They cut corners. The didn't have experts who knew — whether it was NHTSA or the Minerals Management Service."

— CNN

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Finding Another Way



BETTY XIAO / THE DAILY BAROMETER

The Oregonians for Alternatives to The Death Penalty Forum was held Tuesday night at the Corvallis Public Library. Community members were given the opportunity to voice their opinions on the issue in a small group setting.

Document says number of attempted attacks on US is at all-time high

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Just weeks after the failed car bombing of New York's Times Square, the Department of Homeland Security says "the number and pace of attempted attacks against the United States over the past nine months have surpassed the number of attempts during any other previous one-year period."

That grim assessment is contained in an unclassified DHS intelligence memo prepared for various law enforcement groups, which says terror groups are expected to try attacks inside the United States with "increased frequency."

CNN obtained a copy of the document, dated May 21, which goes on to warn, "we have to operate under the premise that other operatives are in the country and could advance plotting with little or no warning."

The intelligence note says recent attempted terror attacks have used operatives and tactics which made the plots hard to detect.

The document specifically mentions the cases of Afghan national Najibullah Zazi, who pleaded guilty in February to plotting attacks on New York's subways, and Times Square bombing suspect Faisal Shahzad, a Pakistani-American.

The intelligence report says both men spent significant time in the United States and were familiar with their alleged targets. Furthermore, the plots involved materials that can be commonly purchased in America without causing suspicion.

The document also says Shahzad and Zazi had short periods of training overseas "compared to lengthier training cycles for earlier operations, reducing our ability to detect their activities."

The report says U.S. officials "lack insights in specific details, timing and intended targets," but trends indicate terrorists are looking for "smaller, more achievable attacks against easily accessible targets."

The report mentions both al-

Qaeda and associated groups such as the Tehrik e-Taliban Pakistan, which is known as the TTP.

The intelligence document also says terror groups increasingly are using westerners as operatives or in leadership positions in which they make public statements calling for Muslims to strike the United States. The document cites as examples Yemeni-American cleric Anwar al-Alawki and al Qaeda spokesman Adam Gadahn.

The report also mentions Omar Hammami, who grew up in Alabama and is now believed to be an operative with al-Shabaab in Somalia. Although al-Shabaab has not executed attacks in the United States, law enforcement officials have expressed concern that Somali-Americans who have gone to Somalia to train and fight could return to the United States and commit acts of terrorism.

— CNN

Byrd gives 'don't ask don't tell' repeal enough votes for committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Another key Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday endorsed a compromise plan to repeal the "don't ask don't tell" policy that bans openly gay and lesbian soldiers from military service.

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-West Virginia, said he would vote for the measure after securing a change in the language that would delay the repeal for 60 days after certification of a military review by President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen.

"I did not want to blindly assent to repealing this law without giving the Congress an opportunity to re-examine the concerns of our Armed Forces and the manner in which they are being addressed," the 92-year-old senator said.

Proponents of the repeal think Byrd brings the total of yea votes in the committee to 16 — 15 are needed for passage. Initial votes on the proposal in the Senate Armed Services Committee and the full House could occur Thursday.

Byrd said he worked with Senate and House leaders, the White House and the Defense Department on the language.

"This period of time will allow the Congress, along with the American people, to thoroughly review the proposed policy recommendations to ensure that these changes are consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion and recruiting and retention for our Armed Forces," he said.

Earlier, moderate Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska boosted the chances for the proposal to win committee support when he endorsed the amendment without the delay.

However, the leaders of the four branches of the military said Wednesday in letters to Republican Sen. John McCain and Republican Rep. Buck McKeon that they opposed any congressional action on the policy now, before the military completes its review of the matter.

The proposed agreement — reached Monday by the White House and top congressional Democrats — calls for a repeal of the controversial policy after completion of a military review expected by the end of 2010, followed by the review certification. Byrd's compromise adds the 60-day delay.

Gates gave lukewarm support for the plan on Tuesday, saying he preferred to complete the review before proceeding to the legislative repeal. The letters to McCain, R-Arizona, and McKeon, R-California, from the heads of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force specifically opposed legislative action now, saying it would undermine the faith that service members put in the review process.

"I believe it is important, a matter of keeping faith with those currently serving in the Armed Forces, that the Secretary of Defense-commissioned review be completed before there is any legislation to repeal" the policy, wrote Gen. Norman A. Schwartz of the U.S. Air Force.

Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said Gates' statement on Tuesday "speaks for itself, and obviously, so do theirs," referring to the letters from the military leaders. However, Morrell said that Gates' position was firm on backing the compromise being pushed by the White House and leading Democrats.

— CNN

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Oregon State UNIVERSITY

2025

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

human resources administrator for the city of Corvallis. "With additional people we'll need additional services and jobs, which is a good thing."

There are three core areas in the Corvallis community that continuously feel the rise in OSU enrollment.

"The impact is felt in housing, transit and transportation," Mayor Tomlinson said.

OSU plans to construct a new dormitory primarily for international students, which correlates to the 2025 plan to double the amount of international students. The university also hopes to increase out-of-state enrollment.

The 2009-2010 non-resident undergraduates pay an estimated \$19,417, while resident undergraduates pay approximately \$6,725. International undergraduate students will pay approximately \$20,450 including fees, for 2010-2011.

Transit will be impacted because many students and faculty commute using the Corvallis transit system. More so than other students, international students must often rely on public transportation.

"Our ridership on the bus system is rising every year," Mayor Tomlinson said. "I bet at least one-third of our ridership goes to the university. We're trying to enhance the system and provide a way to get people out of their cars."

Mayor Tomlinson said he and President Ray will continue to work together and discuss the vision and impact of the 2025 plan on the Corvallis community.

"We decided on two main tracks to follow," Mayor Tomlinson said. "One: get together this fall and every fall for updates on student enrollment, parking and traffic issues any other issues; and two: take a look at long-term vision."

The mayor said he is proud of the 2025 plan efforts because it fits with what the city of Corvallis does best.

"One of our exports is educated young people," Mayor Tomlinson said. "It's very important to the state of Oregon. Some communities talk about their industry. We talk about educating young people."

Michelle Ofelt, staff writer

737-2231, news@dailybarometer.com

The Divine 9 Step Show Committee Presents...

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Editorial

Powered by gold

By now, if you haven't heard of Powered by Orange, you must not use Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, television, Portland transit, the Internet or your eyes.

It's everywhere. Which is why the year-old Powered by Orange campaign has garnered two of the nation's top prizes. PBO earned the Gold award for best uses of social media, and the "Circle of Excellence" Grand Gold award for best advertising campaign.

The awards were given by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), which includes 3,400 colleges and universities around the world.

The Powered by Orange campaign has revolutionized the way universities across the nation and the world have utilized social media to involve students, fans and alumni to create a virtual community where individuals with a wide range of affiliations can come together.

The fact that our rural university is at the forefront of the innovative use of new media is a pleasant surprise, to say the least. The campaign has caught the attention of several online sites and bloggers who are impressed by PBO's visionary use of unconventional campaign tactics.

Digital media blogger Michael Stoner called PBO "the most comprehensive university social-marketing campaign that we've seen to date," making OSU an unlikely leader in the new age of digital media interaction.

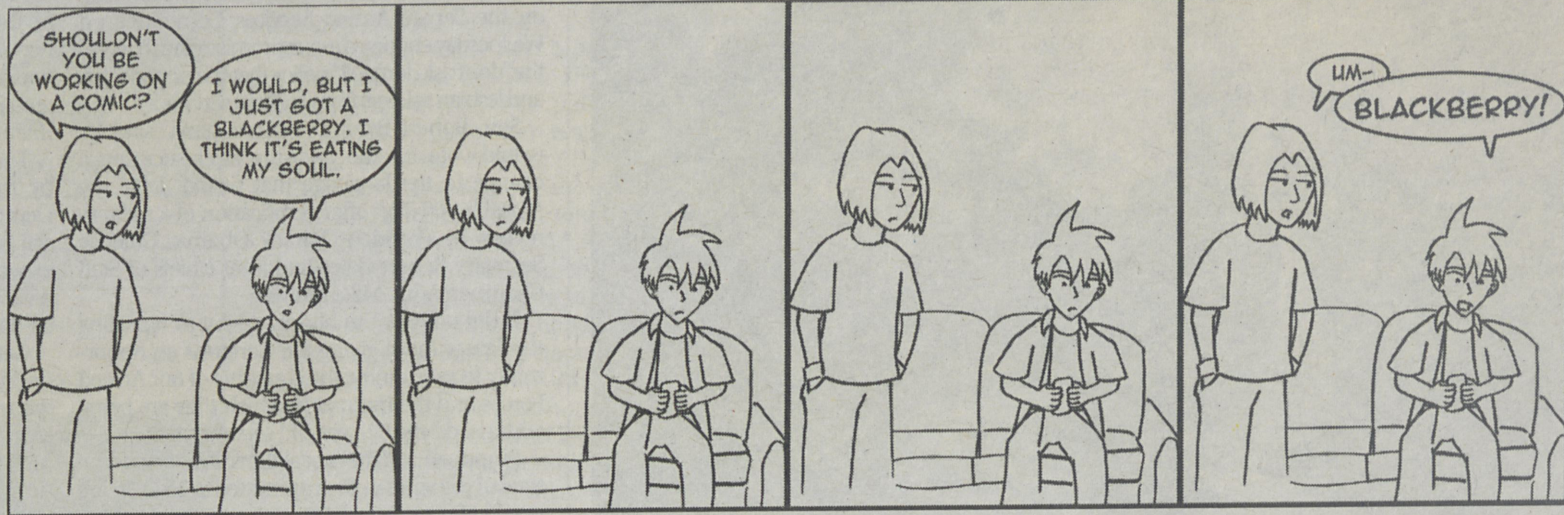
Powered by Orange, in all of its various online platforms, has hundreds of thousands of friends, clicks, reads, posts, followers and views, emphasizing the level of success the campaign has achieved.

