



OSU reports no new norovirus cases over weekend



EMERY GARCIA / THE DAILY BAROMETER

Sneeze guards in place at the McNary dining center stir fry line as well as other dining hall food lines will hopefully help prevent further spread of the suspected norovirus.

■ Health department still waiting on test results from early cases to confirm norovirus infection

By Emery Garcia
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Last week the suspected norovirus outbreak struck victims around OSU and eventually leapt to an assisted living facility in Corvallis.

Now Benton County health officials are hoping the virus may be contained.

The total of individuals suspected of carrying the virus reached 27 in Corvallis by last Friday, with the OSU Delta Gamma sorority and Phi Delta Theta fraternity being hit the hardest.

"The incubation period is an average of 30 hours, but [it ranges] anywhere from 12 to 48 hours,"

See **NOROVIRUS** / page 3

On-campus collision



LAUREN L. DILLARD / THE DAILY BAROMETER

A small collision in the intersection of Southwest Jefferson Avenue and Southwest 15th Street blocked traffic just after 7 p.m. Tuesday. Oregon State Police and the Corvallis Fire Department responded to the wreck. No one was seriously injured, though two people involved were taken by ambulance to Good Samaritan Hospital.

MU eateries take hard hit because of meal plans

By Rachel Crews
THE DAILY BAROMETER

For the past year, the use of student meal plans has been isolated to University Housing and Dining Services dining centers.

"We're trying to figure out how to draw in more students," said Michael Henthorne, director of the Memorial Union. "Without the business on campus students provide, these restaurants are suffering."

For the previous 16 years students were able to use their meal plan dollars to purchase food at the restaurants on campus, including Carl's Jr., Panda Express, Pangea Cafe and Woodstock's Pizza. The current change in student dining options will continue through the 2008-2009 fiscal year. This news is problematic for the MU restaurants, who have faced a decline in business this year. Woodstock's Pizza has already changed its business hours after finding it simply isn't profitable to be open.

"We've had to change to a Monday through Friday schedule," said Bill Heinrich, manager of the MU Woodstock's Pizza.

"The only people here on weekends live on campus. They're not going to pull money out of their pocket when they've already paid for their meal plan," Heinrich said.

Other restaurants are making adjustments as well. Dixon Cafe has changed its hours to try and draw in a breakfast crowd due to the decline in its evening customers. According to Robyn Vasale, food service director for the Memorial Union, Blimpie is thinking about changing its business hours to a Monday through Friday schedule as well.

"We want to provide a variety of options for everybody," Vasale said. "If the students can't use their meal plan dollars here, it doesn't make sense for the vendors to be here."

"It's too bad," Heinrich said. "It would be nice if there was a way we could all win. For now, the winner is [UHDS]. They're holding the student choice hostage."

Decisions regarding meal plans have already been made for this fiscal year. However, if businesses face more decline in profit, they are hoping for renegotiations soon, Heinrich said.

"Our contract is up this year," he said. "I don't know what we're going to do."

Rachel Crews, Senior Reporter
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Hookah lounge soon to open in Corvallis



JEFF WICK / THE DAILY BAROMETER

Tony's Smoke Shop, located on Ninth Street across from the Goodwill, plans to expand soon to feature the largest hookah lounge in Oregon. The shop is only open to customers over the age of 18 and checks individuals' ID cards as they enter the shop.

■ Despite health risks of hookah, popularity continues to increase for all age groups, hookah bars gain prominence nationwide

By Michelle Suffin
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Students looking for a new place to socialize with friends may be in luck. Tony's Smoke Shop, located on Northwest Ninth Street, will be expanding into the largest hookah lounge in the state of Oregon within the next three to four weeks.

Currently there are between 200 to 300 hookah bars in the United States, with more popping up each day.

The last 10 years have seen a huge increase in the popularity of hookah bars and lounges, especially among college-aged men and women.

"I usually go to the hookah bars in Portland after 9 p.m.," said Alejandra Bornowski, a sopho-

more majoring in interior design.

"The employees are really nice, and it's always packed. It's a good thing they are making a bigger lounge in Corvallis."

Originating in the Middle East, water-based hookah pipes use indirect heat for smoking "shisha," a type of flavored tobacco that comes in many flavors, including grape, kiwi and mango.

Smoke passes through the body of the hookah pipe, where it is filtered and cooled before being inhaled.

A typical hookah session can last anywhere from 45 to 60 minutes and involve several people.

Although the popularity of hookah lounges is continuing to increase, so are some concerns about the long- and short-term effects of shisha tobacco.

"The smoke from a hookah pipe contains the same carcinogens you would find in cigarette smoke," said Phillip Histan, interim director of

Student Health Services.

"One of the main concerns is that people spend a longer time using a hookah pipe than they would using a cigarette, typically only five to ten minutes. The amount of smoke you inhale in that amount of time is the equivalent of smoking 100 cigarettes."

According to a study conducted by Thomas Eisenberg, a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, a 45-minute session of hookah-smoking delivers 36 times more tar, 15 times more carbon monoxide and 70 percent more nicotine than a single cigarette.

The study also found that hookah users are five times more likely to develop gum disease, also increasing their risk for developing lung cancer and heart and respiratory disease. Additionally, hookah smokers are at risk for catching tuberculosis, hepatitis and herpes.

See **HOOKAH** / page 3



QUOTED

"I don't think this campaign is about gender, and I sure hope it's not about race."

Presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, noting what she and her husband said regarding Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and Sen. Barack Obama's judgement about the Iraq war and how it was taken out of context.

"I also want you to understand something about America — that we respect you, we respect your religion and we want to work together for the sake of freedom and peace."

President Bush, speaking to students at the Dubai School of Government, a research and teaching institution that focuses on public policy in the Arab world.

BREAKDOWN

NEW YORK — Expressions of sexism and racism emerging from the contest between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama have been blatant, subtle and perhaps sometimes imagined, and they are renewing the national debate over what is and isn't acceptable to say in public.

Clinton's camp has perceived sexism in comments about her appearance and emotions. Supporters of Obama have complained about racial overtones in remarks about his Muslim-sounding middle name, Hussein, and his acknowledged drug use as a young man.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif accused Pakistan's president Monday of blindly following America and ordering anti-terror operations that have left the country "drowned in blood."

Sharif's tirade against President Pervez Musharraf came as troops and militants clashed near the Afghan border, leaving 30 dead. Separately, a bomb concealed on a motorbike in the southern city of Karachi killed at least nine people and wounded 52. Musharraf was in Karachi on Monday to inaugurate a road several miles from the bombing, but he did not appear to be the target.

"Musharraf has destroyed Pakistan. He is blindly following America's orders," Sharif told an election rally of about 3,000 people on the outskirts of the capital, Islamabad.

TOP STORY

Montana avalanche kills two, two more may be dead

By Matt Gouras
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA, Mont. — Rescuers searched Monday through the remnants of a deadly avalanche, unsure whether more backcountry skiers had been caught up in the slide in northwestern Montana.

