



Congressman discusses aid issues today

THE DAILY BAROMETER

Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield), will be on campus today to address the recent appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2006 with OSU students.

DeFazio voted against the bill, which would slash \$14.3 billion dollars from funds allocated toward student financial aid. Now he wants to hear what students have to say about it.

The forum, which will take place at 2 p.m. in 149 Snell Hall, will allow students to share their personal experiences with financial aid with DeFazio.

DeFazio will also speak about the history of the bill, what it means to students and the future of financial aid.

The testimonies of students, however, will play the largest part in the discussion.

"It will be a dialogue between DeFazio and students," said Jen Gilbreath, ASOSU director of federal affairs. "We need to make sure we are fighting for it in Congress."

Both ASOSU and DeFazio are hoping for a large turnout of students, as this event is geared toward being "very participatory."

"We really encourage all students to attend," Gilbreath said.

Oregon Sen. Gordon Smith, who voted yes on a similar budget-cutting bill when it passed through the Senate, was on campus earlier this week.

Gilbreath said she and ASOSU President Dan McCarthy attended a meeting with Smith and discussed the issue.

IMPRINTS

Moving from Morocco

■ For one OSU student, coming overseas has been a fun and enlightening experience

By Ashley Stocki
THE DAILY BAROMETER

College is never an easy transition. It is hard to come to a campus with a majority population of in-state students. But, when you are not from the state, or in 25-year-old Safae El Yaaqoubi's case, the country, it can be an arduous adventure.

"I was not sure how I'd survive," El Yaaqoubi said. "But I am glad I did."

El Yaaqoubi wanted to venture to the states ever since she was young, and in June of 2004, she left her homeland of Morocco for the U.S.

"I first went to Pennsylvania for three months," El Yaaqoubi said. "There I went to Dickenson for pre-academics."

El Yaaqoubi explained that international students go through what is called "pre-academic studies." During this time, they learn how colleges in the U.S. differ from those in other parts of the world.

"The grading system here is so different," El Yaaqoubi said. "In Morocco, no one gets an 'A,' here it is possible — as long as you put in the effort."

El Yaaqoubi arrived in the U.S. through a program via the U.S.

See MOROCCO / page 3

Putting out the fire



PETER STRONG / THE DAILY BAROMETER

Corvallis parks, including Central Park, seen here, could soon become smoke free areas, pending the results of an ordinance currently under review by the city council.

Parks may become smoke free

THE DAILY BAROMETER

Watch your step, smokers of Corvallis — a proposed city ordinance would ban lighting up in public parks.

Having already passed a law banning smoking in bars and restaurants, some city leaders want to extend the smoke-free zone.

The ordinance was first posed to the City Council in April 2005 by the Benton County Tobacco-Free Coalition.

It was then forwarded to its Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for review in July and September. The ordinance will be sent to the city council for its final review within the next few months to be put into action.

City Councilor Charles Tomlinson said the plan comes down to a health issue.

"There are huge medical problems in our country

because of smoking," he said.

He added that his support for the measure was motivated in part by unanimous support from the parks advisory board.

In addition, he said that because the plan calls for allowing people to smoke in parking lots, it doesn't go too far.

City Councilor Betty Griffiths told the Corvallis Gazette-Times that parks should be a place for people to start a healthy lifestyle.

Students have differing opinions on the issue.

"Smoking is disgusting. I don't want people smoking around me," said animal science student Danielle Singler.

Others were upset at the idea of the ban.

"It's absurd. Then there will be no place left to smoke at all," said Joseph Miller, a zoology student

See PARKS / page 3



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER STRONG
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Some can't go home for the holidays

■ International students often travel during break, but others stay on a mostly closed campus

By Amanda Robbins
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Most students get to go home over the winter break to their families or friends. However, there are many students, especially international students, who are not able to get home.

"International students who live on campus may stay on campus over the winter break," said Candace Pierson-Charlton, the faculty in residence at West International Hall. "There are a couple of options. If they currently live in West International House, Halsell Hall or Poling, they can stay in their room as usual over the break."

For those students who do not live in these dorms, they will stay in celariums.

"Celariums are larger resident rooms. They are located in Polling Hall," said Eric Hansen the Assistant Director of UHDS.

"We usually have about 100 students who stay on campus during the winter break. We try to keep one convenience store open for these students, but if they want something more they have to go off campus. We also work with the MU to make sure that something is always open," Hansen continued.

There are programs on campus that work with international students and help them stay with families off campus.

"Crossroads international matches students with host families," said Dawn Moyer an international student adviser of international programs. "A lot of these host families will invite international students to live with them."

"We also have community members who call us and tell us they have an extra seat at their table. We are able to set them up with an international student," Moyer said.

Some students are going home over the break.

"I am going back to Japan," said Rie Kuwata a student who also resides in West International Hall.

