

## One tax put to the vote, one extended

The city council decided to keep gas tax, but postpone another to gain voters' trust

JASON N. REED  
News Reporter

Eugene voters played the part of the wooed and the feared Monday night as Eugene city councilors passed two street repair funding motions that took into account how city residents would react.

The council decided to hold off putting an \$81 million tax measure, which would fund street preservation, on the May ballot, and elected to place it on the November ballot. The decision was made in an effort to gain the trust of voters by showing fiscal responsibility.

In a second issue of the night, city councilors voted to extend the city's 2-cents-per-gallon gas tax that was set to expire Feb. 28, effectively keeping Eugene's gas tax at 5 cents per gallon. Local gas station owners oppose this decision, and said they will go full speed ahead with petition drive this week to put the matter to voters.

turn to TAX, page 8

### WEATHER

#### Eugene Police offers drivers safety tips for road conditions in snow, ice

Several Eugene drivers had a tough time with Monday morning's icy conditions, resulting from an unexpected snow siege the day before.

Because Eugene hasn't seen this much snowfall "in a very long time," said National Weather Service spokeswoman Tiffani Brown, most residents aren't accustomed to driving on icy roads. On Sunday, nine car crashes were reported to Eugene Police, said spokeswoman Melinda Kletzok, compared with the "four or five" that occurred the Sunday before. As such, said Kletzok, there are several precautions drivers should take before they pull out of the driveway.

First, "make sure you have visibility," Kletzok said. "Warm the car up so you can see out the windows. Make sure your lights are working. If it's really icy, consider chains."

If you're taking a long trip or traveling far away, also consider stocking up on emergency items and notifying someone of your travel plans and when you'll return.

Kletzok said it's also a good idea to get a road report from the radio or a Web site like the Oregon Department of Transportation's Web site tripcheck.com as a way to navigate around closed roads.

When you're on the road, "drive like you don't have brakes," said Kletzok, "even if you've got a four-wheel drive or chains."

According to the National Weather Service, there is little chance for additional snow accumulation today. A rain/snow mix was expected for Monday night, and today's forecast calls for rain and a high temperature of 39 degrees. Snow showers are predicted for tonight.

—Jill Kimball



COURTESY OF JULIE NELSON

## AN EYE ON CONSERVATION

MIKE O'BRIEN  
News Reporter

Originating near Crater Lake, the Rogue River flows through 215 miles of mountains, valleys and unspoiled wilderness in southwestern Oregon.

The Rogue is also home to renowned salmon fisheries, the future of which is made uncertain by logging.

"There's been a real ripple effect over the last 30, 40, 50 years, where fisheries started to decline," said Josh Laughlin, conservation director

turn to PHOTOS, page 4

(Above) The University of Oregon Photography Competition will formally be announcing winners tonight. Julie Nelson, a finalist, shot this photo, titled "Letting Go."

(Right) Patrick Kolar is a finalist in the University of Oregon Outdoor Photography Competition with his photo "Sahalie Falls."



COURTESY OF PATRICK KOLAR

## Economy, war topics of Bush's last union address

President Bush discussed his new economic stimulus package, tax cuts and continuing the war on terror

JOBETTA HEDELMAN  
Freelance Editor

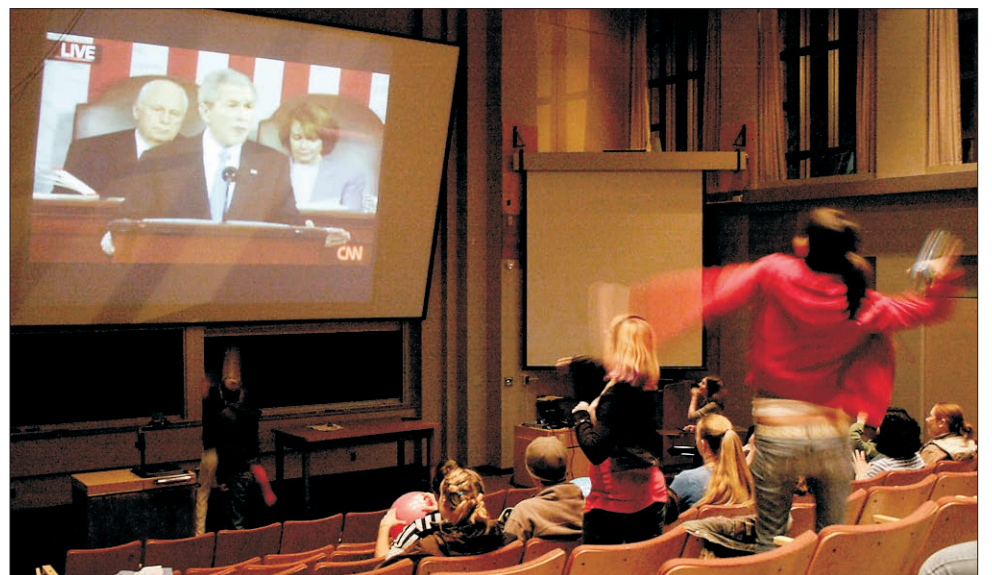
George W. Bush delivered the last State of the Union address of his presidency Monday night, saying the United States must continue to show resolve in the war on terror to defend the nation's security.

Bush dedicated the first 20 minutes of his speech to the state of the economy and discussed a bipartisan economic stimulus package he plans to present to Congress.

Worries about tax increases wear heavily on the minds of Americans, Bush said, asking Congress to re-authorize the tax cuts he has passed in his seven years in office.

"There is only one way to eliminate this

turn to UNION, page 8



DAVE MARTINEZ | Photographer

Freshman Trish Marx, a member of the College Democrats since fall term, throws a Nerf football at the screen during President Bush's State of the Union address.



### ONLINE

#### VIDEO

Part two of the Emerald's look at the person inside the Duck suit.

DAILYEMERALD.COM

### SPORTS

#### CLUB SPORTS

Hockey wins I-5 Cup and women's water polo takes first tourney.

