

The Daily Barometer

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012 • OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

CORVALLIS, OREGON 97331

DAILYBAROMETER.COM

VOLUME CXV, NUMBER 86

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Despite struggles, team says they're not giving up.

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ASOSU funds request not made properly



JOHN ZHANG | THE DAILY BAROMETER

President Hopoi speaks to a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives last term.

■ SIFC rescinds fund request made by ASOSU executive, questions rise about legality

By Don Iler

THE DAILY BAROMETER

Since last week's revelation of illegal pay raises authorized by the M. Tonga Hopoi administration this past summer, further actions by the administration which contradict the governing statutes of the Associated Students of Oregon State University have come to light.

The Hopoi administration requested additional money from a contingency fund to send 12 individuals to trips to Washington D.C. this spring outside of the regular budget for travel. The request was not initially approved by the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee — which is against ASOSU statutes — before being

sent to the Student Incidental Fees Committee. There are also concerns that the requested money is not actually needed, since the approved travel budget is at around 86 percent of its full amount and has not been exhausted, according to Ways and Means Committee Chairman Douglas Van Bossuyt.

The requested funds, which had been granted by the Student Incidental Fees Committee without the knowledge that it had not been approved by the Ways and Means Committee, were rescinded Monday night during a special meeting of the Student Incidental Fees Committee, according to chairperson Josh Makepeace.

"The SIFC has a pool of money called the contingency fund, this is money that any fee-funded organization can request money of for unforeseen expenses," said Christopher Van Drimmelen,

Administration and Logistics Advocate.

President Hopoi did mention a contingency fund request at the Feb. 8, 2012 meeting of the Ways and Means Committee, however this request was not approved by the Ways and Means Committee.

"The House Ways and Means Committee did not hear this request prior to it going to the SIFC," Van Drimmelen said.

The budgeting board of an organization must first approve contingency requests, which according to ASOSU statutes is the Ways and Means Committee. Other organizations have different budgeting boards; for example, Student Media must have its requests approved by the Educational Activities board.

"The constitution and statutes clearly dictate that the house and congress deal with fiduciary mat-

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OSU researcher helps lead Curiosity on Mars

■ NASA lab launched Curiosity's mission last year, OSU professor collaborates with 28 others

By Kim Kenny

THE DAILY BAROMETER

It is a question that has captivated the human imagination throughout our existence: Is there other life in the universe?

Finding the answer requires scientists like Oregon State University researcher Martin Fisk, who will collaborate with 28 other research scientists this summer on a rover mission to Mars.

The rovers name is Curiosity, and the mission is the NASA Mars Science Laboratory that was launched Nov. 26 of last year. The goal is to investigate the possibility of life on Mars by examining various aspects of conditions on the planet.

About 150 scientists submitted proposals that outlined their research ideas, according to Fisk, and 29 were selected. Once Curiosity makes its expected landing on

Aug. 5 of this year, they will put their projects to the test in a labor-intensive process lasting approximately one Mars year, or 200 days on Earth.

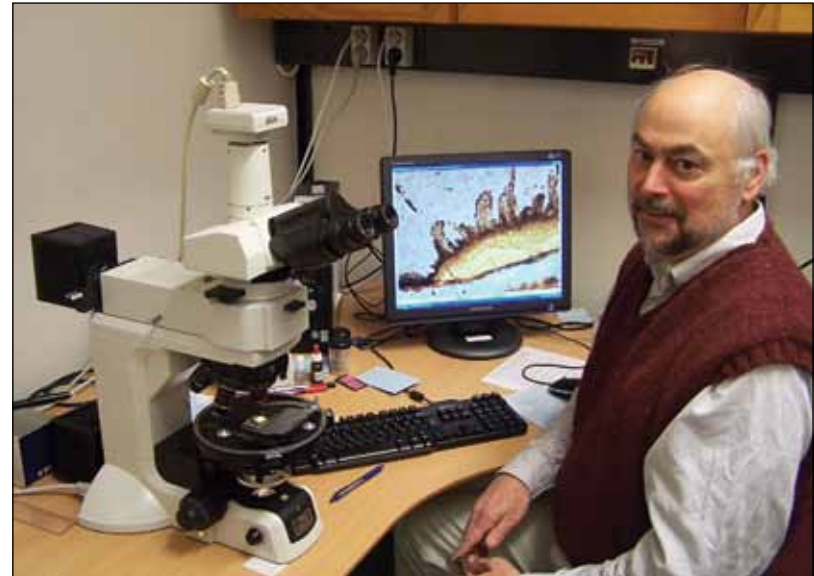
Each day, powered by its own nuclear generator, Curiosity will transport its apparatus of scientific instrumentation across the Martian terrain, measuring, photographing and recording data that will then be relayed to Earth in a matter of minutes.