Sunday's avalanche tore down trees and left snow 20 to 25 feet deep. Two skiers were killed, and rescuers pursued reports that two others might have been caught. But by Monday evening, no one had been reported missing.

Dangerous conditions delayed the start of Monday's search on Fiberglass Hill, a popular area on the other side of the mountain from Whitefish Mountain Resort. Authorities had to blast away

an "unsafe snow mass" near the avalanche site, Flathead County Sheriff Mike Meehan said.

Once the search resumed, about 100 people used poles to probe the snow in an effort to find any victims. Dogs and a helicopter also assisted in the search, which was expected to last into the evening, depending on the weather.

The forecast called for high winds and snow after midnight.

The victims were identified Monday as Anthony Kollmann, 19, of Kalispell, and David Gogolak, 36, of Whitefish.

Gogolak's body was found under about 3 feet of snow and debris. He was not wearing an avalanche beacon, according

to the Missoulian newspaper. His brother-in-law was skiing with him and was partially buried but was able to dig himself out, according to the newspaper.

Witnesses were adamant that in addition to Kollmann and Gogolak, they saw two other people caught up in the slide, Meehan said. As part of their search, deputies were checking cars parked overnight in the ski area to see whether anyone was unaccounted for, Meehan said.

Flathead County Under-sheriff Pete Wingert said he did not know whether the brother-in-law could have been one of the two people searchers were looking for Monday.

The area is on U.S. Forest

Service land, outside resort boundaries, said Donnie Clap, spokesman for Whitefish Mountain Resort.

"We set off explosions to mitigate the (avalanche) risk within our boundaries," he said. "When you ski out of bounds, you are really taking your life in your own hands."

In Wyoming, three men from that state, identified as Scott Bennett, Alan Jensen and Kim Steed, were killed in an avalanche while snowmobiling Saturday south of Jackson.

Avalanches have killed at least 21 people across the West since Dec. 2, according to the National Avalanche Center. The national annual average for avalanche deaths is about 25.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MySpace agrees to adopt safety measures to protect young users

NEW YORK — MySpace, the world's most popular online hangout, plans to put the cyberspace equivalent of a chaparrone at the party and to check IDs at the door.

The huge social-networking site promised Monday to take steps to protect youngsters from sexual predators and bullies, including searching for ways to verify users' ages.

Under mounting pressure from law enforcement and parents, MySpace promised to create a task force of industry professionals to watch over its operations, and other social-networking sites will be invited to participate.

"We must keep telling children that they're not just typing into a computer. They're sharing themselves with the world," said North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper.

The deal comes as sites such as MySpace and Facebook have grown exponentially in recent years, with teenagers making up a large part of their membership. This has created a new venue for sexual predators who lie about their age to lure young victims and for cyber bullies who send threatening and anonymous messages.

But Monday's announcement was short on specifics about how improvements would be carried out. Skeptics are doubtful that MySpace and similar sites can eliminate the problem because age-verification technology is difficult to implement and predators are good at circumventing restrictions.

Parry Aftab, executive director of Wiresafety.org, a children's Internet safety group, said the agreement was a good first step but could have unforeseen consequences.

"There's no system that will work for age verification without putting kids at risk," she said. "Age verification requires that you have a database of kids and

if you do, that database is available to hackers and anyone who can get into it."

Aftab estimates that 20 percent of teens have met someone online that they had never met in person, and there are numerous examples of sexual abuse arising from MySpace encounters.

On the same day that attorneys general from 49 states announced the MySpace agreement, New York prosecutors announced charges against a couple who allegedly used the site to lure two girls who were under 15 to their home. Authorities say the couple plied the pair with alcohol, engaged in group sex with them and took them to a strip club where the girls had to dance on stage.

Elsewhere, a 15-year-old girl from Texas was allegedly lured to a meeting, drugged and assaulted in 2006 by an adult MySpace user. In another case, a man got 14 years in prison for using MySpace to set up a sexual encounter with an 11-year-old Connecticut girl. A 16-year-old New York girl ran away to Puerto Rico with a man she met on MySpace.

A 13-year-old girl in Missouri hanged herself in 2006 after receiving mean messages on MySpace from a person she thought was another teen, but it later turned out that the messages were all a hoax.

The only state not joining the agreement was Texas, where the attorney general said he cannot support the effort unless it takes action to verify people's ages.

"We do not believe that MySpace.com — or any other social-networking site — can adequately protect minors" without an age-verification system, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said. "We are concerned that our signing the joint statement would be misperceived as an endorsement of the inadequate safety measures."

MySpace, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., has more than

110 million active users worldwide, and Facebook claims more than 61 million active users.

Investigators have grown increasingly interested in the sites in their search for sexual offenders. New York investigators said they set up Facebook profiles last year as 12- to 14-year-olds and were quickly contacted by users looking for sex.

Over the last two years, MySpace said it has implemented over 100 safety and security innovations, including identifying predators and kicking them off the site and pushing for tougher laws in this area. The company also said that it hopes other sites follow its lead in pushing for tougher standards.

Dying woman, 79, tries to see family and dies on way to Oregon

HILLSBORO — A 79-year-old woman dying of kidney disease didn't make it through the last leg of a cross-country journey to see family members a final time, and her body arrived in Oregon in the back of a recreational vehicle, police said.

The family drove from California to Arkansas and was headed back West to the home of relatives in Hillsboro, said Police Lt. Michael Rouches.

But the woman died early Saturday in Wyoming, family members told police.

She was from Oroville, Calif., and the woman's doctors told family members the frail grandmother might not survive the trip. But it was her final request to make the trip.

Family members called Hillsboro police Sunday to report the death.

Rouches said there was no suspicion of foul play, and no law was broken — and therefore he would not identify the woman.

"People die every day," he said. "This could happen more frequently than we know."

— The Associated Press

CALENDAR

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Meetings

ASOSU Multicultural Affairs, 4:30pm, SLI. If you want an opportunity to get involved in ASOSU, this is it! Come join us for lots of fun and participation.

ASOSU Environmental Affairs Task Force, 4-5pm, Snell 149. Come work on environmental campaigns and help plan Earth Week 2008!

Speakers

University Honors College, 5pm, MU LaRaza Room. Joe Hendricks, Leadership speech.

Events

Lutheran Campus Ministry, 11:30am-1:30pm, Luther House, 211 NW 23rd Street. Lunch! Come and go as you are able. Homemade food (vegetarian option) and stimulating conversation.

Sigma Delta Omega, 7-9pm, meet on the MU steps. Smoothies & Movies! Enjoy free smoothies and watch a movie with the ladies of Sigma Delta Omega. This event is part of Winter Rush week.

OSU Theatre, 7pm, OSU Lab Theatre, 30th & Campus Way. Open auditions for Doric Wilson's Street Theater. Actors needed for play about the StoneWall Riots. The OSU student directed production will be performed March 6-9.