"I am going back to Taiwan, however I will be back in Spring term,"

See INTERNATIONAL / page 3

Groups aims to raise AIDS awareness with campus events

■ Peer Health Advocates marks World Aids Day with informative games and other activities

By David Vasquez
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Peer Health Advocates is helping to raise awareness about AIDS by participating in World AIDS Day.

Today, an Information Fair is set for 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the MU Student Lounge. A Candlelight Vigil is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight in the MU Quad.

The Westminster House will have rapid AIDS testing from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The free event is sponsored by Benton County Health Services.

The purpose of World AIDS Day is to, "celebrate and recognize people living with HIV and AIDS and a day to bring about awareness on the issues," said Jackie Weldon, from Peer Health Advocates.

AIDS is a serious worldwide threat and has reached pandemic proportions across the globe. There are some regions in Africa where one in three adults are HIV positive, according to Weldon.

There will be interactive games that students can

See AIDS / page 3

Jill Hazelwood stands with students and faculty at a candlelight vigil on the steps of the MU on the night of Dec. 1, 2004 in commemoration of World AIDS Day.

HOUSTON BRUCK
THE DAILY BAROMETER





Church of England enthrones its first black archbishop

LONDON (AP) — To the beat of African drums, a son of Uganda took his throne Wednesday as the first black archbishop in the Church of England, declaring his hope of inspiring the shrinking church with the confident faith of his homeland.

John Sentamu recalled that one of his predecessors had dreamed of a black taking the church's second-highest position and told an applauding congregation in York: "Well, here I am!"

Sentamu, who moved to Britain in 1974 after clashing with Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, was installed as the 97th archbishop of York in a ceremony featuring dancers in leopard skin-print outfits, their heads covered in feathers, performing a dance of rejoicing and thanksgiving.

The 56-year-old Sentamu — who wore a bright blue and yellow cope and miter — joined drummers to beat time to "Siyahamba," a favorite African

hymn, after traveling by boat along the River Ouse from his official residence.

In his sermon, Sentamu recalled that a predecessor, Michael Ramsey, spoke in the 1960s of longing for the church to "learn the faith afresh from Christians of Africa and Asia."



Judge releases parts of mayor's computer hard drive contents

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — An index of gay-themed Internet Web pages that Mayor Jim West visited from his city-owned laptop computer was released Wednesday.

The 107-page index does not contain individual Web addresses because Adams County Superior Court Judge Richard Miller ordered them redacted to protect the privacy of third parties.

The mayor declined to comment when reached by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

On Nov. 18, Miller ordered the release of an index that shows the dates and times West used the computer to visit

Gay.com and other gay-themed Web sites, but not the pages or images he viewed. The index shows when the mayor looked at main Web pages and jpeg images in March, April and May of this year.

As West has claimed, most visits were made after 5 p.m. or on weekends.

West, who is the subject of a Dec. 6 recall election because of a City Hall sex scandal involving gay men, unsuccessfully tried to prevent release of the contents of his computer's hard drive, saying they were private and the Internet sites were accessed during off-work hours.

The index was made from a copy of West's computer hard drive the FBI made as part of its public corruption investigation. No charges have been filed and West continues to deny wrongdoing.



City report says utility kept share of Enron taxes

PORTLAND (AP) — A city review of

taxes paid by Portland General Electric suggests the utility overcharged ratepayers by nearly \$1 billion since it was purchased by Enron Corp. in 1997.

City Commissioner Randy Leonard told The Oregonian the overcharge "appears to be inappropriate."

In a separate story on the overcharge, Willamette Week reported Wednesday it had documents that indicated the tax strategy was a deliberate effort to boost revenue and executive bonuses.

Leonard, who authorized the review, said a full report is expected to be made to the Portland City Council next week.

The city report and the documents obtained by Willamette Week support claims repeatedly made by Dan Meek, attorney for the Utility Reform Project, a watchdog group founded in 1984.

Meek declined comment Wednesday, citing a pending lawsuit he has filed against PGE. But he told The Associated Press earlier this year that he estimated PGE was earning more than double the allowed rate with the tax strategy.

Meetings

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, 7pm, Arnold Dining Gold Room. Come experience God with us.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:30pm, Women's Center. Alcoholics Anonymous beginner's meeting. Everyone welcome.

ASOSU Federal Affairs Task Force, 6:30pm, ASOSU Conference Rm. Be a liaison for OSU students. We will bring Representatives and Senators to campus, lobby their offices on issues that we decide and register students to vote.

Pagan Student Association (PSA), 5-7pm, MU 212. Come hang out with fellow pagans. Inquiries always welcome.

OSU Horticulture Club, 5:15pm, ALS 4000. Meeting — new faces always welcome!

OSEA (Oregon State Environmental Activists), 6pm, EROC (Poling Hall). Astro brite campaign and current events.

Events

Catholic Campus Ministry, 8:30pm, Newman Center, 2127 NW Monroe. Praise & Worship — Celebrate God's love for us through song.

Catholic Campus Ministry, 9pm, Newman Center, 2127 NW Monroe. Evening Mass — A great Thirsty Thursday alternative.