Upon receipt, this information will be analyzed by the group of scientists in order to provide feedback to Curiosity about where to go and what to do next. This daily process of receiving data and sending instructions will be conducted so as to use Curiosity's limited power as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The mission is estimated to last two years. After the initial three months following landing, the scientific team will conduct online meetings for the duration of the program to determine both daily and long-term plans.

Group training sessions will be held in April and June at

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | COURTESY OF CHERI FISK

Martin Fisk, currently working in Norway cataloguing fossil evidence, is a professor of ocean ecology and biogeochemistry at OSU.

Students demonstrate for SEC last night at Dixon

■ As short session for SEC building is underway in Salem, students voice strong opinions

By Joce DeWitt

THE DAILY BAROMETER

Last night, students in the AHE 406 Organizing for Social Change congregated outside Dixon Rec Center with signs and petitions as a demonstration of support for the Student Experience Center.

"As many know, there was a 2009 student referendum for increased tuition to pass the SEC," said Andy Derringer, Chief of Operations for the Associated Students of Oregon State University. "We're hoping to get it passed this Spring."

The demonstrators were hoping to gain signatures on the petition in order to send it to local representatives and voice disinclinations toward Snell Hall, the current home of all student organizations on campus, which the SEC will replace should it get passed.

"Student organizations are really important, they complement the education you get," said Nick Hart, former Inter Fraternity Council recruiter and student demonstrator. "Right now they're in a building that doesn't exemplify how important they are."

Hart also discussed OSU's student

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ALEXANDRA TAYLOR | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Student demonstrators gathered in front of Dixon last night to request signatures from passers-by for a petition regarding state funding for the SEC.

Senate moves to regulate executive expenditures

■ Committees decide to be more "transparent," efficient in ways they spend money

By Evan Anderson

THE DAILY BAROMETER

In a turbulent meeting last night, The Associated Students of Oregon State University Senate worked to more concretely understand and control the budget, which until now lied almost solely in the control of the Executive Director of Finance.

In a special order, forgoing typical parliamentary procedure, and through detailed discussion, the senate read and passed JB-71.05, the "House Financial Accountability Act."

The bill calls for the Executive Director of Finance to give monthly budget reports to the Ways and Means Committee detailing any changes in funding, current and pre-

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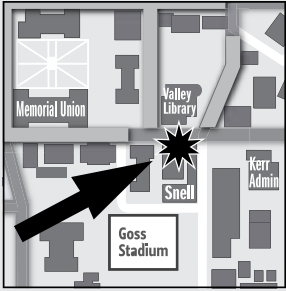
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The Barometer is published Monday through Friday except holidays and final exam week during the academic school year; weekly during summer term; one issue week prior to fall term in September by the Oregon State University Student Media Committee on behalf of the Associated Students of OSU, at Memorial Union East, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331-1614.

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Formal written complaints about The Daily Barometer may be referred to the committee for investigation and disposition. After hearing all elements involved in a complaint, the committee will report its decision to all parties concerned.

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US raises specter of 'additional measures' in Syria

U.S. officials called Tuesday for international action to stop the violence orchestrated by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and left open the possibility of "additional measures" if the bloodshed continues.

"We believe that we are in a situation where we — the international community needs to act in order to allow for the transition from Assad to a more democratic future for Syria to take place before the situation becomes too chaotic," White House Press Secretary Jay Carney told reporters.

Asked about calls in recent days by Sens. John McCain, R-Arizona, and Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, for the United States to consider arming the opposition, Carney said, "We don't want to take actions that would contribute to the further militarization of Syria, because that could take the country down a dangerous path. But we don't rule out additional measures that, working with our international partners, that the international community might take if the international community should wait too long and not take the kind of action that needs to be taken to ensure that Assad steps aside, to ensure that a peaceful, democratic transition can take place in Syria."