PAGE 5



TODAY  
Rain/Snow  
40°/34°



WEDNESDAY  
Rain/Snow  
39°/36°

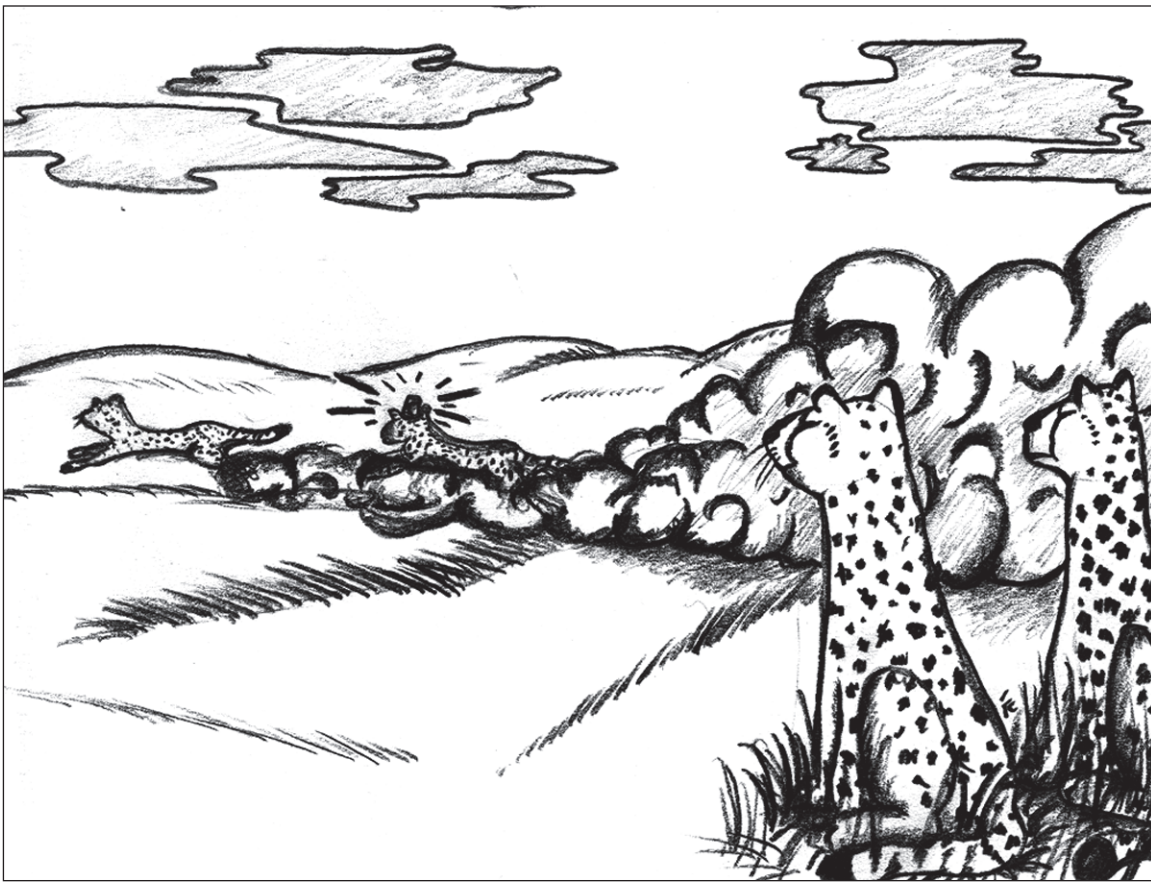


THURSDAY  
Rain/Wind  
41°/37°

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ILLUSTRATION



Cheetah Police Chase

CHAZ FAULHABER | Illustration

IN MY OPINION | MATT PETRYNI

## Education needs to return to roots



ALL I REMEMBER IS...

Last week, when pointlessly deciding who to vote for, I explored some of the policy “plans,” “roadmaps,” or “vision quests” of the various politicians running for president. These are generally ideological action plans posted on a Web site amounting to the billion-dollar equivalent of the student council candidate’s plan for “Free Pizza Fridays” — which is to say, well-crafted promises that have no hope of realization in the real world of Congressional approvals, regulations, lobbyist agendas, compromise, hearings and the occasional terrorist attack.

However, I would like to vote for someone with big ideas — especially in three key areas: banking, the environment and education. While national defense is all good and well, the backbone of any free society, in my opinion, is these systems. Without a strong infrastructure there, no army, Star Wars defense system, or brilliant foreign policy will defend the nation from its enemies — be they enemies from within or without.

Education is critical to a nation’s success. Whatever a nation wants to do, good or evil, is going to depend on its “human resources,” the education of its people and their ability to innovate. It’s easy to begrudge our country’s education — recent polls say that more Americans can name the three judges on American Idol than the three branches of government — though we must also remember that America also developed Jazz, the Internet and the atomic bomb, and although our

inventions may mean only as much good as evil, we cannot deny their innovative quality. I think it’s not too much of a stretch to extend the dedicated teachers of the public school system a token of gratitude.

The problem begins, however, in the more conservative recent times. It would seem to me there is an effort to improve, diversify and equalize opportunities in public education while minimizing costs of doing so to taxpayers. A series of major regulatory programs has been implemented on the already stretched public school system to theoretically force teachers into working harder with less pay. I call this effort “neo-education,” a made-up term, mind you, that simply means any program implemented since the 1970s that tries to increase educational output without increasing capital input.

I’m talking about programs like standardized testing, multicultural education, teaching rubrics, vouchers, strategic plans and other attempts at educational reform that involve changing the curriculum rather than class sizes and levels of professional respect.

Standardized testing might be the ultimate example of “neo-education.” While relatively cheap to implement (relative to, to say, adding four philosophy teachers to every high school), it demands massive improvement in public school performance, with the hope that by weighing the pig, it will be made fatter. It also has the neo-education tinge of being hopelessly ineffective. It makes American students good at taking tests, as every lesson plan is gradually tailored to the test, allowing memorized regurgitation to take the place of actual learning.

It shows some promise statistically, but it’s hard to say whether that means students are actually becoming more educated citizens, or just better at filling out geometric proofs. It also leaves a lot of people behind. Students well

below the standardized “bar” drop out early, discouraged that they will ever meet the test requirements and be able to graduate. Students above it get frustrated with being taught over and over skills they already know and move to a community college-type environment. No Child Left Behind, the Bush Administration’s initiative to “leave no child behind,” requires most states to implement some kind of test-like measure.

Other programs like multicultural education are more complicated to assess. Multicultural education, which means somehow introducing lessons about diversity, communication, and tolerance into the curriculum, seeking to improve students’ cultural competence without putting in the hard money it’s going to take alleviate racial inequalities. Instead of dealing with the vast discrepancies in the quality of public schools between poor neighborhoods and rich ones, which will ultimately require massive changes to the taxing and funding structures of schools, neo-education tries to provide a cheap answer by teaching suburban communities about the urban experience.