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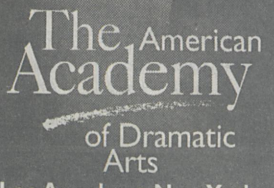
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Kitzhaber, Walker ponder governor's office

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALEM — State Sen. Vicki Walker says it's "highly likely" she will run against Gov. Ted Kulongoski — a fellow Democrat — in the 2006 governor's race but won't make it official until she sees whether former Gov. John Kitzhaber decides to make a bid for his old job.

Walker, who has criticized what she says is Kulongoski's lack of leadership, had

planned to announce her political plans on Wednesday. But the Eugene senator said she's going to hold off for a few more weeks.

"I am doing that out of respect for former Gov. Kitzhaber, who has indicated to me that he is seriously considering the race," Walker said in an interview.

The senator said she would stay out of the race and throw her support to Kitzhaber if the former Democratic governor did run.

Man pleads guilty to trespassing in horse-sex case

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — A man has pleaded guilty to trespassing in connection with a fatal horse-sex case.

James Michael Tait, 54, of Enumclaw, was accused of entering a barn without the owner's permission. Tait admitted to officers that he entered a neighboring barn last July with friend Kenneth Pinyan to have sex with a horse, charging papers said. Tait was

videotaping the episode when Pinyan suffered internal injuries that led to his death.

Tait pleaded guilty Tuesday and was given a one-year suspended sentence, a \$300 fine, and ordered to perform eight hours of community service and have no contact with the neighbors.

The prosecutor's office said no animal cruelty charges were filed because there was no evidence of injury to the horses.

PARKS: Action could come on issue as soon as Monday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dent who was smoking outside of the Valley Library.

"Maybe it would be alright in designated areas. Either way, you're looking at a rights issue," said exercise and sport science student Matt Coleman.

Stacy Edwards of the Benton County Health Department told the Gazette-Times that smoking is not a protected right, adding that 92 percent of Benton County residents agree people should be protected from second-hand smoke.

"I don't like the smell," said student Josiah Thompson, "it's just not healthy."

The issue could come up to a vote as early as Monday at the council's regularly scheduled noon meeting at the downtown fire station.

INTERNATIONAL: Some have not made plans for the break

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

added I-hsun Liu another international OSU student.

Some students are staying with extended family members who live closer than their parents.

"I am going to California to stay with my aunt over the break," said Jasmine Chiu.

And there are some students who have not yet decided what they are doing over the break.

"I am going to try and work here as a volunteer. But I might travel to California or Seattle with my roommate," said Fatimah Alramadhan a students from Saudi Arabia.

"OSU does a good job of try to set up international student with host families. We know that campus is not very festive this time of year," Moyer said.

Amanda Robbins, staff writer
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AIDS: With game, students can 'sleep with the stars,' to learn about issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

participate in to learn about how easy it is to contract a sexually transmitted infection and also what it is like to have to prescribe to the regimen of medication needed should you contract something.

Organizers hope the games offer a fun way of learning to the OSU community.

The first game is "Sleep with the Stars." It is a game where you can "exchange fluids" with your favorite stars such as Penelope Cruz, Johnny Depp, or Green Day's Billy Joe Armstrong. There will be 15 male stars and 15 female stars to choose from.

After picking a star to exchange fluids with, players roll dice to see how many times they have intercourse with them and how many times it was protected and unprotected. Players then mix fluids based on the encounters. The provided fluids will change color if you have tested positive for HIV.

Those who have tested positive will be given a drug cocktail to take throughout the day. The drugs are actually candy.

Peer Health Advocates is, "Hoping people will follow the regimen and give feedback on what it was like to take the drugs," said Weldon.

Though the games are lighthearted, the purpose of the event is to show how serious AIDS is.

At the vigil, there will be hot refreshments, music and an open mic for people to share their own personal experiences with the disease.

According to a health report for Oregon State University provided by event organizers, less than half of OSU students who are sexually active used a condom during sex. Peer Health Advocates hopes to raise awareness and help students practice safer sex through this increased knowledge.

David Vasquez, staff writer
campus@dailybarometer.com, 737-2232

MOROCCO: First choice was not Oregon, but El Yaaquobi is happy now that she's here

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Department of State known as the "Partnership for Learning for Undergraduate Students.

Because she is working sponsored by the PLUS program, El Yaaquobi must maintain a 3.25 GPA to keep her scholarship, and thus far has been successful.

She was placed at OSU by the PLUS program.

"My first choice defiantly wasn't Oregon," El Yaaquobi said. "I don't even think the thought had crossed my mind."

Although El Yaaquobi was reluctant about coming to OSU at first, she said she loves it now.

Since her arrival, El Yaaquobi has made a huge impact at OSU.

She is now the head of the Arabic Student Association, which was founded last spring.

"We are just here to educate people about the Arab culture," El Yaaquobi said.

El Yaaquobi is also involved in the International Cultural Service program that is overseen by Dawn Moyer.