A spokeswoman for the State Department held out hope for a political solution, but she too cited the possibility of "additional measures" being taken in

the absence of change.

In response to a question about whether the United States might arm the Syrian opposition, spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said, "From our perspective, we don't believe that it makes sense to contribute now to the further militarization of Syria. What we don't want to see is the spiral of violence increase. That said, if we can't get Assad to yield to the pressure that we are all bringing to bear, we may have to consider additional measures."

Their comments came as the International Committee of the Red Cross implored the Syrian regime and others involved in fighting to periodically suspend the violence so it can distribute help to hungry, frightened and wounded civilians.

"Implement a daily cessation of fighting for at least two hours, in all areas affected, to allow the prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance," the ICRC exhorted.

"The current situation requires an immediate decision to implement a humanitarian pause in the fighting," said ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger. "In Homs and in other affected areas, entire families have been stuck for days in their homes, unable to step outside to get bread, other food or water, or to obtain medical care."

Carney said the U.S. government backs the proposal. "Basic humanitarian supplies are very scarce, and there-

fore action needs to be taken, and we would certainly support the calls for those kinds of cease-fires."

The ICRC plea came as government security forces pounded restive areas such as Homs and that city's defiant Baba Amr neighborhood and staged raids elsewhere.

At least 106 people died Tuesday in the conflict, which has left nearly 9,000 people dead since last March, the opposition Local Coordination Committees of Syria said.

Among the dead were 55 people in Idlib, 45 in Homs, three in the Damascus suburbs, two in Deir Ezzor and one in Aleppo, said the organization, which organizes and documents anti-government protests.

The government's siege against Homs has lasted 18 consecutive days.

Security forces shelled Baba Amr and two other Homs neighborhoods, Khalidiya and Karam al-Zaytoon, according to the committees.

"The situation in Baba Amr is a lot worse today, if that can be even imaginable," said Dima Moussa, a Chicago lawyer and a Syrian opposition activist. She deplored what she called al-Assad's "barbaric campaign" to crush the city, calling "our beloved Homs" a "bleeding wound."

"The shelling started early in the morning as usual. However, today, activists are report-

ing that it was more intense and violent than the previous days, and the frequency of the bombs was a lot greater than before," said Moussa, a spokeswoman for the opposition Revolutionary Council of Homs and a member of the Syrian National Council, another opposition group.

The Revolutionary Council said shelling was targeting homes in Baba Amr in which casualties were being treated. "The number of those injured could not be estimated because of the nonstop bombing," it said.

"This attack carried out by the Assad forces can be considered a real genocide, and all this is happening amid an electricity, water and communication services outage, accompanied by the unavailability of food, baby formula and medicine. In this manner, even those who may survive the bombing, end up dying due to hunger or lack of medical care."

But the state-run Syrian Arab News Agency reported Tuesday that "food and services are available in Homs," and said "provocative channels are fabricating lies" to the contrary.

CNN cannot independently verify opposition or government reports of casualties because the government has severely limited access to the country by foreign journalists.

— CNN

ASOSU

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Drimmelen, ASOSU has not yet used all its allotted money for travel. "Around 86 percent of the travel budget is still unused. It would be premature to draw somewhere on the order of \$11,000 of SIFC contingency funds when we still have money of our own," Van Drimmelen said.

Hatlen agrees that there is no need for a contingency request at this time.

"There is a line item for travel expenses and that with the lack of traveling to OSA this summer, there is a large portion of the travel budget left, more than enough to cover this trip to Legcon," Hatlen said. "And if they felt they needed another trip in the spring, they could have asked the House Ways and Means Committee for a contingency request because there is plenty of money there."

However, it is clear is that there is a misunderstanding of ASOSU statutes and Student Incidental Fees Committee bylaws. "Statutes were clearly violated at ASOSU, and SIFC bylaws were clearly violated," Van Bossuyt said. "Now, if the individuals involved had read the statutes, that would have been clear to ASOSU, and considering the president sits as a member of SIFC, I would have expected her to read the bylaws of that organization."

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Don Iler, managing editor

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SENATE

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dicted expenditures, pay rates, and travel expenditures.

The Ways and Means Committee has previously taken the stance of handling issues as they appear, but said that they want to make the way money is spent more transparent and efficient.