But what is Powered by Orange? It's definitely not a new bio-fuel engine that runs on oranges, as we so foolishly first envisioned.

According to its website: "You are Powered by Orange — the students, alumni, faculty and friends of Oregon State University — making a positive difference in Oregon and beyond. Conserving our natural resources. Finding better ways to generate clean energy. Addressing climate change with sensible science. Promoting healthy living and disease prevention. Feeding a hungry world. Protecting our water supplies. Driving innovation to create new products, new companies and greater prosperity. And living the land-grant mission to provide education and opportunity for all Oregonians."

Oregon State's University Advancement division has done an excellent job of giving OSU an updated and modern image, one that will bring the OSU community together and be an example for other universities to follow.

Editorials serve as a means for Barometer editors to offer commentary and opinions on issues both global and local, grand in scale or diminutive. The views expressed here are a reflection of the editorial board's majority. Disagree? E-mail a letter to the editor or guest column to forum@dailybarometer.com.



MARK RITZMAN IS A SENIOR IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Will the US follow Greece into financial ruin?

The government of Greece spent much more than it has taxed for many years, and built up a pile of debt. With the recent economic crisis, tax revenues plummeted, unemployment rose and government deficits soared.

That part of the Greek story is very similar to the United States. What is concerning many right now is what came next in Greece, and what could happen to us in the United States if we aren't careful.

Greek debt in terms of GDP was already one of the highest in Europe before the crisis hit, and the deficit in 2009 ran up to 13.6 percent of GDP, leaving them a total debt-to-GDP ratio at around 125 percent.

That may just sound like a bunch of numbers, but the simple interpretation is Greece was in major shock, and because of the crisis, it left them no choice but to keep borrowing.

The result was a loss of faith by the credit markets. Investors started doubting Greece's ability to pay it off, so they demanded higher payments on Greek bonds to account for that risk. This became a self-fulfilling prophecy — higher rates led to increased costs just to maintain debt, and the increased costs made it impossible for Greece to make its debt payments.

This is called a debt spiral, and one of the lessons from Greece is how alarmingly fast it occurs. Debt can be like a slippery slope that leads right off a cliff.

A few years ago, Greece was highly leveraged, but the markets had faith in their ability to pay. In 2007, credit default swaps (CDS, an instrument whose value indicates the market's fear of default) on Greek debt were trading at nearly nothing.

Even in the midst of the economic crisis, people were buying Greek debt at a relatively low-risk premium. In September of 2008, CDS on Greek five-year debt indicated a low 0.5 percent chance of default, and in September of 2009, they were still at a meager 1 percent.

But early this year, the markets quickly turned on Greece, with CDS and bond rates shooting up. The country surely would have defaulted if the European Union and International Monetary Fund hadn't come in with a massive bailout, and even with that, Greece isn't out of the woods.

So the question is: Should we be concerned about the United States



Sanjai Tripathi
The Gift of Gab

possibly falling into a debt spiral?

The answer is a bit complicated.

For longtime budget hawks and Tea Party-type conservatives who are mostly new to worrying about the budget, the answer is an unequivocal "yes." They see our large outstanding federal debt, our large ongoing budget deficits and looming unfunded federal entitlement obligations, and see a country not far from where Greece is now.