"Safae was selected by our office to participate in OSU's University Day at the State Capitol," Moyer said. "It was arranged for her to spend the day with one of our state legislators, Margaret Carter."

After spending time with El Yaaquobi, Rep. Carter invited El Yaaquobi to spend last summer as her intern.

"When I saw Safae afterward, she was so energized,

and thanked us profusely for 'allowing' her the opportunity to participate in University Day, and meet Ms. Carter," Moyer said.

"I worked with the Oregon Senate from June until July," El Yaaquobi said. "After that I went to Nebraska for a conference."

From the leadership conference, El Yaaquobi ventured to Washington D.C. for yet another internship with the Moroccan American Center.

In Morocco, El Yaaquobi received a degree in journalism and communication at l'Institut Supérieur de Journalisme et de la Communication, a journalism and communication institute.

"I know that in the states institutes are different from colleges," El Yaaquobi said. "In Morocco we study everything in institutes, we even have two years of core requirements."

Once this year comes to an end, El Yaaquobi plans to return to Morocco with a degree in political science.

"I hope I can get a job with the B.A. I have, but later on I would like to come back to the states for my Ph.D.," she said.

El Yaaquobi will be missed by the many people she has affected.

"I will be sorry to see Safae and her fellow PLUS students leave next spring," Moyer said. "They have brought so much to OSU, and hopefully have gained a perspective on America."

El Yaaquobi hopes she made a lasting impact during her time at OSU.

"I did not have much time here, but I hope I do not leave it the same," El Yaaquobi said. "I just want to make difference."

Ashley Stocki, staff writer
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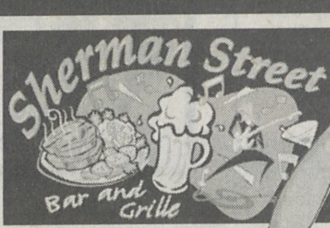
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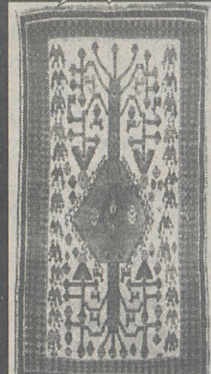
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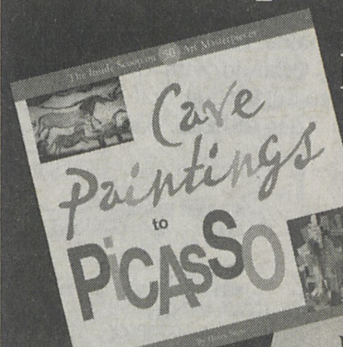
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Editorial

Light it up, Corvallis

In Portland, Seattle and most other places, a walk into a bar is often met with a wall of second-hand smoke.

But not in Corvallis. Often cited as a center of progressive thought, this college town lived up to its reputation in 1996, when it passed Oregon's first ordinance prohibiting smoking in bars and taverns.

Since then, many cities have followed suit. And that's a good thing. Forcing employees, who rely on the bars for their income, to work in a smoke-filled environment should not be legal.

After all, you can always step outside for a smoke, and some establishments even have outside areas where you can take your beverage and perform double duty.

Corvallis' groundbreaking efforts should be applauded. But now the progressive block of this town's leadership wants to take things down that road a little too far.

The latest conversation in city government suggests banning smoking in public parks. After all, proponents have argued in the Corvallis Gazette-Times, the city already regulates some activities in parks, including loud music, open containers of booze and dogs.

Loud music is a public problem, even if you walk a few feet away, you can hear it. Booze is a reasonable thing to regulate, because, as college students know first hand, it alters behavior. Restricting dogs makes sense, too — a dog without a leash could attack a 3-year-old.

Cigarette smoke, however, in an open area outside, just melts into the atmosphere. Mom can move the 3-year-old a few feet away, or ask the offender to do the moving. And last time we checked, cigarettes do not attack children.

Proponents have also argued that there is no question that second-hand smoke is bad for your health.

Bravo. Smoke is bad. Noted. But parks have enough space for people to smoke in peace. And most people have enough common courtesy to keep it to themselves.

Cigarette smoke, assuming you're a non-smoker, is simply annoying. It's not against the law.

And if it was against the law, who would enforce it? It's difficult to imagine Corvallis police officers watching all of the parks for rogue smokers.

More than likely, the ban would be enforced by a friendly sign. And at OSU, we're well aware the signage costs money, with campus officials reluctant to add our new logo too all signs because of the cost.

Here's a cheaper solution — let nature run its course. Let smokers light up outside. And let common courtesy dictate when smokers need to walk a few steps to the left.

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

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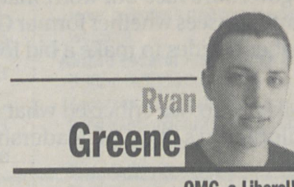
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Why debate when you can hate?