The problem with programs like No Child Left Behind and similar initiatives is not their results but their intentions. Curriculums should probably change within schools to adapt to modern times and issues. But it is my contention that no amount of standardized bureaucracy will be able to mimic what would happen in American education if teachers were paid and respected on the level of lawyers, doctors and business professionals (as they should be). There is little I can do to prove this but offer common sense: For as far as I know, such an attempt has never been made in America. But such a goal would be a campaign promise — or “plan,” “vision,” whatever — worth voting for.

mpetryni@dailymerald.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Holy Cow’s sustainability represents true progress

I was surprised to see the Holy Cow editorial (“Holy Cow fans should encourage progress,” ODE, Jan. 28) where our student paper sided with the administration and against the popular opinion of many students and staff by basically telling us we needed to get with the times if

we supported Holy Cow. The editorial’s very limited version of “progress” seen only in economic terms seems more fitting in the Commentator or the Wall Street Journal and not our student paper. If Holy Cow is more sustainable, more organic, more local, and more vegetarian then that is the kind of progress we need right now more than ever. Replacing our only vegetarian restaurant with one

that serves flesh is not progress. I hope the Emerald will engage more with popular student opinion on this issue instead of just touting an old-school business perspective and that of the administration.

Carrie Packwood Freeman

School of Journalism and Communication GTF and co-director of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

GUEST COMMENTARY

## Teach for America makes real difference

A vast and growing inequality exists in my country. Just this month, Harper’s Index cited a two-fold increase during the past 20 years in the percentage of Americans who consider themselves among the “have-nots.” This epidemic of socio-economic stratification infects all of our democratic institutions, informing, for example, Mississippi’s decision to allocate only 10 percent of its \$1.7 billion in federal Hurricane Katrina relief on programs to help poor residents.

The education system is not immune. Half of the children growing up in low-income communities do not graduate from high school. Of those that do graduate, most, on average, read at the eighth-grade level of students in high-income communities. Children of color are three times more likely than their white peers to grow up in low-income communities, a fact that adds social weight to economic statistics.

This is a national injustice. Children born into low-income communities are being denied their inalienable right to be educated, a right directly correlated with their choices, chances and social agency in life.

If I come across angry, I apologize, but these children are my students. I became the second of two seventh-grade math teachers at Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School, in Philadelphia’s Kensington neighborhood, when an experienced teacher from out of state quit, three weeks into the school year.

I walked into my new class on a Monday half expecting to be greeted by my new students with excitement and applause, for was not I their savior from the chaos and uncertainty of a string of substitute teachers?

I was quickly given a reality check when students seemed to pay no mind as I lectured on fractions, decimals and percents. A couple of them strained to listen. Some slept. Most of them just carried on their conversations as if I were not even there. “Don’t you want to learn?” I thought. I soon realized then even though the answer was a clear, resounding “Yes!” I was asking the wrong question.

The right questions included the following: “What are your strengths and weaknesses in math?” “What motivates you to push yourself to succeed, in school and elsewhere?” and “Who are the important people in your life, and how can I contact them?”

Since those first weeks teaching, I have grown considerably. I have learned that I am capable of pushing my patience, energy, immune system, voice, organizational skills and creativity to levels unimaginable six months ago.

I was placed in a Philadelphia public school by Teach For America, which pursues its mission to close the achievement gap via 5,000 corps members in 26 regions across the United States, as well as an alumni movement comprising 17,000 former corps members.

I joined the movement because it was exactly that: a movement of committed individuals striving toward a common goal of social justice. Few other post-graduation opportunities promised the potential for growth, and the immediate ability to effect change that TFA did. Stepping into a full classroom in which you are responsible for the cognitive, social and emotional development — and safety! — of more than 30 young people is quite the endeavor.

Fifty years ago, a movement of people challenged an unjust system and demanded equality. Today, our public schools, and our neighborhoods, are more segregated than in 1954. Separate but Equal continues unofficially to this day, and it is our responsibility to ensure its complete and permanent destruction. I challenge every ambitious, socially conscious graduating senior to consider giving two years of civil service to Teach For America’s movement to end educational inequity. This is one of the most pressing civil-rights issues of our generation.

Babak Ghafarzade is a University alumnus



# Diversion classes offer insight into student choices

Students caught drinking or with drugs for the first time can choose to take a class or pay a fine

JILL KIMBALL  
News Reporter

Most University students would dread attending another class on a Sunday morning, but if they're caught consuming alcohol on campus, that's exactly what they have to do.

For the past eight years, the University's Substance Abuse Prevention Program has taught a variety of diversion classes to educate alcohol- and drug-consuming students on the dangers of their decisions. Authorities from University Housing and other campus systems refer students to the program if they're caught with alcohol or less than an ounce of marijuana.

SAPP director Tom Favreau said the class first-time offenders take is a casual discussion rather than a formal lecture.

"It's not so much a don't-do-it-again kind of thing as much as it is a harm reduction class," Favreau said. "It's not a typical diversion thing where you watch gross movies or anything like that."

Students who must take the three-hour class can opt to take it on a weekday or on a Sunday, depending on their schedule, and they can rest easy when they show up — there's no test at the end.

"We're really just there to give them some important information that might help them take a look at their behavior and poor judgment," Favreau said.

Among the topics covered are the dangers of driving while impaired, the consequences of engaging in sexual activity while under the influence, and the proper ways to take care of an unconscious friend at a party.

"Most people don't really know what to do when someone can't be revived," Favreau said. "They think, 'Do we let him sleep it off? Roll him over? Keep him in bed? Put him in a warm shower?' We give students some critical thinking about their rationale."

Many students may groan at the thought, but the \$25 they have to pay to take the class is a tiny fraction of the fine they would otherwise have to pay the Eugene Municipal Court. ASUO Legal Services Director Ilona Koleszar said first-time offenders normally pay about \$175 if they choose not to enroll in a diversion class. Depending on the situation, minors could owe the court up to \$250, or an offender's driver's license could be suspended.

Koleszar said students under the influence on campus may be more severely punished if the Department of Public Safety catches them. If they are compliant, first-time offenders will pay \$50 to attend an 8-hour diversion class offered through the municipal court. If they aren't, DPS may cite them to the court, where they will have to decide on a plea.