Academic Success Center, 5-8pm, Waldo 114. Study night at the ASC. Join the Academic Success Center in a great studying opportunity. Free popcorn, free coaching.

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Meetings

Board of Recreational Sports, 5:15-6:15pm, MU 212 (MLK). Review of 2008-09 Department Budget. Board Meeting.

Engineers Without Borders, 7pm, KEC 1001. First general meeting of the term with our El Salvador team back with all the exciting details of their trip, and as always pizza and pop!

Events

Sigma Delta Omega, 7-9pm, MU 110. Game Night. Come play at our super fun game night! Part of Winter Rush week for Sigma Delta Omega, a sorority for women who love science!

Women's Center, Noon-4pm, Women's Center. The Great Cupcake Bake... Meet the staff and enjoy a treat! An old-fashioned WC Open House. Come on it, eat a cupcake and enjoy great company.

Thursday, Jan. 17

Meetings

OSU Rural and Minority Healthcare Advocates, 6-9pm, MU 109. Discuss student participation, opportunities, events, trips and guest lecturers.

Events

Lutheran Campus Ministry, 6pm, Luther House, 211 NW 23rd Street. Quest: Simple supper and discussion.

Student Leadership & Involvement, 6-8pm, International Forum in Snell Hall. Student Community Symposium: Act Locally, Think Globally! Interactive session about service & leadership with keynote speaker Terryl Ross. Light dinner served.

Friday, Jan. 18

Events

Sigma Delta Omega, 7-9pm, MU Basement. Bowling in the Basement. Join the ladies of Sigma Delta Omega for free bowling & billiards as we wrap up Winter Rush.

Sunday, Jan. 20

Events

Lutheran Campus Ministry, 7pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 435 NW 21st, corner of Kings & Harrison Streets. Evensong Worship with communion, especially for students.

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*Eligibility forms found at SLI - 149 Mu East Snell Hall

Clinton, Obama take step back from racial controversy; Romney, McCain promise economic revival in GOP race

By David Espo
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama stepped back from a controversy over race Monday night, agreeing that a prolonged clash over civil rights could harm their party's overall drive to win the White House.

The two leading Democratic contenders shifted course as Republicans pointed toward Tuesday's pivotal primary in Michigan, where Mitt Romney and John McCain both pledged to lead a revival for a state and an auto industry ravaged by recession.

Obama was the first to suggest a cooling of the rhetoric on race, calling reporters together to say he didn't want the campaign "to degenerate into so much tit-for-tat, back-and-forth that we lose sight of why all of us are doing this."

Referring to Clinton and former Sen. John Edwards, he said that while they may have disagreements, "we share the same goals. We're all Democrats, we all believe

in civil rights, we all believe in equal rights."

Clinton's campaign issued a statement in the same vein about an hour after Obama spoke, saying it was time to seek common ground. "And in that spirit, let's come together, because I want more than anything else to ensure that our family stays together on the front lines of the struggle to expand rights for all Americans," she said.

Strikingly, though, one of Clinton's supporters, New York Rep. Charles Rangel, was sharply critical of Obama in an interview during the day. "How race got into this thing is because Obama said 'race,'" Rangel, the dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, said on television station NY1.

For all the maneuvering, Democrats are without a contested election on Tuesday.

That was in contrast to the Republican campaign, where McCain and Romney battled in a Michigan primary that neither could afford to lose.

"I will not rest until Michigan is

back," said Romney, a native son who jabbed at his rival for saying many jobs among the thousands lost will never return.

"We will create new jobs," insisted McCain, who also favors improvements in federal programs for laid-off workers. "We have the innovation, the talent, the knowledge and the ability ... to regain Michigan's position as the best in the world."

Polls showed McCain and Romney in a close race, with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee running third.

Of the three, Romney is most in need of a victory as he looks to restore at least some of the luster lost with defeats in the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary. Several associates have suggested the former Massachusetts governor may quit the race unless he prevails.

McCain won the state's primary eight years ago on the strength of independent voters, and hopes for a reprise on Tuesday. He has regained the lead in the national polls that he enjoyed months ago

— before his campaign nearly came apart over the summer.

Huckabee campaigned on economic issues during the day.

"Some of the toughest competition your company faces is from its own government, whose tax policies, whose regulatory policies, the threat of litigation, makes it real tough to stay in business," he told employees at a Demmer Corp. plant near Lansing that makes armored personnel carriers for the military.

Romney went before the Detroit Economic Club for a speech meant to appeal to laid-off workers as well as voters who recall his father's tenure as governor a generation ago.

A former Massachusetts governor, Romney promised to convene a White House summit within 100 days of taking office to produce a solution to the auto industry's long-term slide.

McCain spoke constantly of the productivity of Michigan workers. "As president of the United States, I will herald a new day for Michigan," he said.

NOROVIRUS: Hand-washing helps prevent spread of virus

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Isline Marma of the Benton County Health Department.

"There were no new cases over the weekend, so we can hope now that it may be under control."

The Delta Gamma sorority and Phi Delta Theta fraternity took extra precaution in hopes of containment, disinfecting all common areas and canceling buffet-style dining.

The sick students in both Greek houses had to remain isolated for a period of 72 hours before they were allowed to return to their normal activities, as directed by the Benton County Health Department.

"The work that the Phi Delta Thetas and the Delta Gammas did to contain the virus was a great benefit to the whole community," said Robert Kerr, Greek Life coordinator at OSU.

Precautions were taken around campus as well, specifically at dining halls. Self-service options are temporarily canceled until the virus goes into submission.

In an outbreak at the Regency Park Place assisted living facility, 10 of about 40 elderly residents became ill last week. The sick residents were quickly isolated to their rooms.

The suspected cases of norovirus are still unconfirmed, but the Benton County Health Department has been urging students to take precautions to stop the spread of the virus.

"It may be another week before we receive information back from the lab, but we have suspected it is the norovirus," Marma said.

There is no cure for the virus, which can strike the same person multiple times and survive on surfaces for up to a week.

The most severe symptoms strike within the first 24 to 48 hours but leave the victim feeling worn out for almost a week.

"This virus is around often in our community," Marma said. "Students need to be aware of good hand washing policies, especially after using the restroom, or just after being in public."

Emery Garcia, news writer
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HOOKAH: Effects outweigh use for some, employment available

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Still, students enjoy hanging out with friends in the lounge-like atmosphere of a hookah bar.

"I don't necessarily think it's all about hookah," Bornowski said.

"It's a social activity where you can sit with friends and hang out even if you're not actually smoking. Unlike social drinking, where some people make stupid decisions, smoking hookah is laid-back and fun and legal if you are eighteen."

Tony's Smoke Shop will offer a variety of activities to draw in men and women who are 18 years and older.