Right-wing media pundits, while often amusing to watch, can be downright chilling at times. At the top of my "Angry GOP Pundits to Avoid" list right now is Bill O'Reilly, a favorite on Fox News. Just last week he decided to pass judgment on San Francisco, threatening that "if al Qaeda comes in here and blows you up, we're not going to do anything about it. We're going to say, 'look, every other place in America is off limits to you except San Francisco. You want to blow up the Coit Tower? Go ahead.'"

See what I mean? This guy reaches a national audience, and essentially tells them that San Franciscans no longer deserve to live. He's terrifying.

The primary reason for O'Reilly's outburst is in response to a ballot measure passed by 60 percent of San Franciscans, recommending that public high schools and colleges exclude military recruiters from their campuses, and encouraging the creation of scholarships to reduce the military's appeal as a life choice.

Even if we disregard O'Reilly's blatant disregard for the lives of people who disagree with him, he's complaining about a recommendation. The bill itself has no power whatsoever. It simply requests schools remove emphasis on military recruitment as the primary way for disadvantaged students to succeed, and provide suitable alternatives.

While O'Reilly's comments are indeed irresponsible and frightening, they should come as no surprise. Extremist pundits have been making vague threats toward their own country for years now.

Take, for example, Pat Robertson. Arguably one of the most politically influential men in America today, Robertson founded the Christian Coalition. He has over two million fans across the country that watch his national television show, "The 700 Club."

He also has a history of making the most outrageous statements imaginable. He's gone from threatening Orlando with the wrath of God to suggesting that we should

See GREENE / page 5

Dealing with privacy and unwanted lovers

Editor's Note: This is both a humor and advice column. Neither Ms. Gill nor Ms. Davis have degrees or any professional experience in counseling or dealing with sexual ailments or difficulties. Common sense reigns supreme in this column; glean from it what you will. Questions can be sent to kateandleslie@hotmail.com or dropped off at the forum desk in the Barometer newsroom, 118 Snell Hall. All questions submitted to Kate and Leslie are subject to being answered in their column.

Dear Kate and Leslie, I am dating a columnist for the school paper. Once in a while, personal situations and conversations make it into her columns. I really dig her and can see a future with her, but I don't know how I feel about how public our relationship is becoming. Any suggestions?

— JONATHAN DOE

Dear Mr. Doe, Look. For the last time, we are not on the market. We're both happily dating our "summer camp boyfriends." Therefore, you are not dating one of us. And because no one reads any of the other columns in this journalistic rag, your secrets are safe with the printer.

If, by chance, someone actually does read about the mishaps in your significant other's columns, take comfort in the fact that no one knows it's you who's being written about.

And, keep in mind that nothing in a columnist's life is sacred. What you think of as "personal" is actually "material." Beware.

One last thing. If it really bothers you that much, talk to your better half about it. The solution is pretty black and white in this case.

Dear Kate and Leslie, A girl that I work with smells really bad. The whole room smells when she is in it, and for a while I tried to ignore it, but it has become unbearable! How do I tell her without hurting her or making things awkward?

— HOLDING MY NOSE IN HAWLEY

Dear Nose Holder, Here are a few ideas:

1. Lotion under the nose — those holiday scents are terrific.
2. Clothespins — while it might be a bit painful, it stops the smell from penetrating your nose, and gives her the subtle hint that something might be wrong.

3. Comment: "Whoa, it's hot in here. Good thing I have deodorant in my desk. Anybody? Anybody?"

Okay, seriously. It is a touchy situation. You shouldn't have to suffer because of her lack of hygiene, but you shouldn't alienate her with rude comments, either.

And honestly, we wouldn't have the nerve to say anything, so good luck and Godspeed.

Dear Kate and Leslie, I have a friend with whom I've been friends with for about six months now, and I really like her as a friend, but she is completely head over heels for me and it is really starting to make our friendship awkward. What should I do?

— TOO DESIRABLE?

Dear Desirable, We're sure that her mumbling your name in her sleep after a night on the town as "friends" makes things a little awkward, but there's still hope for the two of you. We suggest creating your very own "Why We Can Only Be Friends" list. The key is to come up with legitimate items that downplay your own "desirability" so as not to hurt her ego, and subsequently make her rethink her feelings for you. For example:

1. Tell her you have "The Clap."
2. Casually slip into conversation that you've decided to become a born-again Christian and can no longer tolerate physical intimacy of any kind before marriage.
3. Start laying around in your tights-whiteys, eating fried chicken whenever she's around. That is decidedly not hot.
4. Here's an idea: GET A REAL GIRLFRIEND. Problem solved.

Dear Kate and Leslie, I'm having trouble with a roommate right now. There's been some issues between us and I feel he's lying to me about stuff. I notice things of mine are being used without my permission and some of it ends up in other people's rooms. He even accused me of something behind my back and I found out from some other friends. This and a few other things have just been making me want to move out but all my friends on my floor don't want me to go. I almost can't stand having to keep watch of my stuff now. If you can offer some advice to what I should do, I'd be very grateful.