"You have to plead guilty to take the class, but some students want to defend the case and have many times won," Koleszar said. "Most people will opt for the class because it's a relatively small amount of money for just one Saturday."

Like the University's SAPP courses, the municipal court's diversion class discusses issues relating to alcohol and drugs, including personal safety, sexually transmitted diseases and personal rights.

Students who commit more than one offense will face more serious consequences. If an authority figure refers a student to SAPP a second time, the student must pay \$50 and sit through a "much more didactic" 8-hour diversion class with PowerPoint presentations and video clips taught by certified drug and alcohol counselors, said Favreau.

Koleszar said students who have already taken one alcohol diversion program through the Eugene Municipal Court are not eligible to take another and will be fined in full for the offense.

Student and SAPP member Michelle Fujii said the class first-time offenders take provides students with important and interesting information.

"I've seen some of the surveys people have filled out after they took the class," Fujii said. "We've had a lot of good reviews. People say they've learned a lot of good information."

Contact the crime, health and safety reporter at [jkimball@dailymerald.com](mailto:jkimball@dailymerald.com)

## UO LIBRARIES BOOK SALE

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Wednesday, January 30

9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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University of Oregon

**DPS**

**Tasers expected to be focus of "meet the chief" forum**

Director of Public Safety Kevin Williams will hold a "meet the chief" forum today to answer questions from University students, staff and faculty. The meeting will take place at noon today in Room 175 at the Knight Law Center.

Attendees are welcome to ask anything at the meeting, but Williams' assistant Colleen McKillip said she expects the subject of Tasers to be a popular one. Though the Department of Public Safety isn't actively requesting permission to carry the devices, she said, the possibility is being studied.

"If that's what people want to talk about, that's what he'll talk about," McKillip said. "I

imagine there will be some interest in that."

Today's meeting will also give the University community a chance to get to know Williams, she said. The event is open to everyone.

—Eric Florip

**FUNDRAISER**

**"Overstocked items" will be sold at UO libraries book sale**

For those who like books, there is nothing better than getting a good book at a great price. The University's libraries will be selling thousands of used books today and tomorrow to raise money for new acquisitions.

From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Knight Library Browsing Room, book lovers can peruse the libraries' duplicate titles in search of a winter afternoon of entertainment.

"We have a lot of really good biographies," said Acquisitions Librarian Rosemary Nigro, including a copy of a Coco Chanel biography. Nigro mentioned there will be many fiction titles, a set of Spanish classics in Spanish, along with other foreign language titles and art history books. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and \$2 for hardbacks, unless otherwise marked.

But the sale will not just be books. Nigro said the library is also selling a "decent selection of classical sheet music," records and CDs. The records and CDs will sell for 50 cents each.

Nigro characterized the items as "overstock items" that were donated to the library. Proceeds from the sale will go toward building the library's collection.

"I hope lots of the University

community will come out and support the book sale and find some great deals," Nigro said.

—Jill Aho

**POLITICS**

**Sen. Edward M. Kennedy endorses Barack Obama**

WASHINGTON — Summoning memories of his brother the slain president, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy led two generations of the First Family of Democratic politics Monday in endorsing Barack Obama for the White House, declaring, "I feel change is in the air."

Obama is a man of rare "grit and grace," Kennedy said in remarks salted with scarcely veiled criticism of the Illinois senator's chief rival for the presidential nomination, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as her husband, the

former president.

Obama beamed as first Rhode Island Rep. Patrick Kennedy, then Caroline Kennedy and finally the country's best known liberal took turns bestowing their praise. "Today isn't just about politics for me. It's personal," Obama told a boisterous crowd packed into the American University basketball arena a few miles across town from the White House.

It was also about politics, though, and a rapidly approaching set of primaries and caucuses across more than 20 states on Feb. 5, with more than 1,600 national convention delegates at stake.

Kennedy's endorsement was ardently sought by all three of the remaining Democratic presidential contenders, and he delivered it at a pivotal time in the race. A liberal lion

in his fifth decade in the Senate, the Massachusetts senator is in a position to help Obama court voting groups who so far have tilted Clinton's way. These include Hispanics, rank-and-file union workers and lower-income, older voters.

Kennedy is expected to campaign actively for Obama beginning later this week, beginning in Arizona, New Mexico and California. Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of John Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1963, will also make campaign appearances, officials said.

David Axelrod, a senior Obama adviser, said strategists also hope Kennedy can help blunt Clinton's charges that Obama's health plan would not provide coverage for all.

—The Associated Press

**Photos: The competition is one of several events put on by the OP to celebrate and preserve the outdoors**

Continued from page 1

of the Cascadia Wildlands Project. CWP is a local group focused on protecting and restoring the forests, waters and wildlife of the Cascadia bioregion, and Thursday evening, it will present a slideshow about conserving the Rogue River Canyon.

"It's such a local world-renowned resource," Laughlin said. "Once students see this area, whether it's walking through the 40-mile river trail or floating for four days through the river canyon, it's an experience they'll never forget. They'll want to safeguard this legacy for future generations and take their children there decades from now."

The goal of the slideshow, which will be followed by a discussion, is to get members of the University community aware of and involved with this issue. The event, one of three sponsored by the University's Outdoor Program this week, will take place in the OP office on the EMU's ground floor.

Tonight, OP will announce the winners of its annual Outdoor Photography Competition at a reception in the EMU's Aperture Gallery.

OP Office Manager Rithy Khut said the judges — representatives from some of OP's sponsors such as Backcountry Gear, Berg's Ski and Snowboard Shop, and REI — will be looking for eye-catching photos with aesthetically pleasing color balances, as well as adherence to the guidelines.

"We're not considering outdoors like a person standing outside a city landscape," Khut said. "We're

thinking more like a person in nature."

He added that the competition had five categories: landscapes, action shots, flora and fauna, digitally altered and people in the outdoors.

Democratically chosen based on comments from readers of OP's photo sharing Web site on flickr.com, the 38 finalists include a close-up shot of a hibiscus, a photo of the Willamette National Forest's Sahalie Falls and an action shot of rock climbers rappelling in Minnesota.

Prizes include cash and gift certificates to REI. Category winners and runners-up will have their photos on display in the Aperture Gallery.

Eugene resident Brad Bassi, "an international adventurer" in Khut's words, became, along with Eric Nemitz of New Hampshire, the first person to canoe the Ungava Peninsula of northern Quebec last summer. Tomorrow evening in the OP office, Bassi, who has led OP kayaking trips in the past, will share his photos and experiences from his 40-day excursion.