"It's going to be a very laid-back atmosphere," said Scott Ellison, an employee at Tony's Smoke Shop. "We will have two pool tables, wireless Internet, plasma TVs, and we may even start a pool league. Local DJs and some from 95.5 will be able to perform and have small battles, and also other local musicians and guitar players can perform."

Customers will be carded at the door and will have to provide valid identification in exchange for a hookah pipe and their choices of shisha.

Prices may vary, but customers can expect

to pay around \$15 for their first bowl and half price for the second bowl.

Tony's is currently accepting resumes from students interested in applying for jobs.

"The best part of this job is the family," Ellison said. "We are a tight-knit group of buddies, and we enjoy what we do and being here. We are excited that customers want our store to expand."

For more information on Tony's Smoke Shop and Lounge, call (541) 753-0900. For information regarding hookah and health, visit www.lungusa2.org.

Michelle Suffin, news writer
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231

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The Daily
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Editorial

Death With Dignity

Currently Oregon is the only state that allows doctors to prescribe a lethal dose of medication to terminally ill patients. This is the Death With Dignity Act, which was enacted in Oregon on Oct. 27, 1997. Washington is trying to be the next state to enact a similar bill and is using Oregon's Death With Dignity act as a model, according to an article in The Oregonian. Is this something more states will try to adopt?

Since the act was enacted 11 years ago, 292 terminally ill patients of Oregon have ended their lives. Oregon-state.gov says doctors are only allowed to prescribe the lethal dose, and it must be administered by the patient. But the list of regulations does not stop there. The patient's life expectancy must be six months or less, the patient must be deemed of sound mind, and request must come once in writing and twice orally — each at least 15 days apart.

Washington previously tried, in 1991, to allow doctors to prescribe the drugs. If the patient was not able to administer it himself, a doctor would have been allowed to help. Oregon's act has always forbidden this.

There are several debates around the subject. Is it ethical? Is it against the Hippocratic Oath, which says "First, do no harm?"

Is this doing harm to a patient? If it is a patient's choice to free him or herself from pain, how is the doctor doing harm? Oregon law states the doctor may not administer the lethal dose. Is prescribing any medicine against the Hippocratic Oath?

It is not uncommon to hear about someone not terminally ill taking his or her own life with medicines a doctor had prescribed. It is clear that Death With Dignity is clearly very different from suicide.

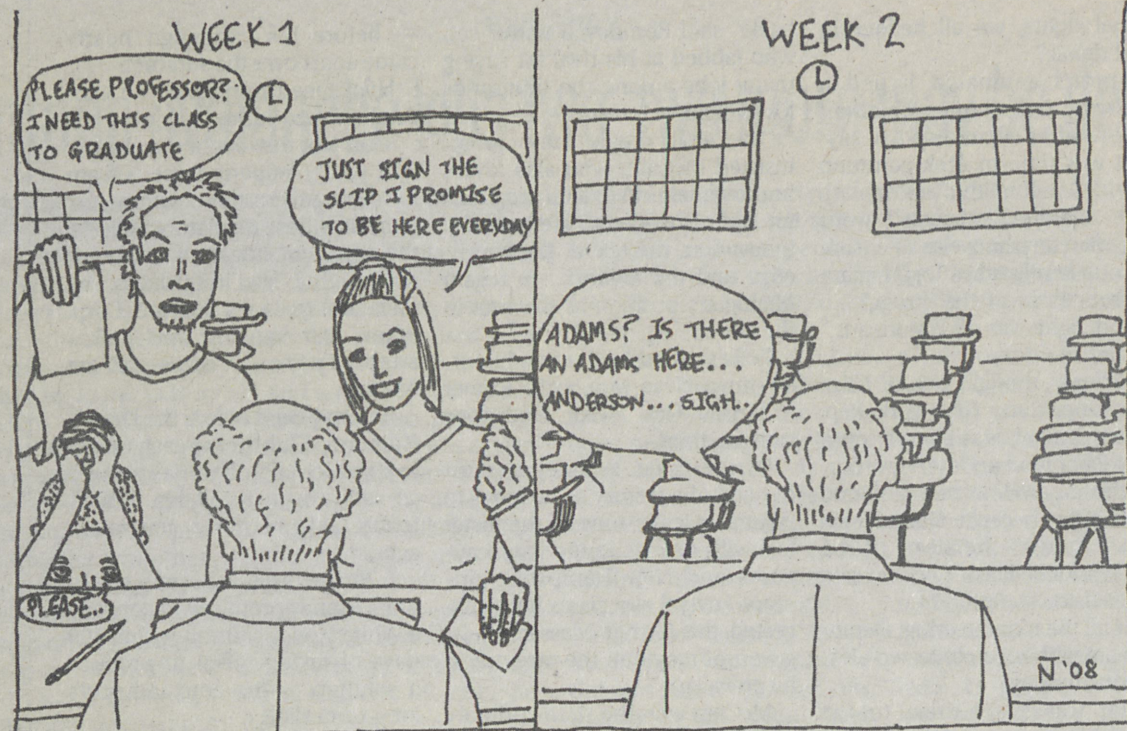
It is not a matter of who is right and who is wrong. It comes down to a person's beliefs. If someone who is terminally ill and in constant pain feels taking his life is the right thing to do, who is to say otherwise? This is not to say taking your own life is okay, but it must come down to the options at hand, and terminally ill patients have this option in Oregon.

If doctors have the duty "to practice and prescribe to the best of [their] ability for the good of [the] patient and try to avoid harming them," is keeping a patient in constant pain really "for the good" of the patient? Part Four of the oath states, "To avoid violating the morals of my community."

Because Oregon has accepted this law, does it mean doctors are not violating the morals of the community?

The subject of Death With Dignity is a very slippery one. The Oregonian reported in 2006 that 46 percent of Americans support the right, and 45 percent oppose it. Clearly America is divided.

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.



Domestic partnership bill, a right to choose

With the 2004 decision to amend the constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman and the recent halting of the domestic partnership bill, I can't help but feel that this is a sad time for Oregon.

Starting Jan. 2, Oregon would have joined California, D.C., Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey and Washington to give state rights similar to opposite-sex marriage.

Because this issue is handled at the state level, same-sex couples in these areas are not given all 1,138 rights awarded to married couples by the federal government.

Massachusetts is the only state to legalize same-sex marriage; however, the passage of the Defense of Marriage Act would give other states the right to deny the recognition of marriage and would take away rights like hospital visitation, inheritance and guardianship of children.

The bill granting domestic partnerships was halted by U.S. District Judge Michael Mosman in response to the claim by the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal support group, that some signatures obtained to overturn the bill were unfairly thrown out. The ADF was started by 35 ministries in 1994, including Dr. James Dobson, the founder of "Focus on the Family."

The ADF opposes any rights for same-sex couples. On their website they claim, "God ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman," and the idea of granting same-sex couples the same rights afforded to opposite-sex married couples "threatens to destroy this institution, to the detriment of future generations."

Their goal is to save traditional marriage, but what exactly is meant by "traditional marriage?"