— NEEDING SOME PRIVACY

See BLIND / page 5

The Blind Leading the Blind

Kate Gill
Leslie Davis



GREENE: Political arguments have gotten away from the heart of the matter and have turned to attacking the opposition

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

nuke the State Department. The statements he's made, if they had been made by anyone else, would have warranted immediate investigation.

The number of idiotic things this man has said is truly too many to list. In just the past year alone, he's called for the assassination of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, implied that Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans because it was the hometown of Ellen Degeneres and threatened a Pennsylvania town for voting their intelligent design-friendly school board out of office.

Both Bill O'Reilly and Pat Robertson are crazy, raving lunatics, and I have no problem with that specifically. There are a lot of loony people in the world. What scares me is the level of influence they have, and what that implies about a large portion of this country.

People watch these shows. Both "The O'Reilly Factor" and "The 700 Club" are widely successful, and the majority of viewers are not, like me, watching simply for a good laugh. They're watching because they take what's being said seri-

ously, and they admire the angry old men on their television screens.

Now, I'm not going to deny that there are some equally crazy notions that come from the left. I will claim, however, that none of them have the same level of influence as the Christian conservative movement. One needs only to look to the Justice Sunday congregations to realize that rational discourse has all but disappeared from U.S. politics.

This new style of political speech, replacing policy debate with hate speech and vague threats, is possibly the most destructive element in American politics. The country has seemingly been split in two, left and right, and neither side is willing to listen to what the other has to say. Pundits like Ann Coulter portray the side that doesn't agree with them as being evil, malicious, treasonous and self-centered. In the end, political discussion loses its meaning entirely.

Ryan Greene is a junior in new media communications. The opinions expressed in his columns, which appear every Thursday, do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff. Greene can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

Both Bill O'Reilly and Pat Robertson are crazy, raving lunatics, and I have no problem with that specifically. There are a lot of loony people in the world.

Letters to the Editor

Mallory Letter

Defending the right to torture

Harry Mallory wrote an entertaining letter (Nov. 21), attacking columnist Elizabeth Meyers for her belief that torture of detainees is wrong.

Mr. Mallory demonstrates a firm grasp of the debating "skill" that forms the backbone of most right-wingers' arguments on many issues: when fact, common sense and morality aren't on your side, just use vitriolic bluster, obfuscation and sarcastic taunting to fill the gap. But no amount of mockery will change the following facts:

First, we're not just talking about "smacking [a] bomb-maker around some," but rather the U.S. military's (and our client regimes') practice of picking people up in wide sweeps, without actually knowing whether they're terrorists, jailing them for months or years without a trial, forcing them to perform sexual acts on each other, shoving objects in their ori-

fices, beating them within an inch of their lives, allowing them to die from untreated injuries, urinating on them, raping female detainees, etc. (look at the U.S. Army's own reports on these abuses).

Second, torture is not a reliable method for extracting accurate information. Just ask John McCain, who gave his North Vietnamese torturers the names of Green Bay Packers players instead of the names of men in his unit (see his recent *Newsweek* article).

So no, Harry, torturing people (whether they're innocent or real terrorists), isn't going to stop terrorist bombings in many cases.

Mallory castigates Meyers for being a naive liberal, but the most naive thing I can imagine is the belief that we can win the war on terror by disregarding the human rights of people in areas our military occupies. When we do so, we're terrorists, too. But hey, as long as it's "us" torturing "them," who cares, right?

I'd like to thank Mr. Mallory

for raising his voice in defense of the important "right to torture."

CALLAN SULLIVAN
junior, political science

Police Shooting

Be aware of your surroundings

The Corvallis community must keep a close eye on the pending investigation into the police killing of Mr. Townsend last Friday night.

Although the details in this case are still being kept confidential, the undisputed fact remains that a man was shot to death in our streets by a police officer(s).

Although Lt. Noble hopes for a "quick investigation" into this possible homicide, we must see that justice is carried out, no matter what the cost.

It is our duty as citizens to ensure that those responsible for any possible misconduct are treated impartially and in full accordance with the law.

MICHAEL FULLER
senior, philosophy

BLIND: How to deal with someone who won't quit "borrowing"

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Dear Needing,
You can't really prevent people from saying things about you — true or not. You can, however, safeguard your room.

Solution: "Big Brother." Install a Webcam on your computer to act as security. This way you have proof if anything else goes missing.

Just don't forget to turn it off so as not to record any incriminating material of yourself. On second thought, leave it on. Are you hot? Our "summer camp boyfriends" just dumped us.

Until next time faithful readers ... peace out.

Kate Gill is a senior in liberal studies. **Leslie Davis** is a junior in communication. The opinions expressed in their columns, which appear every Thursday, do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff. Gill and Davis can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.



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Blazers fall on road

Portland loses final game of road trip to Washington Wizards by score of 89-96

THE ASSOCIATE PRESS

WASHINGTON — Gilbert Arenas had 28 points and five assists, leading the Washington Wizards to a 96-89 victory over the road-weary Portland Trail Blazers on Wednesday night.