In relation to the way money is allocated within ASOSU, the senate also passed JB-71.06 in a special order. Currently, the duty of signing off on the ASOSU budget is in the hands of the Executive Director of Finance alone, who reports only to the ASOSU President. JB-71.06 would require the ASOSU Administrative and Logistics Advocate to also sign off on all travel and payroll expenditures, as well as any expenditure over \$5,000, or 10 percent of the ASOSU budget.

The Ways and Means Committee Chair would also be required to sign off on any payroll expenditure changes, or expenditures of more than \$10,000 or 20 percent of the ASOSU budget.

These changes to the financial statuses of the ASOSU come in the wake of recent news of overspending on the behalf of the executive branch.

Evan Anderson, staff reporter
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Calendar

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Meetings

ASOSU House of Representatives, 7pm, MU 211. Convenes to discuss student issues and concerns. Students and student organization delegates are welcome to attend.

Baha'i Campus Association, 12:30-1pm, MU Talisman Room. Tranquility Zone — Interfaith meditation, devotions and prayers — share your favorite inspirational reading or story.

Events

Career Services, 11am-4pm, CH2M Hill Alumni Center. University-wide Career Fair. Connect with more than 100 employers from various industries and graduate schools there to network with students and alumni, offer jobs and internships, and provide other future career opportunities.

History Students' Association, 5-6:30pm, Kearney 212. History Beyond the Classroom Career Fair. A history degree is only the beginning to endless possibilities. Representatives from various occupations including education, archives, library sciences, journalism, law and politics. Additionally there will be opportunities for networking with graduate and law admission programs and career services.

The Pride Center, 10am-7pm, The Pride Center. Come contribute to a collage that celebrates and supports those that have struggled with the AIDS Virus. There will be supplies to make pieces in the center all week, which will then be assembled and displayed.

College Republicans, Noon-4pm, MU Quad. First Amendment Week. Come and support your freedom of speech.

Thursday, Feb. 23

Meetings

OSU Pre-Law Society, 6pm, StAg 111. Regular meeting.

College Republicans, 7pm, StAg 132. All are welcome no matter what beliefs or political party.

Events

Black Cultural Center, 5:30-7pm, BCC. Evolution of Hip-Hop. How hip-hop has changed over the years, in collaboration with NSBE.

Career Services, 11am-4pm, CH2M Hill Alumni Center. Engineering Career Fair. Connect with employers from various industries there to network with engineering students and alumni, offer jobs and internships, and provide other future career opportunities.

The Pride Center, 10am-7pm, The Pride Center. Come contribute to a collage that celebrates and supports those that have struggled with the AIDS Virus. There will be supplies to make pieces in the center all week, which will then be assembled and displayed.

College Republicans, Noon-4pm, MU Quad. First Amendment Week. Come and support your freedom of speech.

Friday, Feb. 24

Events

The Pride Center, 10am-7pm, The Pride Center. Come contribute to a collage that celebrates and supports those that have struggled with the AIDS Virus. There will be supplies to make pieces in the center all week, which will then be assembled and displayed.

College Republicans, Noon-4pm, MU Quad. First Amendment Week. Come and support your freedom of speech.

College Republicans, 7pm, MU La Raza Room. Debate between College Republicans and College Democrats. Come show your support for your political party.

Saturday, Feb. 25

Events

Black Cultural Center, Noon-2:30pm, BCC. 2012 OSU Black Affairs. Call to action regarding black issues in Corvallis.

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Survivors discuss life "After the Fire"

Documentary screening at LaSells highlights the emotional effects of campus fires

By **Joce DeWitt**
THE DAILY BAROMETER

According to Corvallis Fire Department Public Information officer Jim Patton, there have been nine campus-related residential fires since the start of 2012.

In light of the fires and their devastating effects, a documentary called "After the Fire" will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in LaSells Stewart Center to provide an audience with an idea of what it is like to survive a fire.

The event is free and open to the public and will be hosted by Director Guido Verweyen. Also in attendance are special guests Shawn Simons and Alvaro Lianos, roommates and survivors of a dorm fire who will provide accounts of the aftermath and their recoveries.

The documentary was inspired by a Pulitzer Prize-winning book by the same name and was adapted by Verweyen into a 40-minute documentary meant to motivate, inspire and spark discussion around students.

"It's been a rocky year for campus fires around the country," Patton said. "Three have been killed and several hundred are searching for housing."