Marriage has meant a variety of things over time. It was once a property transfer of a daughter from the father to the husband, a way to make political or military alliances, a practical arrangement between individuals, as well as a way to improve or maintain social statuses. In traditional English common law, marriage



Sara Gwin

The Way I See It

was a model based on male domination and female subordination, where the "husband and wife are one, and that one is the husband."

It wasn't until 200 years ago in Western Europe and America that marriage for love became socially acceptable.

Since then, more and more rights have been given to married women. There has been a transition from seeing a woman as property to seeing a woman as someone who makes choices for herself and family much like her husband would.

A hundred and fifty years ago, women were given property rights and the right to keep inherited or earned money. A hundred and twenty years ago, husbands were no longer able to imprison or physically "correct" their wives, and adultery became less acceptable.

In 1979, Louisiana was the final state to repeal the "Head and Master" laws that gave husbands the final say in household decisions. In the 1960s and '70s, with the second wave of feminism, women were able to purchase contraceptives without the permission of a husband or male family member.

Around the same time, marital rape became illegal (and recognized), and it became more acceptable for women to work outside of the home. This is when we began to see the transition to the idea of the nuclear family.

Marriage has evolved over time and has changed drastically in recent years with the feminist movement's ability to expand choices for women in and out of marriage. The institution of marriage has absorbed these changes, making marriage far more egalitarian than it has been in the past.

Christian family groups like "Focus on the Family" and "Prom-

ise Keepers" believe traditional marriage is one in which a husband and wife have "biblically mandated roles."

These roles follow the male breadwinner and female homemaker concept, where the husband has superiority. From this point of view, the work of the feminist movement and the potential for marriage equality threatens "God's will," but I cannot see how these groups will ever be able to garner enough support to return to their idea of traditional marriage in all of society.

The institution of marriage is still very powerful despite the fact that we are in a period of redefinition after a number of changes. Marriage equality would not destroy the institution as the ADF believes.

On a macro level, it may continue to redefine what it means to be a family and help to expand gender roles much like the feminist movement has been working on. Gay parenting will only continue to show it is not the gender of the parent that is important, but the love and support a parent or parents can give.

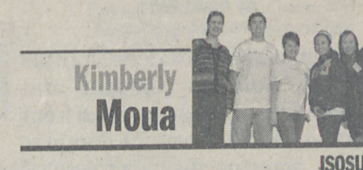
In our nation's past, we have seen the opposition of interracial marriage receive as much fervent opposition as we see with same-sex marriage today.

Former Georgia senator Seaborn Roddenberry stated in 1912 that "intermarriage between whites and blacks is repulsive and averse to every sentiment of pure American spirit... let us uproot and exterminate now this debasing, ultrademoralizing, un-American and inhuman leprosy."

Also, in 1965, a Virginia appeals court judge said, "almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix."

In 1976, interracial marriage became officially legal after years of struggle with religious ideology and major inequality issues.

See GWIN / page 5



Kimberly Moua

ISOSU

Hmong culture: a deeper look

Have you ever been mistaken for someone you're not? Growing up as kid, if you were Hmong, you were always questioned on your race.

"Are you Chinese? Are you from Mongolia since you're 'Hmong?'"

"No, I'm not Chinese — I'm Hmong," is a repeated answer all Hmong people reply.

Answering that you were Hmong always led to the conversation of where Hmong people come from. The fact is, Hmong people don't have a country. Hmong people don't have any written documents of their history. The only written documents of Hmong people are found in the history books from the countries of China, Korea and Vietnam.

From all the history books and even to this day, you can find Hmong people in the mountains of Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, among other countries. Hmong people are scattered all over the world, but the largest populations are in the U.S., Canada, France, Australia, Laos, Thailand and even Africa.

Today, the highest populations of Hmong people in the U.S. are located in California and Minnesota. There are over 2,100 Hmong people living in Oregon, and 54 of them go to OSU.

The main differences between Hmong people and the many other Asian races are the differences in their clothing and their language. There is one main language for Hmong people with two different dialects. The two different dialects are called the "white" Hmong and the "green" Hmong. The difference is the same as if a person from the South was to talk to a person from the North. Though the dialects are completely different, a Hmong person can understand both.

Within the Hmong community, a person's last name is the main difference that distinguishes them from one clan to another.

The most popular last name for Hmong people is Vang, while other Hmong names are Vue, Moua, Xiong, Lee, Yang, Khue, Lor, Her, Cha and so on. There are primarily 10 main Hmong last names, with the exceptions of names such as Cha being turned in to Chang and Her being equivalent to Hang.

On campus, we have a variety of last names represented. We have primarily Vangs, Mouas, Hers, Xiongs and Chas. The Hmong population at OSU is growing every year, and at the rate it's growing, there will soon be a huge number attending OSU.

Our Hmong student organization on campus called "HMONG OSU" started seven years ago from five Hmong alumni who felt the need for a Hmong student organization group on campus. At the time, there were only eight

See ISOSU / page 5

Letters

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be printed on a first-come 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. Letters are subject to editing for space and clarity. The Daily Barometer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submissions.

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Finding ways to control absurd textbook prices

Jennifer Watanabe didn't know they'd be this bad. Like most other incoming freshmen, she'd heard about the soaring cost of college tuition and had applied for numerous scholarships to offset the expense. Since she'd be living with her parents, she wouldn't have to worry about paying for housing or transportation. Instead, her only out-of-pocket charges would be textbooks, and they couldn't be that expensive, could they?

"I can't believe how exorbitant these prices are," Watanabe said, after spending an entire month's salary on several tattered tomes. "I'm going to have to get another job just to pay for my books."

Unfortunately, things don't seem to be looking up (or, for that matter, coming down) for Watanabe or her classmates. In fact, textbook prices have skyrocketed so high in recent years that the investigative arm of the federal Legislature, the Government Accountability Office, was asked by Con-

Kris DeRego
Ka Leo O Hawaii

gress to look into the problem.

Since almost half of college students nationwide receive federal financial aid to fund their education, the office was more than willing to oblige their congressional masters, and the results of their study were striking.

The Government Accountability Office's report, released in 2005, found that the average college student spends nearly \$900 on textbooks and supplies each year, or roughly 25 percent of tuition and fees at a standard four-year public university. At two-year colleges, including technical schools and community colleges, the charge for textbooks amounts to 72 percent of a student's bill for tuition and fees.

Furthermore, the office concluded that the cost of textbooks has increased by 186 percent since 1986, or 114 percent more than the over-

all inflation rate for the same period, which stood at 72 percent.

Why have prices risen so rapidly? And what's being done to prevent further gouging by greedy publishing houses? The answer to the first of these questions is actually rather complicated and clouded by corporate spin. The answer to the second, however, is quite simple: not much.

In part, the increased valuation of college textbooks can be tied to advancements in educational technology. Frequently, both new and used textbooks are bundled together with instructional supplements that are supposed to make the learning process more accessible to students and professors alike.