Many partisans also seem to believe the threat of a U.S. government debt spiral is imminent. They imagine a government takeover that is quashing the free market, and assume runaway government spending is going to soon bankrupt the nation.

Every week, the fair-and-balanced Wall Street Journal publishes another story, editorial or Op-Ed suggesting that the markets are sending signals that they are losing faith in U.S. recovery from debt, and we are about to step onto that slippery slope.

Fortunately, economic reality doesn't exactly share this point of view. The yield on U.S. debt issues is actually low, indicating that capital markets have tremendous faith in our government's ability to handle its debt right now.

You may have read stories in The Journal about recent yield increases, but notice how they all seem to ignore the fact we've only just bounced up from historically low rates to rates that are merely very low.

There are also low prevailing rates on other dollar assets, like a special kind of inflation-protected treasury called "TIPS," and U.S. corporate debt in general, which show that the world generally regards dollar-denominated assets as a safe place to invest, and that concerns about inflation are low.

The reason for this faith is in the fundamentals. While the United States has unemployment and deficit-to-GDP ratios that are only slightly smaller than Greece's, other factors are much different.

For one, the United States has

monetary independence. Greece doesn't, as it uses the Euro, which is controlled by the European Union as a whole.

We use the dollar, and it's our dollar, so our Federal Reserve can tighten or loosen monetary policy as needed. What that means is the country can use inflation as a pressure release valve on debt, making debt repayments easier by deflating the real value of outstanding debt.

This prospect is alarming to some people, because they fear this power will be abused. They are concerned the government will just resort to inflating away debt rather than dealing with it, perhaps leading to damaging hyperinflation.

This fear is misguided, though, for a couple of reasons. First, realize the only thing worse than having the option to print money when debt builds up too much is not having the option to print money when debt builds up.

Second, the fear of hyperinflation is misguided because we simply aren't there yet. While we have unemployment and deficits that are similar to Greece's, our government doesn't nearly have the debt load.

Greece is struggling with a 125 percent debt-to-GDP ratio, while the United States public debt sits at a relatively comfortable ratio of 67 percent of GDP.

More disconnecting than that is how much better the U.S. economy looks going forward. Greece has heavier debt that is forcing their government to take strict "austerity measures," which, besides causing human pain, also serve to suppress the overall economy. They also, again, lack monetary independence, so they can't use even mild inflation as a tool to rebalance their economy.

So Greece is projected to have stagnant growth in the near-future. By contrast, the United States is already experiencing economic growth, and should continue to do so.

That's very important, because all else being equal, a growing economy runs smaller deficits and helps reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio. Economic growth is probably the easiest way to reduce that ratio to safe levels.

For that reason, we should be thankful to have the debt wiggle room — which Greece does not — to afford such significant government interventions in the economy right now.

The budding recovery we are having is thanks in no small part to the bank bailouts, the stimulus bill and the very loose monetary policy that many are complaining so loudly about.

But, while these vociferous complaints seem misguided in the short-run, they aren't entirely wrong in the long-run.

We do have a serious entitlement problem on the horizon. Even right now, with the surge in discretionary spending on things like the stimulus bill, most government money is just spent on either the military, social security, Medicaid or Medicare.

This leaves us with two major budget challenges. The first is that none of these is easy to cut, for political and practical reasons, making it hard to get the budget in balance.

The second is that Medicare spending in particular is about to explode, as health care costs continue to rise and a huge demographic wave of Baby Boomers approaches the eligible age, meaning the deficit will eventually grow if we just coast on autopilot.

While we aren't so much like Greece now, in some number of years we will find ourselves in the same situation the Greeks now face.

It would be folly to derail the economic recovery by making cuts now, but at some point not far off, we will have to muster the resolve to make painful decisions about how much our government spends and how much we are willing to tax ourselves to pay for it.

Perhaps St. Augustine described the predicament best with his famous prayer: "Grant me chastity and continence ... but not yet."

Sanjai Tripathi is a graduate student in business administration. The opinions expressed in his columns do not necessarily represent those of the Daily Barometer staff. Tripathi can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

While we aren't so much like Greece now, if we don't make a change, in some number of years we will find ourselves in the same situation the Greeks now face.