Antawn Jamison had 20 points and 15 rebounds for his sixth straight double-double. The Wizards forward has totaled 88 rebounds in his last six games.

Darius Miles led Portland with 21 points before fouling out with 18 seconds remaining on the play that sealed Washington's victory. Jared Jeffries stole the ball from Zach Randolph and passed to Jarvis Hayes, who converted a three-point play over Randolph that gave the Wizards a 96-89 lead.

Joel Przybilla had season-highs of 17 points and 15 rebounds as the Trail Blazers concluded a 2-5 road trip — their longest of the season.

After Arenas made two free throws that gave the Wizards an 87-83 lead with 2:19 left, Przybilla scored six straight points to keep the Trail Blazers close until Arenas made a 3-pointer for a 93-89 lead with 34 seconds remaining.

Brendan Haywood added 13 points and nine rebounds for the Wizards, who are 3-3 against Western Conference teams.

Former Wizards and Maryland star Juan Dixon entered the game in the final minute of the first quarter and received a rousing ovation. He finished with 10 points on 4-for-7 shooting in 28 minutes.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: Second player this season to break foot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

missed the 1977-78 season with a similar injury.

"Day in and day out, Michael has been our best practice player," John said. "He worked himself into playing time and into becoming a contributor. It's disappointing and I feel bad for Michael. The thing about him is that his presence and spirit will still be felt on the bench because he's a team leader."

Johnson is the second player to go down with a broken foot this season. Freshman point guard Josh Tarver has been out since mid-October. Johnson's injury is slightly different, however, and he is slated to undergo surgery on Thursday. Tarver did not have surgery.

The Beavers next host UNLV Saturday in Gill Coliseum at 2 p.m.

CLOSE: Won't pass up a chance to go pro, but will let it find her

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

going to give it my all. Why commit yourself to something if you're not going to be passionate about it and strive to be the best?"

Defensively this season, Close has been one of the best in the Pac-10. She's averaging a little more than two steals a game for the Beavers and setting the defensive tone early in the game for her teammates.

"I don't ever want to get beat," she said. "I take defensive assignments personally. When you shut someone down, it's a great feeling."

Two weeks ago, Close had another reason to feel great when she returned to her hometown of Bozeman, Mont. as OSU took on Montana State.

It was Close's first time playing in Big Sky country since she's been at OSU. And she didn't disappoint in front of the hometown crowd — scoring a team-high 18 points in the Beavers 70-35 rout of the Bobcats.

"At first I was a little nervous," she admitted. "But then I calmed down and said to myself, 'this is my element, this is where I'm from,' and it was awesome."

After the game, Close's parents threw a homecoming party for their daughter. They rented out one of the Hall of Fame banquet rooms in MSU's coliseum and fans — some who have followed her for years — stopped by to say hello, give her a high-five and tell her how proud they were.

"She's a very well-rounded person and just a solid individual and everyone that came to that reception knows it," Wagner said.

Close tries her hardest to stay well-rounded by being involved in activities other than just basketball. She sings every other week in her church worship choir, and is a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

"People always tell me I have a split personality," she said, laughing. "On the floor I'm loud and aggressive and off the floor I'm pretty laid back. It throws people off a lot."

Close, an elementary education major, would ultimately like to teach second or third grade, but hasn't ruled out basketball in her future plans.

"If the opportunity to play professionally was there, I would definitely take it, but I'm at the point where I'm going to let it come to me," she said.

If Close can continue to play as she is in preseason, more than one professional team could come knocking, asking the sharp shooter and tenacious defender to come lead their team.

"Right now as the point guard, I have control and everyone's looking to me," she said. "I love that feeling and want more of it."

Lindsay Schnell, sports writer
sports@dailybarometer.com, 737-6378

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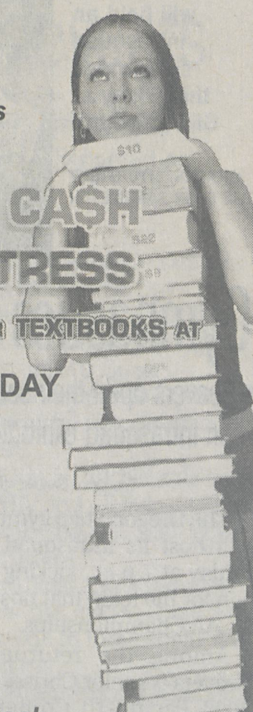
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It's as simple as where your heart is.
That's what brought me back."

— World Series MVP Paul Konerko after resigning with the White Sox on Wednesday

Fall athletes make the grade

■ Eight Beaver athletes from fall sports make the Pac-10 All-Academic first team

THE DAILY BAROMETER

Oregon State University had 32 student athletes named to Pac-10 All-Academic teams for the fall term. Those student athletes came from football, volleyball, women's soccer and women's cross country.

OSU ranked fourth behind Stanford, California and Arizona State in the number of student athletes named to conference All-Academic teams.