"It's that sense of wonder," Khut said. "There are still places in the world you can go that no one else has been, seen or done. You can sort of live vicariously through people... who do these amazing trips. It gives you a sense of inspiration for trips you can do yourself."

Contact the people, culture and faith reporter at [mobrien@dailymerald.com](mailto:mobrien@dailymerald.com)



COURTESY OF DAVID DUBE

Another finalist in the University of Oregon Outdoor Photography Competition is David Dube with his piece "Singing Marsh Wren."

**AT A GLANCE**

**Tuesday, Jan. 29**

OP will present the winners of its annual Outdoor Photography Competition in the EMU Aperture Gallery, located on the building's first floor. 5:30 p.m., free.

**Wednesday, Jan. 30**

Brad Bassi, one of the first people to canoe the Ungava Peninsula of northern Québec, will share his photos and experiences in the OP office, located on the EMU's ground floor. 7 p.m., free.

**Thursday, Jan. 31**

The Cascadia Wildlife Project, a group of local conservationists, will present a slideshow about the problems facing the Rogue River Canyon in the OP office. 7 p.m., free.

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## CLUB SPORTS

# Weekend of wins, losses for clubs

**3** Wins that Duck hockey had against UW this year.

**261** Combined points of Walla Walla's leading scorers.

**3** Number of scores rugby player Zack Test had vs. UW.

**50** Combined points UO women's water polo team scored.

**13** Combined points of water polo's opponents.



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARTINEZ | Photographer

**Above:** Defender Jeff Gibb keeps his eye on a Portland State attacker last Thursday night in Eugene. The Ducks won that game before traveling to Seattle. **Top:** Forward Cam Forni shoots against Portland State on Thursday night during the Ducks' 15-1 win.

## Club hockey wins fourth straight I-5 Cup, men's rugby places fifth at tournament, women's water polo dominates

ANDREW GREIF  
Sports Copy Editor

**B**y splitting a two-game weekend series with the Washington Huskies, the Oregon club ice hockey team took possession of its fourth straight I-5 Cup.

The Huskies didn't make it an easy trip, though.

Oregon had to come from behind to win Friday night's game 5-3 in Seattle, before being on the losing end of a 4-1 decision Saturday. Overall, Oregon won three of the four games against the Huskies this season to win the cup.

"It was good that we secured (the I-5 Cup), but it would have been nice to have swept both games," coordinator Jeff Gibb said. "We just got outplayed Saturday night."

This week's games will be the final two of the regular season. On Thursday, the Ducks (16-7-1) will take on Walla Walla at 7:30 p.m. Thursday night. On Feb. 2, the Ducks will host a charity game to benefit Food for Lane County, beginning at 4 p.m.

With a record of 18-13, Walla Walla is in sixth place in the West-ern division. The team also boasts the two highest scorers in all of Division II in brothers Quinell Oucharek and Quisto Oucharek, who have combined for 261 points on the season.

After this weekend, the team will take two weeks off before the Pac-8 Tournament in Kent, Wash., from Feb. 14-15. The time will be spent getting over fatigue, Gibb said.

"We don't have that significant of injuries," he said. "It's just basically fatigue of injuries from being away the past three weeks."

### Men's rugby

At the halfway marker of the season, the club men's rugby team finished fifth out of eight teams at the Pacific-10 Conference tournament over the weekend in Los Angeles. The Ducks finished the weekend 1-2-1, beating Washington 37-0 in the final game.

The Ducks opened the tournament by dropping back-to-back games to California and Washington State, before tying USC 10-10 on Saturday.

"We played pretty much where we thought we'd place," coordinator Kyle McKenzie said.

The Ducks' next match is this Saturday in Seattle against the Huskies. Their next home game is Feb. 16

turn to CLUB SPORTS, page 6

## IN MY OPINION | JEFFREY DRANSFELDT

# Injuries can make or break season



THREETOWIN

When injuries strike, it never seems like an isolated event. They accumulate and spread across teams and programs.

The Oregon women's basketball team has experienced the phenomenon yet again.

Ellyce Ironmonger, Ellie Manou and Taylor Lilley have all had to deal with injuries of some sort this season. Point guard Tamika Nurse joined the list Saturday with a sprained shoulder suffered against UCLA. She recovered enough, though, to be able to play two days later against USC.

Last season, Oregon had to deal with a long-term injury to center

In a season where Oregon has been incorporating so many new faces and seeing them adjust to Division I basketball, the WNIT would be an ideal stepping stone to making a run at an NCAA tournament bid in 2009.

Jessie Shettlers and had to manage the minutes of forward Eleanor Haring.

Every team has to deal with injuries. It's the successful teams who manage to win in spite of them.

As the midpoint of the Pacific-10 Conference season dawns on Oregon, the Ducks stand at a crossroads. They are 10-10 overall and 4-5 in conference play. With an NCAA Tournament bid a long shot, Oregon has an

opportunity for a bid to the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

The experience of postseason play would be invaluable for this year's team with six freshmen and three sophomores. Oregon went last year, but for that squad, built around five seniors and a junior, it was more about extending their Duck careers and experiencing postseason play

turn to DRANSFELDT, page 6



JAROD OPPERMAN | Photographer

Junior point guard Tamika Nurse is the latest in a long line of Duck basketball players with injuries this season. Nurse sprained her shoulder against UCLA on Thursday, but played two days later against USC.

## Club sports: Water polo beats four teams to win first tournament of year

Continued from page 5

against Washington State.

Several Ducks had standout performances during the tournament. Freshman Zack Test scored all the tries for the Ducks, including three break-away tries against Washington. McKenzie was confident in the team's chances over the second-half of the schedule.

"We spotted a lot of talent on our team," he said. "A lot of players who we didn't think

could be able to play will be starting coming up.

"I think we have a very strong team coming into next season."

### Women's water polo

The women's club water polo team didn't waste any time in its division title defense, winning the team's first tournament of the year this weekend in Tacoma, Wash.

The Ducks' A-team defeated two Washington squads, Portland and Western Washington en route to an easy tournament win. The team has won the past four straight Northwest Division championships. The Ducks, ranked third nationally, won by a dominating combined score of 50-13.

Coordinator Katie Fletcher praised the play of the team's two freshmen, Beth Gordon

and Katie Peront.

"The freshmen definitely brought more shooting and it was a combination of the new and the old that worked well together," Fletcher said. "I think we told the freshmen we expect a lot out of the program."