Patton said that though fire education is necessary to put a stop to the fires, the film was not created for educational purposes. "They're doing this because they believe in this, they're not getting paid a bunch of money to do this."

The event in its entirety, including a Q&A session and personal testimonies by Simons and Lianos, will last about one and a half hours. Cookies and refreshments will also be available to attendees.

"The goal is to get students to understand how life can change in an instant before it happens," Patton said.

Joce DeWitt, news editor
737-2231 news@dailybarometer.com

Bioenergy minor available this fall

After a postponed deadline for applications, administration hope to hear from more students

By **Joce DeWitt**
THE DAILY BAROMETER

As one of science's hottest topics, bioenergy has officially gained its own minor at Oregon State University.

The application deadline for the new bioenergy minor has officially been pushed back to Friday, Feb. 24. In hopes of reaching more students who might hold an interest in pursuing the minor, Associate Professor in microbiology Kate Field and her colleagues decided to postpone the deadline from today to Friday to make it more accessible to students.

"We've been working on it for about 2.5 years and received funding officially last spring, but the start-up date wasn't until early fall," Field said. "It's just been approved and just showed up in the catalog."

The \$8 million grant came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be shared among five universities. Oregon State University got \$4.5 million for the bio education project.

The new minor is open to any student in agricultural, earth, ocean and atmospheric sciences, as well as business, education and forestry.

According to Graduate Research Assistant Carole Abou-Rached, applying for a bioenergy minor is like applying to any other department, and because it is in its beginning stages, there are not many prerequisites. There are also scholarships available for applicants, including \$1,000 per year and full tuition scholarships.

A total of 28-34 credits are required for the minor, including BRR 199, BRR 299 and WSE 473, as well as one course from the Technical, Environmental and Social/Economic/Policy categories.

The BRR 401 is a 10-credit class that requires research done by students with a professor or mentor. This allows students the possibility of getting published. BRR 403 also gives students the chance to write a thesis.

"The classes are mainly some background in bioenergy and getting credits for doing research and a couple seminar courses and a couple electives; it is interdisciplinary," Field said. "We wanted it accessible to biology majors, and also people in the College of Education and College of Business. There is a central set of classes, but it's not set up in such a way that someone will be excluded."

The central concept of the minor is that society is currently facing ways to conserve energy by utilizing natural resource alternatives to fossil fuels. The bioenergy minor hopes to educate students on ways to develop and produce renewable energy.

The minor focuses on the policy and business sides, as well.

Students are encouraged to pursue this minor if they hold an interest in careers in ethanol and biofuel production, as well as the environmental impact humans are having on the earth and its natural reserves.

Field said the minor will be available in the fall and is aimed mostly at freshmen, sophomores and juniors. "We're hoping to get applications this week and we'll see what happens," she said.

Joce DeWitt, news editor
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SEC

Continued from page 1

government as one that is recognized nationally, and they are housed in a "condemned" building.

"Greek life is also housed in Snell and it's the biggest student organization — they deserve a better working environment," he said.

According to ASOSU

Senator and intern Victoria Rodman, students have been lobbying at the capital for the last couple weeks: "It's sounding pretty good."

Rodman said the problems encountered with legislators regarding the SEC last year occurred because it was part of the capital construction bill, along with other big buildings around the state that posed more of

a risk. "They approved the SEC, but not the others," she said.

The 35-day "short" session in which discussions regarding funds for the building is underway in Salem. The Daily Barometer will continue to report on hearings as they occur.

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FISK

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the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif., so team members can better understand their operational roles before Curiosity's Martian journey begins.

The particular research focus of Fisk will be the use of UV light to recognize fluorescence in organic matter that is necessary for life.

Fisk, who is currently working at the University of Bergen in Norway as part of a Fulbright Scholarship to catalogue fossil evidence left by bacteria, has been involved in the microbiology of volcanic rocks and the implications of microbial existence. He is a professor of

ocean ecology and biogeochemistry in the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences.

Among 10 instruments are a mass spectrometer for the measurement of organic carbon, X-ray diffraction and X-ray fluorescence devices to determine mineralogy, and a plasma generating laser that will be directed at rock and soil to analyze their chemical composition.