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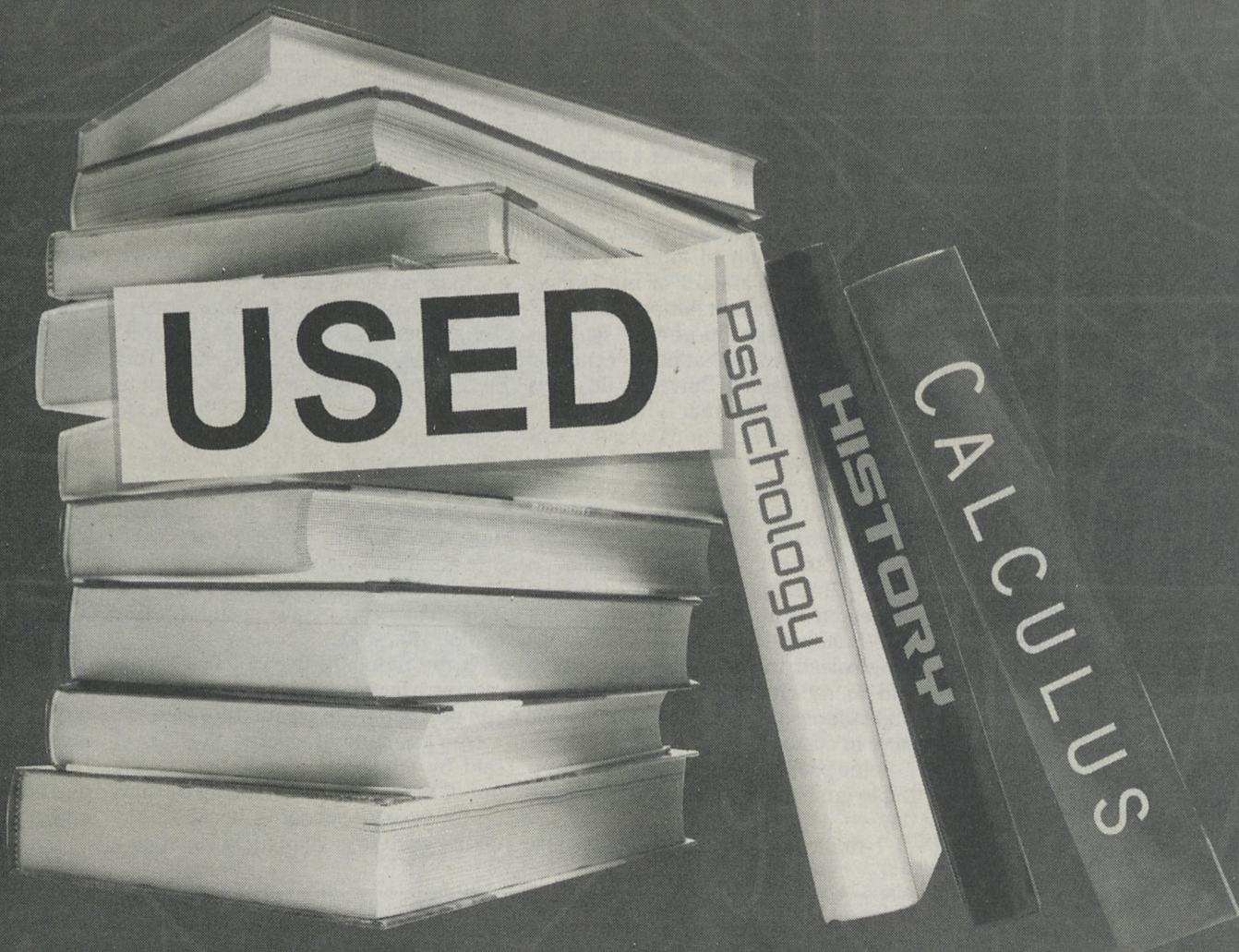
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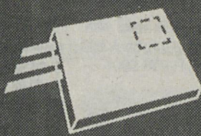


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SEVERSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

All this season, I have firmly believed that James was going to the Big Apple — a high-profile basketball player in the highest-profile city in the world. Seemed like a match made in heaven.

Also, with the Knicks falling on hard times, it would be James' chance to come in and completely save a once-prestigious franchise. The Knicks have even been cutting salary space just for this summer to land LeBron. All of their eggs are in one basket.

Chances are, the longer into the summer that James waits, the more likely he is going to New York. Right now, the Knicks have about as much talent as my high school's varsity team. The players they have under contract for next year are Eddy Curry, Sergio Rodriguez, Wilson Chandler, JR Giddens, Toney Douglas, Bill Walker and Danilo Gallinari.