The team's next tournament is Feb. 9 in Tacoma, Wash.

agreif@dailymerald.com

## OLYMPICS

### Official says six workers have died at Beijing sites

BEIJING — Six workers have died building venues for the 2008 Beijing Olympics over the last five years, an acknowledgment Monday that came after a series of clarifications by a Chinese official.

Ding Zhenkuan, deputy chief of Beijing's Municipal Bureau of Work Safety, initially told reporters no deaths had taken place at the 91,000-seat National Stadium, known as the "Bird's Nest" and the site for the opening and closing ceremonies.

He later said two died there and then added there were six worker deaths in total at all sites, without elaborating on the other four deaths.

It is not unusual in China for communist government officials to make seemingly inaccurate or contradictory statements. Li Yizhong, minister of the State Administration of Work Safety, said last week he was unaware of work-related deaths on the project but promised to investigate.

In Greece four years ago, Olympic protesters in Athens held a memorial service for 13 workers killed during round-the-clock

construction for the 2004 Games.

The Sunday Times of London reported this month at least 10 workers had died at venues for the Beijing Olympics and said Chinese officials were covering up the accidents.

The newspaper said Chinese authorities have covered up the deaths and doled out large payments to guarantee the silence of fellow workers who witnessed the accidents.

Ding said that on behalf of the organizers, he wanted to "make it clear that there was no such case that 10 people died on the Bird's Nest." Several minutes later he was asked to clarify his first answer.

"The figure is not accurate," Ding said. "In the Bird's Nest there were two incidents, one in 2006 and one is in 2007. The deaths of two people are true. ... We have punished the related personnel."

After the news conference, he again revised his answer, saying six workers had died at all venues over the last five years. He did not say where the other four deaths had taken place. He also said there was one other injury that required hospitalization and three that did not.

— The Associated Press

## Dransfeldt: The upcoming schedule is tough, but winnable for Duck women

Continued from page 5

after missing the NCAA Tournament the season before.

That 2006-07 team had its shot at an NCAA Tournament berth with a 7-2 record in non-conference play, but

by losing Shettlers for an extended period, it lost a player who had been enjoying a breakout year offensively and defensively. They too went to the Los Angeles schools with a chance to move up into the upper half of the Pac-10, only to fall in heartbreaking fashion, dropping a double-overtime game to USC and two nights later falling at UCLA, again, after having a six-point halftime lead.

Oregon proceeded to lose four of its next five games and had to rely on a late surge to turn around its season.

The current Ducks have a difficult task ahead of them.

Oregon has to travel to the

Arizona schools this week. It's always a difficult road trip. The Ducks broke a six-game losing streak inside Arizona's McKale Center with a win against the Wildcats last season.

But it becomes even more difficult upon their return to McArthur Court with the Bay Area schools coming to visit. In the best case scenario, Oregon earns splits both weekends. The Ducks follow those games with tough, but winnable games at the Washington schools.

Oregon then comes home for the final three games of the season against the Los Angeles schools, including rival Oregon State for the season finale.

If Oregon can split the next

three weekends and close the season with three consecutive wins, it would put the Ducks at 16-13 and in line for a spot in the WNIT.

In a season where Oregon has been incorporating so many new faces and seeing them adjust to Division I basketball, the WNIT would be an ideal stepping stone to making a run at an NCAA Tournament bid in 2008-09.

By next season, Oregon will be welcoming new athletic recruits, who will enhance Oregon's young core, who will be that much better with a year of experience.

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## OFF-CAMPUS COMMENTARY

# Students' impact can be felt on the court

One conference is allowing its referees to call foul on some chants

SAMMY HISLOP

The Utah Statesman

The Western Athletic Conference Sportsmanship Initiative is a step forward.

But judging from Saturday night's game against New Mexico State in the Spectrum, the implementing of this initiative took an even larger step backward.

WAC commissioner Karl Benson issued a press release in mid-December stating when game officials hear a chant or cheer that contains "obscene, vulgar, offensive or threatening language," they are instructed to tell the public address announcer to issue a warning to fans that continuing the chant will result in a technical foul on the home team.

A press release from the Utah State Athletic Department last week said the WAC considers the "You Suck!" chant offensive. This is a chant Aggie fans — mainly the student section — consistently direct to a player from the opposing team after an official tags that player with a foul.

Well, unless my ears

deceived me, I heard this chant numerous times Saturday night. It seemed like sometimes it wasn't as loud as it has been in games past. A warning was not issued by the public address announcer. No technical foul was called.

The fact that a technical foul was not called was a benefit to Utah State's basketball team. One or two points in such a tight game could have been the difference in the outcome of the game. Apparently the referees didn't think it was offensive enough to issue the home team a technical.

"We are at the mercy of the officials," USU director of athletics Randy Spetman said. "If we're tied and there's 30 seconds left and they call it, we're cooked. If they give a warning, it's going to get 10 times worse."

So, why issue a rule if it is not going to be enforced?

In a telephone interview Tuesday afternoon, Benson said he was not aware of anything that happened Saturday night in the Spectrum.

"I'll have to get further information," he said.

Benson added that the main issue is "being able to enforce (the initiative). We hope there is consistency. The fans are provided an opportunity to

say whatever they want the first time. If the official believes the language is offensive, that's when the PA announcer will identify that. It's a general attempt to create a better in-arena environment."

Consistency is going to be a huge problem with this rule. Referees — perhaps one of the professions that receives more criticism than the president of the United States — are imperfect mortals making judgment calls. Not all of their calls are correct, which is why there is instant replay. Now the things these referees consider obscene, vulgar, offensive or threatening just might cause the Aggies the game.

I agree steps need to be taken to put an end to such things. But who knows what an individual or group of referees is and is not going to put up with before issuing a warning?

Take the following chants as examples I have heard at most games. Will a referee consider them obscene, vulgar, offensive or threatening?

— "Stupid!" directed to an opposing player after he is called for a turnover.

— "Airball!" directed to any opposing player for a shot that doesn't reach the rim.

— "You will miss it!" directed to any opposing player while

shooting a free throw.

— "You still suck!" directed to the opposing player after he makes his free throws.

— "Left! Right! Left! Right!" directed to any opposing player during his walk to the bench after fouling out.