The OSU men's soccer team had five athletes make the All-Academic team, as well, bringing the total to 37.



Lewis

Only five Pac-10 schools have men's soccer so those numbers don't figure into the overall tally.

"We preach the term student athlete constantly, and this is evidence that at Oregon State University we are serious about academics," Director of Athletics Bob De Carolis said.



Miller

To be eligible for the all-academic teams, a student-athlete must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, be a starter or significant contributor and be at least a redshirt-freshman.

The sport breakdown is 10 for cross country and football, eight for women's soccer, five for men's soccer and four for volleyball.

Overall, eight OSU student-athletes were selected to the first-team.

They were junior Michelle Wilson and sophomore Kaitlin Poggi from women's cross country; sophomore midfielder Brett Gardner and junior forward Bryan Jordan in men's soccer; sophomore linebacker Andy Darkins and redshirt-freshman cornerback Keenan Lewis in football; senior defensive specialist Kristy Mortensen in volleyball; and senior defender Cara Miller in women's soccer.

Close sings a new tune at point



WENDY VOLLMER / THE DAILY BAROMETER

Mandy Close drives toward the basket during a January 29 game against UCLA last season. Close has been moved from shooting guard to the point guard position by new head coach Lavonda Wagner.

■ Mandy Close is returning to the position she played throughout high school now that there's a new coach at Oregon State

By Lindsay Schnell
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Mandy Close is singing again. Basketball practice is over for the day and she's in the locker room — belting out a tune and entertaining her teammates.

"She's always singing," said junior wing Casey Nash with a laugh. "Everywhere — in the locker room, on road trips, whatever we're doing, Mandy's singing, and no one knows why."

But the one place Close isn't singing is on the floor. That's because she's too busy directing traffic for the Oregon State women's basketball team.

For the first time in her collegiate career, the senior is the starting at point guard for OSU. After playing her first three years at OSU as a shooting guard, Close switched to running the offense when first-year head coach Lavonda Wagner took over the program last spring.

"I knew we needed a point guard," Wagner said. "It's a position that requires a lot of leadership and after looking at game tape, I knew Mandy could step in and do it."

And if statistics are any indicator, it looks like Wagner was right.

After three games, Close is second on the team in scoring at 15 points per game. She's also dishing out a team-high four assists per game — not bad for someone who hasn't played point guard since her high school days.

"You don't realize how much a point guard has to do until you're put in that position," Close said. "But I'm still just playing basketball. I know that I have to get down the floor and get us into our offense, but after the initial entry pass, I'm just playing and trying to lead the team."

According to Nash, who was Close's roommate for two years, Close has always had the leadership characteristics that are evident on the floor.

"I think those leadership qualities have always been there, but they've just been more exploited this year because she's a senior," Nash said. "She's a very hard worker and you can tell when you watch her."

Close says her work ethic has always been a part of her game and is something that means a lot to her.

"I've prided myself on my work ethic since I was little," she explained. "If I'm committed to something, I'm

See CLOSE / page 7

The gymnastics team does a cheer before a March 4 meet.

The team will hold an intrasquad scrimmage this Friday at Gill Coliseum.

CHARLIE LITCHFIELD
THE DAILY BAROMETER



Gymnastics squares off against itself

■ Beavers open their season with an intrasquad exhibition Friday

THE DAILY BAROMETER

The Oregon State gymnastics team will host its intrasquad scrimmage Friday at 7 p.m., kicking off the season for the team that hosts this year's NCAA Championships.

Among the returners for the Beavers is senior Chrissy Lamun, the 2003 Pacific-10 Conference floor exercise champion. Joining Lamun

and fellow senior Angela Morales are 13 freshmen and sophomores.

Friday's exhibition at Gill Coliseum will feature several gymnasts performing routines on each event. Admission to the event is free and Oregon State gymnastics T-shirts will be given out to the first 1,000 fans in attendance. Immediately after the exhibition will be a chance to meet the team with all 15 gymnasts signing autographs in the Gill Coliseum lobby.

Hoops reserve forward injures right foot

■ Michael Johnson will be out for at least six weeks with a broken foot suffered in practice

THE DAILY BAROMETER

Junior forward Michael Johnson of the Oregon State men's basketball team broke his right foot in practice on Tuesday and will miss the next six-to-eight weeks of action, according to head coach Jay John.

"I just cut wrong, I guess," Johnson said. "I planted on my right foot and felt something pop. I thought it was my shoe at first but then I realized what happened. It's going to be really tough having to sit out."

Johnson, a walk-on, redshirted his first year and played a total of 17 minutes the past two seasons. However, he had improved to the point where John considered him part of the rotation in 2005-06. In the first three games, he played 21 minutes.

Steve Johnson, Michael's father, was an All-American at OSU. He

See MEN'S BASKETBALL / page 7



Michael Johnson goes for a layup during a home game at Gill Coliseum earlier this year. Johnson got little playing time last year, but was gaining time on the court this year before breaking his right foot in practice Tuesday.

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