Yeah, my thoughts exactly. If James thought he didn't have any help with the Cavs, he'd be going from bad to worse by going to New York. That's why I think he would wait to see if anybody else signs with New York (see: Bosh, Chris, and Johnson, Joe).

Signing with New York would mean that LeBron James is after one thing: celebrity. He wants to own NYC. In the words of Alicia Keys, the "streets will make you feel brand new; big lights will inspire you."

Chicago:
It seemed during the season,

after the underachieving Bulls just sneaked into the playoffs, that Chicago had their focus on trying to land Windy City-native Dwayne Wade in the offseason. However, lately their name has been linked to trying to get an even bigger fish.

If LeBron James is truly sincere in his desire to win an NBA Championship, he will sign with the Chicago Bulls. I mean, it's really that simple.

He would get paired up with one of the top five point guards in the game, Derrick Rose. Rose will also only be 22 years old by the start of next season, so unlike any other point guard in the league not named Rajon Rondo, he will only get better. Kirk Hinrich would provide defense and outside shooting as a role-playing shooting guard. Joakim Noah, albeit one of the most annoying players in the league, would be a tremendous teammate who sets screens and rebounds without needing to score.

Most importantly, it would be James' chance to be stacked up side-by-side with the man he is often compared to. The Chicago Bulls are still Michael Jordan's team. Would James be scared that he wouldn't win six titles like Jordan — that he wasn't able to match what "His Airness" could do?

If he does not sign with the Bulls, it means one of two things: Either he is too scared to be compared with Jordan, or he simply wanted a bigger paycheck.

Cleveland.
They say home is where the heart is. James is an Ohio

guy. He was born and raised in Akron and spent his entire career with the Cleveland Cavaliers. James knows the Cavs have never won an NBA title. He knows the city has been plagued when it comes to its sports teams, with its last championship coming from the Browns in 1964.

The Cleveland organization has done a nice job trying to build a supporting cast around James. The past two years, they won 60+ games. If it weren't for James' elbow injury (or so everybody says), the Cavs would still be playing and on their way to the NBA Finals.

If he were to come back to the Cavs, James would have an all-star point guard in Mo Williams; an all-star power forward, Antawn Jamison; a pair of good role players, Anderson Varejo, Delonte West and J.J. Hickson; and his choice of who will be the coach after Mike Brown was ousted.

Does James want to be loyal and finish what he started in Cleveland? That could mean that he potentially wastes the prime of his career on a team that just couldn't get over the hump. With each day, my mind tells me he will go someplace else. One day it's Chicago, the next day New York and later that night he'll stay in Cleveland.

Where do I think he should go? Well, as members of the classic "Saturday Night Live" sketch "Bill Swerski's Superfans" say:
Daaaa Bulls.

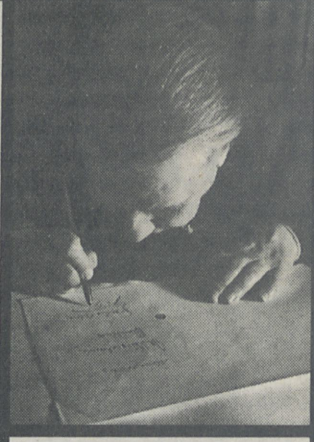
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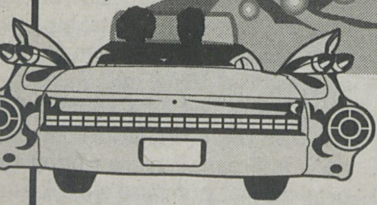
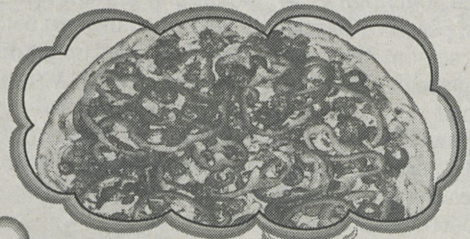
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OSU's Findley to World Cup

■ Ex-Oregon State speedster will represent the US in South Africa for the 2010 World Cup

By Colin Huber
THE DAILY BAROMETER

U.S. World Cup head coach Bob Bradley has made his cut for the final roster as the team heads to South Africa, and former Oregon State star Robbie Findley is one of four forwards that will be with the squad.