Some chants are specialized to the opponents. Here are a few:

— "Daddy's Boy!" directed to an opposing player who happens to be the son of the head coach of the opposing team. Coby Karl, who graduated from Boise State after last season, had this chant directed at him because he is the son of Denver Nuggets head coach George Karl.

— "Keep your pants on!" directed to New Mexico State's Jahmar Young Saturday because he was charged with indecent exposure.

— "Utah reject!" directed to New Mexico State's Justin Hawkins, an All-Conference player who transferred from the University of Utah.

And the list could go on. Are some of these obscene, vulgar, threatening or offensive? To me, yes. To WAC referees, who knows? We'll all have to watch game by game to find out.

This article was originally published in Utah State's student newspaper, The Utah Statesman

focus the nation.

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## HOROSCOPE

BY HOLIDAY MATHS

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 29). Exciting social circles are featured in the new year. While you pursue hobbies and causes that inspire you, you'll meet interesting characters -- people who will get you and love you. Trips in April are fortuitous as well as character building. You're involved in a new business venture in July. Leo and Virgo are especially amorous toward you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 11, 20, 44 and 16.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You are conscientious and knowledgeable about your business, and partners put their trust in you. So when today's unfamiliar situation arises, you may feel more comfortable relegating the work to someone who knows better.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You're a romantic at heart, and you have an idealistic view of what a relationship should be. What you want is uncommon, but that doesn't make it impossible. Keep the faith.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). When you know and honor your priorities, everything works smoothly. Your best luck comes this afternoon after you reconfirm where your loyalty lies. Capricorn encounters are educational.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). A master of intrigue, you're now drawn to situations that require cunning and secrecy -- or are those situations drawn to you? You'll use skills you didn't even know you had.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). A new sense of optimism prevails. You could even make friends with your enemies. At work, colleagues, clients and customers will be receptive if you introduce things slowly, one piece at a time.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Self-confidence and dedication are key to excelling at work, and you're strong on both qualities now. Let loved ones know that you need to concentrate your energy at this crucial point of your journey.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It doesn't matter how much or little people have put into your dreams and ideas in the past, they are worth more and you know it. Invest in yourself -- more than you've dared to do before.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're naturally suspicious of authority, challenging the system whenever you feel confined by it. Draw personal boundaries now to prevent being fenced in by rules you don't agree with.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Love is a sweet mystery that you can never fully comprehend, and that's what keeps you vital, excited and forever exploring. So when loved ones baffle you, try to see it as a gift.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're ever so charming now and can sweet-talk your way into any worthwhile situation. Give all your love to one romantic partner instead of making things more complicated.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When the pace of life gets unbearably sluggish, take this as an opportunity to do some inner work. Being aware of the thoughts and feelings you're having about loved ones is a powerful start.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Practical plans and impractical dreams have an equal shot at being realized, so be big and bold! When you're consistently positive, limits fade away. Gemini helps you out.

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By DAVID OUELLET

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**LIVING ON A YACHT** Solution: 9 letters

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 V E S S E L P G T H W B O A T  
 T L T E R A L I A S F T E K  
 H L L P D C T V L V S O C C  
 C A R G O B E E F L A I R O E  
 A G N T R C S H A O X N R S D  
 Y H S I F U I N C W R E D P N  
 R J D D B R U L A A G M G I U  
 L G E E E A R N E N E N L R S  
 E M O T S U C R E H I B O T W  
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**Yesterday's Answer: Spamming**

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Rating: SILVER

				4	7	9		
	7		6					4
4		1	9		7		6	2
	9	3			8		7	
5								3
	8		3			2	1	
	3	2	7		6	1		9
9				4			2	
	4	7	2					

1/29/08

Solution to 1/28/08

7	2	1	5	4	6	3	9	8
4	3	9	1	2	8	6	5	7
8	5	6	3	9	7	1	2	4
5	4	3	9	6	1	8	7	2
9	6	7	2	8	4	5	1	3
2	1	8	7	5	3	9	4	6
3	7	4	6	1	9	2	8	5
6	9	5	8	7	2	4	3	1
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## The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1218

**Across**

- 1 Comment not to be taken seriously
- 5 Marley's ghost in "A Christmas Carol"
- 10 Con game
- 14 Unwanted spots
- 15 Band together
- 16 Poi source
- 17 Response to a knock
- 19 29,035 ft., for Mt. Everest
- 20 Have a bawl
- 21 Designer label letters
- 22 Heap kudos on
- 24 "For instance ..."
- 25 Empathize with
- 26 The important thing
- 31 A Chaplin
- 32 Sluggers' stats
- 33 Lhasa
- 34 Terrible twos, e.g.
- 35 Browse, as the Web
- 36 Sportscaster Hersheiser
- 37 Hang around
- 39 Dickens's Drood in a way
- 40 "Can I come out now?"

**Down**

- 1 1975 Spielberg thriller
- 2 Eerie cave effect
- 3 One not associating with the likes of you?
- 4 Private eye, for short
- 5 Place to find auto parts
- 6 Have \_\_\_ with
- 7 Half of an E.P.A. mileage rating
- 8 Pony players' locale, in brief
- 9 Paging device
- 10 Incredible bargain
- 11 Where the San Andreas Fault is: Abbr.
- 12 "Ain't!" retort
- 13 Shaker's partner
- 18 Genesis patriarch
- 23 Convened again
- 24 "Can you believe this?" look
- 25 Come clean
- 26 Knocks the socks off
- 27 Alternative to a Twinkie
- 28 From the top
- 29 Steakhouse selections
- 30 Attach, in a way
- 45 Armed conflict
- 46 Battleship shade
- 47 Sober
- 48 Rock opera with the song "Pinball Wizard"
- 49 Densely packed, in a way
- 50 Pour salt on, perhaps
- 53 Apollo's instrument
- 54 N.Y.S.E. debuts
- 55 Full of guile
- 56 Tees off
- 57 Fellow
- 60 Step on it
- 61 Soccer \_\_\_

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

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 MUON RILE PRADA  
 SARATOGA SPRINGS  
 OUTLANDS RASCAL  
 GOTO NOWHERE  
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 MEETS TET SAILS  
 ESSO TERESA LAP  
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## Tax: Station owners ready to petition, say city's decision will make a statewide increase more difficult

Continued from page 1

### \$81 million bond vote

In January 2007 city officials created a plan consisting of various proposals that would address the city's \$170 million backlog of road repairs and preservation, one of which was the \$81 million tax measure.