Most of the time, these supplements, which usually come in the form of multimedia software, aren't included within course curricula, nor are they necessary for academic achievement. According to a recent survey of college professors, conducted by the Student Public Interest Research

Group, over 71 percent of professors nationwide feel that the additional materials provided with new textbooks are rarely justified. Students still end up paying the price, though, since supplements are seldom sold separately.

Another component of textbook inflation is the veil of secrecy assumed by publishing companies with regard to the cost of new products. By law, sales representatives from academic publishing firms are permitted to withhold cost information when pushing new textbooks, which are often the priciest products available.

On average, the newest edition of a textbook costs 15 percent more than the previous edition, and wholly new volumes can, if produced on a wide enough scale, cost the consumer almost 150 percent more than any text published within the preceding year.

If professors were aware of these figures when deciding what books to require, they would almost certainly object. Thus, the most lucrative action a publisher can take is to flood the marketplace with the most recently minted material, while keeping the price points for these manu-

scripts under lock and key.

If politicians are genuinely concerned about easing the burden placed upon students, they should work toward the enactment of new legislation mandating increased transparency during financial transactions between publishing houses and academic institutions. Specifically, sales representatives should be legally compelled to release information regarding the price of new textbooks when peddling their wares to university professors.

Similarly, the pricing data for college textbooks should be disaggregated from other educational materials in the consumer price index, allowing for the characteristics of individual textbooks to be accounted for with greater precision.

Currently, college textbooks are grouped with all other reference materials under the index's "educational books and supplies" category. College texts constitute the largest portion of this category by far, and their inclusion alongside other educational resources prevents equitable price comparisons from being conducted when new editions

enter the market.

Additionally, professors should consider allowing students to purchase old editions of required texts, except in cases where up-to-date information is critical to completion of the curriculum. Even better would be an infusion of technology into the textbook dissemination process, whereby electronic versions of textbooks could be purchased and downloaded at a fraction of the cost encumbered by printed editions.

Already, institutions like Princeton University and Cornell University are offering e-texts at a 33 percent discount, enticing both students and publishers to make efficient use of cybermedia. If the fad catches on and more universities follow suit, the price of textbooks may eventually begin to fall.

If that happens, the cost of college education may become a bit more manageable. More importantly, your work schedule may become a little less chaotic, and you'll finally be able to afford the one luxury you've longed for the most: sleep.

Kris DeRego
Ka Leo O Hawaii (U. Hawaii)

Letters to the Editor

MIP Regulations

Use what you pay for

The recent articles over the new MIP regulations have caught my interest, so I thought I'd throw my oar into the water. I agree that a 90-day suspension is probably too long to be appropriate.

For those like Place and Castle who have had their licenses suspended, the world hasn't ended. I didn't have a car for my first two years here. Any time I had to leave town I took the Greyhound or rode with a friend.

This year I'm trying something new: riding the CTS and Philomath Connection buses. It's by far less inconvenient than I expected, cheaper than paying for gas and parking, and in some cases faster since I get dropped off right on campus instead of walking half a mile. Time spent waiting for a bus is time where I'm forced to do homework, a plus.

Stop complaining, pick up the bus schedules, and give it a try. You've already paid for it.

EVON SILVIA
Senior, Civil Engineering

ISOSU: Growing population of Hmong students on campus leads to awareness

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Hmong students at OSU, and after seven years, the number has jumped up dramatically to more than 50 Hmong students, mainly from the Portland/Hillsboro area.

Our Hmong student organization's purpose is to increase awareness of the Hmong culture at OSU and the surrounding communities. We strive to provide support services to members of HMONG OSU, which include (but are not limited to) social, educational and emotional support, and development of leadership, communication and social skills.

We also aim to provide support and services to the OSU community by educating them about Hmong issues and concerns related to diversity and awareness. By hosting political, social, and educational activities and events on campus, HMONG OSU exists to advo-

cate equality and understanding for all students and community members.

HMONG OSU is a well-known cultural club on campus that hosts an annual Hmong Night in addition to participating in countless numbers of school activities held on campus. The student organization is an active affiliate of the International Students of Oregon State University, the Asian Pacific American Council and also the Asian Pacific America Student Union.

HMONG OSU has two advisors and is run by seven student officers. HMONG OSU holds bi-weekly meetings. Decision-making, socializing, fundraising, brainstorming, compromising and group discussions are all a part of the general meetings. HMONG OSU is open to anyone and is always looking for more members and friends. For more information you can

visit www.oregonstate.edu/groups/hmong.

Kimberly Moua is a senior in human development and family science and is a member of HMONG OSU, affiliate of ISOSU. The opinions expressed in ISOSU's columns, which appear every Tuesday, do not necessarily represent those of the Daily Barometer staff. Moua can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

GWIN: Step in the right direction, only if separation of church and state is imposed

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The First Amendment gives us the freedom to follow whichever religion we choose, but we cannot use that religion as a justification for discrimination. To deny rights based upon the interpretation of what the Christian God finds acceptable only serves to use the power of one religious institution to oppress others.

Domestic partnerships are a step in the right direction, despite the fact that not getting federal rights feels second-class. I advocate for marriage equality in the hopes that one day we can do better than "separate but equal" or "separate and sort of equal." As we witnessed during the Civil Rights Movement, neither of these is fair.

Churches shouldn't have any say in whose relationships deserve state and federal rights and recognition. They have every right to believe that homosexuality is wrong and can choose to not recognize same-sex couples in their churches, but their beliefs should have no merit outside of that realm.

Marriage shouldn't be a heterosexual privilege, but a right every consenting adult can choose to enter into.

Sara Gwin is a junior in psychology and women studies. The opinions expressed in her columns, which appear every Tuesday, do not necessarily represent those of the Daily Barometer staff. Gwin can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

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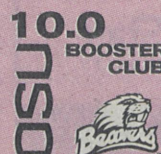
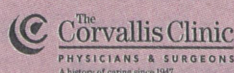
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Selig, Fehr pay visit to D.C. once again

By Howard Fendrich
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Bud Selig and Donald Fehr return to Capitol Hill on Tuesday, three years after a theatrical hearing where the baseball commissioner and players' union head were chastised for what lawmakers called a lax steroids policy.

Much has changed since then, including a toughening of the sport's drug-testing rules and penalties. But allegations about players' use of performance-enhancing drugs still hound baseball, especially since Roger Clemens was named last month in former Senate majority leader George Mitchell's report on the steroids era.

Mitchell will testify first before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, appearing alone, followed by Selig and Fehr, side by side. Lawmakers can be expected to press all three on recommendations in the Mitchell Report, including a call for the major leagues to bring in an outside anti-doping test agency.

"The aim is to get the report straight from the horse's mouth, Sen. Mitchell," Rep. Tom Davis, who chaired the panel in 2005 and is now the ranking minority member, said Monday in a telephone interview.