"We are in an extraordinary time, when existence of planets beyond our solar system has gone from conjecture to identification and analysis. The variety of types of planets and solar systems is growing almost daily and we are getting closer to detections of Earth-like planets every day," said David Vaniman,

the Deputy Principle Investigator on the X-ray projects and co-investigator on the instrument utilizing a laser. "However, these detections will be difficult to interpret without a better understanding of Earth's own siblings in our local system. If there is evidence of life on Mars, that will have a tremendous impact on expanding the possibilities that many of these more distant planets may also have life."

Curiosity will continue to explore the possibility of life on Mars until its power source is exhausted, upon which time it will join its rover peers on the Martian landscape as a testament to discovery.

Kim Kenny, staff reporter
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Editorial

Career speed dating

Career fair season is upon us. The first begins today and the second will be on Thursday. For many students, these career fairs represent an opportunity to gain interview experience and scout for companies that offer interesting career prospects for life post-graduation. But for others, career fairs epitomize the superficiality of job hunting.

Ideally, a career fair goes something like this: student walks into CH2M Hill Alumni Center with a list of the companies he or she wants to talk to, finds every booth in a matter of minutes, talks to each kind and helpful company representative for as many minutes as he or she needs to exhibit a good personality and win the them over with his or her charming smile. As a result, he or she receives calls from every company they talked to requesting interviews and does so well in every single one that he or she ends up actually having to turn down several job offers so he or she can accept the one from his or her dream company. And he or she lives happily ever after.

But let's get real; it doesn't happen like that — even if it is a slightly exaggerated depiction of what students are guaranteed should they decide to show up to the career fairs and “put themselves out there.”

Unless the student hopefuls have taken numerous business classes, they are probably not informed about the ins and outs of career fair success. And even if they are, there is still no guarantee that anything will come of the experience, because it all boils down to two things: how long you can hold a fake smile on your face and how much you can talk yourself up in as short a time as possible.

At least in speed dating situations, participants can tell whether or not the other party is at all interested through genuine expression and body language. At career fairs, company representatives are trained to act impressed, even when the applicant doesn't stand a chance.

If we really think about it, the highest chances of scoring an interview or getting hired at a career fair go to the people with the biggest ability to brag and exaggerate their abilities. So what career fair participants are encouraged to do is talk a good game, maybe even brighten up their resume and convince companies that they deserve the job in question.

Bragging and self-righteousness are rewarded while sincerity and honesty are punished. In these fast-paced situations, students might bring up qualities and experiences they've never had because they feel pressured by lack of time to be the best candidate, even if they aren't.

Therefore, what really ends up happening at career fairs is the confused student, who has not been trained in fast-paced interview situations, walks into the fair without a resume and without a clue. Maybe he or she finds one or two booths for companies that seem interesting, but doesn't know more about them than what is presented on the brochures and what the representatives say. When students decide to approach a booth with questions and instead get a mini interview for which they don't have answers, they leave more hopeless than when they came.

Perhaps it's a symptom of today's economy, shallowness in the job market or a result of today's complete dependence on technology and a constant demand for instant gratification. Whatever it is, this is not the way it should be. We shouldn't have to decorate and trim our entire body of work simply to get a shot in the game.

Editorials serve as a means for Barometer editors to offer commentary and opinions on issues both global and local, grand in scale or diminutive. The views expressed here are a reflection of the editorial board's majority.

Letters

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

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President's recent mistake inexcusable, mirrors state of our national political scene

Personally, I am not much of a fan of student government. I understand all the student workers involved do important jobs that help the university function, but unfortunately, for most students on campus, indifference toward the organization runs deep. Taking a look at the voter turnouts in recent elections will tell you that. But over the past two terms or so, my interest level in the happenings of ASOSU has definitely piqued, and not necessarily in a good way.

It started with the botched impeachment process last term, which was fun to follow albeit only as a quick read in the paper. Initially, it seemed like the impeachment was based on trumped-up charges stemming from a personal vendetta between members of the legislative branch and the president. But now I have to wonder if those legislative guys were on to something.

Granted, the move proposed by the president would have saved OSU money in the short term, but she overstepped her authority by



Charles Leineweber

The Pen is Mightier

not consulting the legislature about her decision. Now just last week it came to light that the madam president once again failed to consult the legislature on a financial decision, only this time, she gave her and her staff a hefty pay raise.