At 24 years old, Findley has been on a tear in the soccer world as of late. Finishing off his third professional season in 2009, he scored the equalizer in the MLS Cup final, and then drilled his penalty kick to gather the Anschutz Trophy for Real Salt Lake. For the season, Findley landed career highs in games played (27), starts (18), minutes played (1,751) and goals scored (12). His 12 goals made him the third-best scorer in MLS, tying him with the likes of Juan Pablo Angel and fellow U.S. teammate Landon Donovan.

Playing from 2002-2005 for Oregon State, where he scored 28 total goals, placed him as third all-time scorer in the Beaver history books. He was conference Freshman of the Year in 2003, was named first-team All-Pac-10 three times, and developed a serious knack for scoring game-winning goals.

According to Sports Information, OSU head soccer coach Steve Simmons had this to say about Findley:

"To be certain, we couldn't be prouder of Robbie making the 2010 United States World Cup squad," Simmons said following the announcement. "Only a small percentage of elite players around the world get this chance, and Robbie



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | COURTESY OF OREGON STATE ATHLETICS

Oregon State forward Robbie Findley makes a move during a game in Corvallis. Findley was a Beaver from 2002 to 2005, and after a few years in the professional ranks, has won a Major League Soccer title, and is now headed to the 2010 World Cup.

has put himself into that stratum. He's another shining example of the level that has come out of Oregon State soccer. We wish him and the U.S. team our best as they continue World Cup preparations."

Findley was selected by the LA Galaxy in the second round of the 2007 MLS Draft — the 16th overall pick.

In 2007, Findley was traded from the Galaxy to Real Salt Lake, where he made an immediate impact, lifting a young franchise. Then, in August of

2009, he scored his 20th career goal for Real Salt Lake, which vaulted him to the franchise's all-time leader. He also owns the first hat trick in the team's history.

According to ESPN, 92 total players made an appearance under Bradley's watch during the World Cup cycle (the team went 35-19-6). Of those 92, 43 were brought to World Cup qualifying, and just 19 were added to the final roster.

Joining Findley in the forward spots are Jozy Altidore (Hull, England),

Edson Buddle (Los Angeles), and Herculez Gomez (Puebla, Mexico) — all four players are new to World Cup play.

The Cup will run from June 11 to July 11, an exact month. The U.S. team leaves for South Africa May 30, and opens tournament play against a strong England team June 12 in Rustenburg. The game will be televised nationally on ABC at 11 a.m.

Colin Huber, sports editor
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Men's soccer announces 2010 schedule

■ After a strong year under head coach Steve Simmons, Oregon State men get a look ahead at the season to come

SPORTS INFORMATION

CORVALLIS, Ore. — The Oregon State men's soccer team will play 11 home games at Paul Lorenz Field in 2010, which highlights the season's upcoming schedule released Tuesday by head coach Steve Simmons.

The Beavers will start off their schedule with two exhibition games. The first one will be at home against Seattle Pacific and the second at Portland.

"The fall schedule will always focus around the Pac-10," Simmons said. "The quality of teams and

the double round-robin format makes it one of the most challenging in the country every year. However, the early trip to the Midwest will test us straight from the start."

Oregon State opens its regular season schedule with road games against University of Missouri-Kansas City Wednesday, Sept. 1 and University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Saturday, Sept. 4. They will then head to DeKalb, Ill. where they will take on Northern Illinois and Northwestern, Sept. 10 and 12, respectively.

The Beavers will take on UC Davis in the regular season home opener Friday, Sept. 17 as part of the Oregon State Hensor/Zaher Nike Classic. The tournament has been held since 2004 to honor two student-athletes, Stephen Hensor and Joe Zaher, who were tragically lost just a few months apart in 2002.

Joining UC Davis as part of the Hensor/Zaher Nike Classic will be Seattle and Central Arkansas. The tournament will be Sept. 17 and 19.

The Beavers open up conference play with a trip to southern California where they will take on San Diego State and UCLA on Oct. 1 and 3 respectively. They will return home to open up their home conference schedule against California and Stanford.

Oregon State will finish out the season with a three-match home stand, which will be capped off with its Pac-10 Northwest rival Washington coming to town Friday, Nov. 12.

"Playing on the road against three NCAA tournament teams will tell us a lot about ourselves," Simmons said. "It certainly gives motivation for all of us to prepare accordingly."



TORI MIDDELSTADT | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Junior Stefen Romero drives the barrel through at a pitch against Washington this year.