"We're going to make news tomorrow. I don't think this is going to just be the stale same-old, same-old. I can't say anything else. There will be some additional things coming out of this. And, of course, we'll hear from Clemens next month."

Unlike on March 17, 2005, Selig and Fehr will not share the spotlight with players. That was the day Mark McGwire repeatedly said, "I'm not here to talk about the past," while Rafael Palmeiro pointed his finger for emphasis and told the committee: "I have never used steroids, period." Palmeiro was suspended by baseball later that year after testing positive for a steroid.

This time, the committee plans a Feb. 13 hearing with Clemens and Andy Pettitte — two of the more than 80 major leaguers named by Mitchell — and their former trainer, Brian McNamee.

Clemens' lawyer met with committee staffers Monday to begin discussing under what format the seven-time Cy Young Award winner might answer questions before testifying under oath next month. The committee wants the witnesses to take depositions.

"We agreed to continuing talking," said Clemens' lawyer, Rusty Hardin. "It was a very pleasant meeting. They were courteous and open-minded."

McNamee told federal prosecutors and Mitchell that he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone; Clemens has repeatedly denied what amounted to the most sensational allegations in the Mitchell Report. Neither Clemens nor McNamee has testified under oath.

"I don't think there's any question that Roger's going to appear before the committee, and that he'll be out there before the full lights, answering questions," Davis said. "It's in everybody's interest that you sit down and talk before that, in one form or another, but we're still discussing that with him."

First things first, though.

It sounds as though Selig has won over some members of the committee by merely asking Mitchell to conduct his investigation — and by beginning to follow some of the report's recommendations, including setting up a permanent branch of the commissioner's office responsible to look into drug use in the sport.

Fehr might expect tougher questioning.

"The players' union needs to be very careful and keep in mind we're talking about the integrity of the game," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat. "If they do not act now, I don't know when they're going to act. We have now been provided with information that says that we do have a problem, some of it systemic."

Management and the union will be pressed about moving testing outside their control.

"That's something we've felt strongly about: 'The more independent and transparent the testing authority is, the better the program's going to be,'" said Phil Schiliro, chief of staff for committee chairman Henry Waxman, a California Democrat.

Schiliro said Fehr and Selig can expect to be questioned about how they would modify baseball's drug policy further.

Representatives indicated Mitchell will be asked about what sort of cooperation he received from players.

"Maybe some of the members will be interested to know how he determined some players were and some players weren't involved. Might be helpful to know that answer," said Rep. Christopher Shays, a Connecticut Republican. "In other words, he named about 80 players. Does that mean the others do not use steroids or that he just doesn't know?"

The committee continues to work on gathering evidence ahead of the Clemens-McNamee hearing.

Davis said the panel has received the full tape of a Jan. 4 telephone conversation between those two men — secretly recorded at the player's end — that Clemens' legal team played at a news conference. The congressman said the committee is working to get a recording of a conversation between McNamee and investigators who work for Clemens' law firm. That took place Dec. 12, a day before the Mitchell Report was released.

Another House committee that scheduled its own hearing on steroids in professional sports announced Monday that the Jan. 23 session would be postponed to accommodate witness schedules.

McFadden decides to go pro

By Howard Fendrich
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Darren McFadden isn't sticking around for another run at the Heisman Trophy.

The Arkansas All-American announced Monday he'll skip his senior season and enter the NFL draft.

"When I was growing up, I dreamed of playing for the Razorbacks," McFadden said. "Now, the time has come for me to pursue another dream of mine — playing in the NFL."

McFadden was the Heisman runner-up in 2006 and 2007, so his decision to turn pro wasn't surprising. He ran for 1,830 yards last season, second on the Southeastern Conference's single-season list.

Felix Jones, the Razorbacks' other talented tailback, said he'll also enter the draft a year early.

McFadden rushed for over 1,000 yards all three seasons at Arkansas. Jones did it the last two. They were part of a backfield that also included senior fullback Peyton Hillis, another NFL prospect.

Now Arkansas will have to rebuild under new coach Bobby Petrino.

McFadden's decision comes a week after he was involved in a "pretty rowdy scene" at a piano bar in Little Rock, when he was handcuffed by police and then released without charges. In the summer of 2006, he severely injured his toe in a fight outside another club, but recovered in time to play in the season opener.

McFadden holds Arkansas' career and single-season rushing records.

McFadden, from Little Rock, made an immediate impression in 2005. He ran for 1,113 yards and was chosen SEC freshman of the year. In 2006, he led Arkansas on a 10-game winning streak and was second in the Heisman race to Ohio State's Troy Smith.

McFadden spoke first at a joint news conference Monday. Then it was Jones' turn.

"I guess that'll be the last handoff from D-Mac," Jones joked.

This season, the Razorbacks lost their first three SEC games but rebounded late. They beat then-No. 1 LSU in the regular-season finale. McFadden ran for 206 yards and three touchdowns and also threw for a touchdown in Arkansas' triple-over-time 50-48 win.

MEN'S HOOPS: Beavers take care of basketball, combining for just 19 turnovers in both games

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

and just 28 percent from three. To put these numbers into perspective, five schools from the Pac-10 are shooting 49 percent or better, and the second lowest team shooting percentage in the conference is Stanford at 46.2 percent. The second worst three-point shooting team is UCLA at 35 percent.

"We need to get easy points," Seth Tarver said. "When we get easy shots, we need to make them. When you hit the easy shots you feel more comfortable when you shoot the ball in other situations."

Despite the poor shooting, there were quite a few positives over the weekend. The Beavers had only 19 turnovers in the two games combined and had 37 offensive rebounds as well.

Freshman Omari Johnson called Saturday's game "a must-win," and it showed in the team's

intensity. The Beavers demonstrated the hunger for a win, and the competition was taking note. Unfortunately, poor shooting was too much to overcome.

"I think they understood that Oregon State plays hard," Cal coach Ben Braun said. "They played at a higher level, they took the lead, they played hard and our guys moved well with the ball today. Our guys played just as aggressively at Oregon State did. We couldn't accept anybody being hungrier. Both teams will always be hungry, hungry for a win, for the ball and hungry for playing at home."

The Beavers will travel this week to face No. 8 Washington State in Pullman on Thursday before meeting Washington on Saturday.

Kacy Hochstatter, sports writer
sports@dailybarometer.com

LOGHIDES: In long run, youth could be deciding factor in making playoffs

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the lottery and out of the playoffs.

This team is a crossroads this week and next. If Brandon Roy continues to play the way he has (19 points per game), James Jones continues to shoot lights-out from behind the arc and their defense holds up, they may be able to make a run at a playoff berth now — with a first round thumping in the offing.

Youth is a great thing to have, and the Blazers are overflowing with it. How many of their players, however, have actually finished a full 82-game NBA schedule with anything to show for it? None.