The raises date from last June and range from an extra \$900 for her and the vice president to an extra \$100 for task force directors, leaving a total overpayment between \$4,000 and \$6,000 to the executive branch. It should also be noted that like her last offense, this occurred over the summer when many of the student legislators are out of town for the same reasons that many other students are out of town and could not easily keep tabs on events.

I wish that I could make more money by just deciding that I want

to make more money. This article I'm churning out would net me a handsome sum. But no, that's not how things work, not even for ASOSU presidents with a false sense of importance.

Obviously, there had to be a perfectly good explanation for this failure to consult anyone before handing out our money to herself and all her friends. And fortunately, for all of us, there was one.

Stating that, “I never got an idea of what I can and cannot do,” the president provides a reasonably acceptable excuse. She just didn't know what she was doing was wrong. It's like when a child gets caught with their hand in the cookie jar, all they know is that they want the cookies, not that they have to ask for them first.

A secondary explanation of wanting to attract more talent to OSU through the pay raise was presented as well. Because we all know the reason that students get involved in leadership and student government is for that fat paycheck at the end of the month. Forget the resume booster, for-

get the great networking opportunities, forget wanting to actually contribute to the school we attend; it's all about that “dollar dollar bill, y'all.” Unfortunately, it seems like the person in charge does not have much of an idea of what is actually going on and what she is actually supposed to do. Most likely, after last term's embarrassing impeachment process, there will not be any sort of public reprimand. The legislature probably does not have the gumption to go through all of that again, and it's too bad, because this is a punishable offense most people can get behind. After all, we are talking about the students' money being used to fund an unauthorized pay raise.

My only wish is that we can get back to the time where our student government was run by high-achieving, school-minded individuals who in no way resemble professional politicians. Because I would really like to go back to not caring.

Charles Leineweber is a junior in psychology. The opinions expressed in his columns do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff. Leineweber can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

Genetics needed for correction, not perfection

Human genetic engineering may make us Superman, but our ambition may be our Kryptonite. Science continues to expand our knowledge of everything from the universe to the human body. Most scientific advancements in health-related fields aim at lengthening human life and increasing the quality of that life.

Human genetic engineering (HGE) is a relatively new field of medicine that has become available in the past two decades. Although HGE offers many breakthroughs with respect to the way we treat various diseases, its development may supersede its original objective in a negative manner. That is, extending its use from treating genetic diseases, to pursuing human perfection by the manipulation of the human genome. HGE, if allowed to continue to grow without proper regulation, will have massively detrimental effects on job markets, insurance policy and human reproduction, by the means of genetic discrimination.

Genetic engineering is a process in which an organism's genetic makeup is manipulated to evoke a change in that organism. The process is most commonly done by creating recombinant DNA by splicing specific genes from one organism and combining them with the DNA of another organism. The end result of such recombinant DNA is called a genetically modified organism (GMO).

According to the Genome News Network, the first genetically engineered organisms were created in 1973 from recombinant DNA. Genetic engineering is used today, primarily in agriculture, to produce genetically modified plants that are resistant to disease, produce their own pesticide and grow larger in



The Daily Barometer

size to produce larger crop yields.

Another common form of genetic engineering is gene therapy, which is the replacement of faulty human genes with a functioning gene. Gene therapy targets genetic-related disorders such as cystic fibrosis.

Human genetic engineering is a slippery slope of temptation to modern scientists and clinicians pursuing perfection of the human species. John F. Haught, respected professor of theology at Georgetown University, wrote an article for the Washington Times, “Ethical Views of Humans and Genetic Engineering,” in which he assesses the appropriateness of genetic modification. Haught argues that genetic intervention will lead to discrimination based on genetic make-up in the workplace and with health and life insurance. If you were an employer looking for a long-term employee, why would you not choose the applicant who is genetically predisposed to live longer, be more resistant to disease and be an overall more reliable employee?

Haught explained GME's implications on health care: “Moreover, some form of universal health care and guaranteed life insurance will provide a favorable framework within which to make responsible and fair genetic decisions.” Individuals who have engineered genetics will have an unequivocal advantage when pursuing health care coverage and life insurance policies. This raises a huge moral and socioeconomic dilemma because genetic separation will divide humans into sub-classes;

those with superior-modified genes will overshadow those of inferior natural genes.