The tax is expected to raise \$6.5 million per year through property taxes, and the owner of a median-value home could expect to pay \$109 annually for the next 10 years. But councilors felt the city needed to build

some goodwill with voters. The council wants to present residents with a shopping list of specific repairs that the \$81 million would go toward before asking for more money.

If the city wants to ask voters for money, it needs to present them with a list of what is going to be worked on instead of just saying "trust us," said Councilor Chris Pryor.

Councilors voted to put the tax measure on the November ballot, and will work out the flexibility of the project list, and whether the money will only

go to road repair, or if it will also fund the construction of new streets.

### Gas tax petition

The 2-cents-per-gallon gas tax increase implemented in 2005, which brought Eugene's total gas tax to a nickel a gallon, was scheduled to sunset at the end of February, but councilors voted 7 to 1 to extend that deadline until Feb. 28, 2011.

The extra 2 cents earns the city approximately \$1.4 million per year, which goes to funding

street maintenance. Councilors said this money is essential to addressing the city's \$170 million backlog of road repairs, and they extended the sunset for another three years.

Mayor Kitty Piercy said the sunset was put in with the agreement that "we'll rescind it when we solve the problem. It's still staring us in the face."

Local gas station owners have repeatedly told the council that if the 2-cents-per-gallon tax was not rescinded by the original deadline, then they would start a petition drive to

put the tax to the voters.

"The answer is clear. We will go out to get (the tax) on the ballot," said Ron Tyree, owner of Eugene-based Tyree Oil. "Frankly the city's decision tonight may make the state's decision to pass a statewide gas tax more difficult."

They have argued that the high gas tax puts them at a disadvantage, and a statewide gas tax increase passed by legislators in Salem would create an even playing field for everyone.

Many councilors, however,

expressed pessimistic views of what could be accomplished at the state level.

The state legislators have had 14 years to increase a statewide gas tax, but they have accomplished absolutely nothing, Councilor Alan Zelenka said.

Petitioners will have 30 days to gather the required signatures, but Zelenka warns voters that "if citizens put their name on the ballot, it just means more bad streets."

Contact the city and state politics reporter at [reed@dailyemerald.com](mailto:reed@dailyemerald.com)

## Union: 'It is in the vital interest of the United States that we succeed' Bush said, discussing the U.S. mission in Iraq



DAVE MARTINEZ | Photographer

The College Democrats hosted a viewing of the address in 100 Willamette on Monday night.

Continued from page 1

uncertainty: Make the tax relief permanent. And members of Congress should know: If any bill raising taxes reaches my desk, I will veto it."

Bush also announced a plan to present Congress with a budget that will eliminate or reduce 151 programs. He said this will result in a savings of \$18 billion and "keep America on track for a surplus in 2012."

Bush also expressed his displeasure with the practice of Congressional earmarks, or special-interest projects that are added on to bills. He announced a plan to prevent earmarks through an executive order that federal agencies ignore earmarks not voted on by Congress.

Andrew Hill, president of the College Republicans, said he thought Bush showed resolve in refusing to accept any "extra crap" tacked on to the economic stimulus package.

"I thought he stood pretty firm on the fact that we need to get this (stimulus) plan passed," Hill said.

Turning his attention to the shaky housing market, Bush asked Congress to pass legislation that would make it easier for homeowners to refinance their mortgages and avoid foreclosure.

Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) told the Emerald in a phone interview that he felt Bush's assessment of the economy was "totally detached" from what Americans are actually experiencing.

"As far as I can tell from his speech, he thinks the economy is just peachy," aside from the problems with home mortgages, DeFazio said. "He simply doesn't understand. Never has, never will."

Bush dedicated the second half-hour of the speech to the war on terror, saying that continued success in Iraq is necessary to protecting the liberty and security of America and its allies.

"The mission in Iraq has been difficult and trying for our nation," he said. "But it is in the vital interest of the United States that we succeed. A free Iraq will deny al-Qaida a safe haven. A free Iraq will show millions across the Middle

East that a future of liberty is possible. And a free Iraq will be a friend of America, a partner in fighting terror, and a source of stability in a dangerous part of the world."

DeFazio said that while Bush's rationale for the past year's troop surge had been to create "breathing room for political reconciliation" in Iraq, that has not happened and there has not been progress in the country.

"In terms of a long-term sustainable country, his own chief advisers are saying we'll be there for another decade, which is simply unacceptable," DeFazio said. Bush also said the U.S. is "spreading the hope of freedom" in Afghanistan, where he said the U.S. and its allies are helping to install democracy. He

support for Bush's request to continue to increase funding for veterans.

"We must keep faith with all who have risked life and limb so that we might live in freedom and peace," Bush said. "Over the past seven years, we have increased funding for veterans by more than 95 percent. As we increase funding, we must also reform our veterans system to meet the needs of a new war and a new generation."

DeFazio said Bush has proposed cutting veterans' benefits in each of his previous six budgets, but said it is "great" that Bush has become an advocate for more funding for veterans.

"I think that's something the entire nation can unite behind," DeFazio said.

Bush dedicated a short

**"Over the past seven years, we have increased funding for veterans by more than 95 percent. As we increase funding, we must also reform our veterans system to meet the needs of a new war and a new generation."**

— **George Bush,**  
President of the United States

announced that 3,200 Marines will be deployed to Afghanistan.

"Thanks to the courage of these military and civilian personnel, a nation that was once a safe haven for al-Qaida is now a young democracy where boys and girls are going to school, new roads and hospitals are being built, and people are looking to the future with a new hope," he said.

DeFazio disagreed with Bush's assessment that the U.S. presence in Afghanistan has been successful.

The situation in Afghanistan is bad because the attention of the world, which was initially supportive of the U.S. efforts in that nation, was shifted to the war in Iraq, DeFazio said, adding: "Afghanistan is sliding back toward anarchy as Osama bin Laden operates from his safe haven in Pakistan."

DeFazio did express

portion of the speech to other issues, saying the U.S. should look toward reducing its dependence on foreign oil and support initiatives to fight hunger in the developing world. He also proposed increasing funding for HIV/AIDS relief by \$30 billion over the next five years.

Hill said he thought the overall speech was good and that Bush stood firm on issues such as Iraq and the economy.

Sara Bean Duncan, the president of the College Democrats, said she thought the speech was "more of the same" and that much of what Bush had to say amounted to nothing more than "nice sound bites."

"It does make me very thankful that we're going to be working toward a Democratic president next year," she said.

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