So, the Blazers have had a great first half of the season, that is for sure. I would expect these guys to hit a wall soon (the East Coast trip may be that wall, by the way) and chances are they will finish out of the playoffs this season.

The future is bright, though. This young, talented group will get another year of strength and experience added to it, and then they can add Greg Oden to the roster in 2008-2009. That is when the fans in Portland should finally be able to smell the roses and have a playoff team to root for.

Adam Loghides, staff writer
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"We came out a little bit more aggressive going to the basket. We were more in charge and once we got rolling, it just kept going."
 — Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge on the team's 99-73 rout of New Jersey on the road.

sports@dailybarometer.com • 737-6378

Returning for his senior season, starter Mike Stutes and the Beavers will take on the Georgia Bulldogs in Portland for a key early-season series.

PETER STRONG
THE DAILY BAROMETER



Papé Grand Slam tickets officially on sale

Two-time defending national champion baseball program will host SEC foe Georgia in three-game series at PGE Park

THE DAILY BAROMETER

Tickets for Oregon State baseball's Papé Grand Slam, which will be held Feb. 29 through Mar. 2 at PGE Park in Portland, go on sale beginning Monday at 10 a.m. Tickets can be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets and by calling (503) 224-4400.

Single-game tickets for the Papé Grand Slam are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youths aged 3-18 and Oregon State students who present their student IDs on game day. All single-game tickets are general admission.

For every 10 tickets purchased to any game during the three-game series, those making the purchase will receive a free bobblehead of former Oregon State All-American outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury, who is coming off a 2007 Major League World Series championship victory with the Boston Red Sox. Tickets must be purchased in advance of the first game on Feb. 29. Bobbleheads will be available just prior to the series. Ellsbury bobbleheads will not be for sale.

The Southeastern Conference's Georgia Bulldogs are slated to be Oregon State's opponent for all three games. The series opens Friday, Feb. 29 with a 6 p.m. contest. The second game of the series, March 1, will start at 1 p.m., while Sunday's affair will begin at 12 p.m.

Shooting hurts OSU's chances over weekend

Despite signs of growth against Bay Area schools, offense hurts team's chance for victories

By Kacy Hochstatter
THE DAILY BAROMETER

It was a tough weekend for the Oregon State men's basketball team, as they lost both contests in a two-game home stand against the Stanford Cardinal (13-3, 2-2 Pac-10) and the Cal Bears (11-4, 2-2 Pac-10).

Thursday's game against the Cardinal featured two of the best centers in the Pac-10 in seven-foot twin brothers Robin and Brook Lopez. The sophomores dominated the paint as they combined to score 20 points and grab 17 rebounds while leading Stanford to a 66-46 win.

However, it was not the offensive end of the floor where they controlled the game. The twins' biggest contribution came on the defensive end. Oregon State was held to just 22 points in the paint and as a team shot only 30.6 percent from the field on 17-for-56 field goals, including 0-for-8 from three.

"The height and size takes away your rhythm," coach Jay John said. "They are a physical team. Guys are enduring bumps and they had to try to keep their balance, but once again, playing a team like that is why we have to execute. Closer is not necessarily better, you're better off taking a 12-footer rather than trying to get a six-footer."

As it has been all season, Stanford's transition defense was outstanding. The Cardinal gave up only four fast-break points and allowed only eight points off of their 13 turnovers. In a game where easy baskets were a necessity to the Beavers in order to compete, they could manage very few.

Saturday's game hosted the Cal Golden Bears, and it seemed like déjà vu at the start. Similar to Stanford and its 15-2 run to start Thursday's game, the Bears quickly jumped out to an 8-0 lead and led 14-4 with 12 minutes left in the first



JEFF WICK / THE DAILY BAROMETER

The men's basketball team found positivity over the weekend in its statistics in the hustle category. The Beavers held both Stanford and California to under 70 points each and tallied 37 offensive rebounds in the two games.

half.

Then C.J. Giles temporarily woke Oregon State from their shooting slumber with a three-pointer and subsequent blocked shot that nearly flew to half court. The spark from the junior transfer lit up the crowd and sparked an 18-2 run that would put the Beavers up by six.

"There are flashes where we play well," John said. "What you saw were some jump shots that went in. There was a brief stretch there were I watched Josh [Tarver] and thought maybe today's the day."

But Saturday was not the day, as the Golden Bears answered with a 15-0 run of their own, and before

the dust settled, the Beavers found themselves down 36-26 at the half.

Oregon State needed to get the momentum back to start the second half, but instead Cal used an 8-2 run to push the lead to 16, and the Beavers would never recover, losing 69-59 to fall to 0-4 in the Pac-10.

Shooting and slow starts at the

beginning of the halves proved to be the downfall for OSU. The Beavers shot just 32.9 percent on 25-for-76 from the field and were 4-of-22 from three.

On the season, the team is now shooting 39 percent from the field

See MEN'S HOOPS / page 7

Don't Trail Blaze too far ahead, Portland fans

Okay, the Portland Trail Blazers are better than I thought they would be. A lot better, in fact.

But can Blazer fans start getting ready for a playoff berth this season? Not so fast, my friend.

I admit that back in October that if someone had told me the Blazers would be anywhere near first place as the NBA season neared the midway point, I would have thought they had lost their mind. After they started 5-12, my prediction that the Blazers would struggle mightily this year seemed like prophecy.

Adam Loghides



Then came the winning streak. First it was five or six in a row to get near the .500 mark. Then came win No. 11 on Christmas Day. It went all the way up to 13 before a New Year's Eve loss to Utah in Salt Lake City.

The streak really didn't end there and quite frankly hasn't really stopped at all. The Blazers had won 17 of 19

prior to press time last night and were within a half game of first place Denver in the Northwest Division. They had an amazing run through December, bookending the 13-game win streak with road losses in their first and last games of the month. Even with Boston's amazing start to the season (30-5 at press time), the Blazers continue to be the hot topic around the NBA because of their miracle turnaround.

Blazer fans are beginning to anticipate a playoff berth this season. That may be asking a bit too much.

The streak was great, but the losses

around it were alarming. First, it was a loss at defending champion San Antonio, then the loss to Utah. The loss to the Jazz was due (you can't win them all), but the loss to San Antonio should open some Blazer fans' eyes.

That loss proved nothing more than the fact that these Blazers aren't ready for the big time — yet. Take a peek at the standings and you will find that, even though the Blazers are in the sixth position right now, they are vulnerable to falling all the way to 10th, possibly before the All-Star game in mid-February. Golden State, Utah and Houston (eight, nine and

10 in the West) are all teams that have the talent to overtake the Blazers at any time.

The key for Blazer fans is the team's current seven-game East Coast road trip and the first home game afterwards. The trip includes games at Boston, Orlando and New Orleans and ends with the Blazers hosting Houston at the end of next week. A 2-6 stretch is not too far from the imagination, landing the team at 24-19. Right now, five games over .500 is good for ninth in the West — out of

See LOGHIDES / page 7