OSU baseball downs Ducks, 2-1, at PGE Park

SPORTS INFORMATION

PORTLAND — Stefen Romero's run-scoring single in the fifth proved to be the game-winner as the Oregon State baseball team closed out its regular season non-conference schedule with a 2-1 victory over No. 21 Oregon in front of 8,487 fans at PGE Park Wednesday night.

Romero drove in Jared Norris, who started off the inning with a walk and then moved to second on a wild pitch. The run came off Oregon reliever Christian Jones, who gave up both of OSU's runs in 1 1/3 innings of relief.

The Oregon State pitching staff was able to hold Oregon to just one run and four hits on the night. Oregon State used five relievers, with Tony Bryant making his first career start.

Matt Boyd, the second pitcher of the night for Oregon

State, worked four innings in his fourth appearance against Oregon this season, and scattered three hits and a run while striking out one.

Boyd improved to 7-1 this season — 3-0 against Oregon — while Jones dropped to 2-2.

Kevin Rhoderick came on in the ninth to record his fourth save of the season.

The Beavers tallied 11 hits on the night, with Adalberto Santos pacing the club with a 3-for-5 effort for his team-leading 16th multiple-hit game of the season. Parker Berberet also had two hits for Oregon State, which improved to 20-1 this season when out-hitting its opponent.

After Oregon State went up 2-0 in the top half of the fifth on Romero's single, Oregon scored a run of its own in the bottom half of the inning. Shawn Peterson

doubled to start the inning and scored when the next batter, J.J. Altobelli, singled up the middle.

Bryant went two innings before being relieved by Matt Boyd to start the third. Bryant scattered a hit and two walks in his 13th appearance of the season.

With the win, Oregon State improved to 29-21 overall and 19-7 in non-conference games. Oregon, meanwhile, dropped to 37-20.

The Beavers also took the season series from the Ducks, 4-1, which included a series sweep in a conference series at Goss Stadium, May 7-9.

The Beavers now turn their attention to Arizona, whom OSU will welcome to Goss for a three-game series beginning Friday night at 5:30 p.m. PT.

Jesse Severson

We're Gonna Run the Picket Fence at 'Em

The summer of LeBron

The basketball season is wrapping up with the NBA Finals, which is hoped to end in a rematch of the Boston Celtics and the Los Angeles Lakers.

The baseball season is in full swing with the normal names atop the leader boards.

The hockey season is (thankfully) coming to a close as the underdog Flyers played Houdini, escaping a 3-0 series deficit to the Boston Bruins, and riding the hot streak right past the Montreal Canadiens, they will face off against the Chicago Blackhawks.

And, to the more internationally minded people, the World Cup is about to kick off in South Africa on June 19, with America, of course, having little chance of winning.

But none of this matters this summer. Because even after the final second ticked off LeBron's season, when his Cavaliers were defeated in Boston in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference Semifinals, the same question has dominated the sports world: Where's LeBron going?

Chicago? New Jersey? What about him staying put in Cleveland?

When free agency officially starts up on July 1, it will be the biggest off-season of any sport in history.

I will be honest: I do not like LeBron James. Part of that stems from the fact I'm a Celtics fan, and the Cavs and Celtics have had a little rivalry going the past few years. But it also has to do with the fact he is looked upon in the sports world as a larger-than-life figure. The next Michael Jordan.

Nevermind that the only accomplishment he's had in his seven years in the NBA is making it to the Finals, where he got swept by the San Antonio Spurs. Regardless, I will swallow my pride and say, yes, James is a fantastic basketball player. His numbers are gaudy. He very well could average a triple-double over a season.

But, like most basketball players, he will be judged by what is on (or not on) his fingers after his playing days are through. How many titles can he win?

This summer will show what is important to LeBron James. So here is a breakdown of the possible (and improbable) winners of the LeBron James Sweepstakes this summer:

New York:

See SEVERSON | page 7

Robinson to hold book signing in Portland tonight

SPORTS INFORMATION

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oregon State head men's basketball coach Craig Robinson will be in Portland to sign copies of his recently released book, "A Game of Character," on Thursday, May 27. The event will take place at Union Bank in downtown Portland and begins at 5:30 p.m.

Robinson will sign copies of the book at the event and take questions at 6 p.m. Fans can bring their own copy or purchase a book at the event for Robinson to sign. This special event is brought to you by the OSU Foundation, the OSU Alumni Association and our friends at Union Bank.