There were a number of questions on HGE in a recent article from the Augusta Chronicle in Georgia. The article acknowledges obvious benefits such as “eradicating fatal defects, including cystic fibrosis and Tay-Sachs disease,” but then continues on: “Where is the line of acceptability between preventing severe birth defects, on the one hand, and genetically engineering a homogeneous race of ‘perfect’ humans, on the other?”

The Augusta Chronicle summarizes the danger behind HGE: how do we differentiate between defective genes and simple variations from the norm? Would differentiation in characteristic features such as height, bone structure or even skin color then be deemed “faulty genes?” Would fair skin be considered a high-risk and therefore unacceptable attribute due to its correlation with skin cancer? Wouldn't every man want his son to grow up to be an authoritative 6'5” and 225 lbs., and every woman want their daughter to develop a curvaceous feminine body? Would we experience genetic inflation, where a new higher standard of phenotypic traits would become the status quo? And what about the safety net of genetic variability, which protects a species from epidemic infections or other environmental variables — won't it fall to pieces as the human race becomes more and more homogenized?

For instance, “designer babies,” a procedure which is yet to be practiced but is a realistic avenue in the near future, has an enormous set of moral, ethical and practical implications past those who assert genetic engineering is morally wrong. Nick Bostrom, director

of the Future of Humanity Institute at Oxford University, elaborates on the psychological and social repercussions society could face in his article “Human Genetic Enhancements: A Transhumanist Perspective”: “The ability to select the genes of our children (will)... corrupt parents, who will come to view their children as mere products. We will then begin to evaluate our offspring according to standards of quality control,” says Bostrom. Multiply this effect over several generations, and competitive gene advancement will essentially dehumanize the human race by employing radical gene change that would alter human identity.

What about standard male-female interactions? Would laboratory fertilization out-popularize traditional human reproduction? Would this not destabilize our current social structure and change the definition of family? These are all questions that deserve adamant consideration.

It is the obligation of all humans to resist the temptation of seeking human perfection through genetic engineering. HGE will cause a great rift in humanity between genetically modified human beings and naturally born human beings. HGE will lead to social injustice by the means of genetic discrimination in the workplace and health care system. These alterations to society will subsequently affect human reproduction and the very set of values and ethics that govern our everyday decisions.

Let us ignore the enticement of human genetic engineering and instead pursue more natural means of enhancing the human condition.

James Leathers is a sophomore in microbiology. The opinions expressed in his columns do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff. Leathers can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

“...alterations to society will subsequently affect human reproduction and the very set of values and ethics that govern our everyday decisions.”

“Although [human genetic engineering] offers many breakthroughs... its development may supersede its original objective in a negative manner.”

Letters to the Editor

University priorities

The realm of "Otherrr"

Reading yesterday about the progress being made to the new track field at Oregon State University, I was again reminded that music, like almost every other College, School, department and faculty member at OSU, belongs in the world of "Otherrr."

I first learned about the world of "Otherrr" a couple of years ago when I called the OSU Foundation to make my annual contribution to the music department. Each year, I donate some money so that we can purchase extra Thorazine blow darts to sedate those students who lose it during the biannual infestation of box elder beetles in Benton Hall.

When I informed the person on the phone that I wanted to make a donation, a vaguely valley-girl voice said "Athletics or Otherrr?" "I beg your pardon?" I responded. She repeated her response, though it sounded almost like, "Athletics or Whateverrr?" After being transferred to "Otherrr," I made my donation.

I did not keep this experience to myself. The next day, I had a friend call and make the same request, and he got the same response. We did not keep this experience to ourselves, and soon the President and chief "whateverrr" of the Foundation reassured us that this had happened because some temporary employee had messed it up. You know those wacky temp employees; they just say what pops into their heads. Doubtless, had I called a week later, the response could have been "Sheep Barns or Otherrr."

This obsession with ath-

letics can be found elsewhere. If one goes to the Daily Barometer online, then clicks on the various subheadings (News, Best of Campaign, Staff, etc.), one again notices that the choices basically come down to "Sports" and "Otherrr." Which makes me think that perhaps the Barometer and the Foundation could join forces in a fundraising effort to target specific sports? Or not. Whateverrr.

MICHAEL T. COOLEN
Emeritus Professor, Music Dept

More on Provost Randhawa

Expectation challenges

This letter was inspired by Angela Carlson's letter to the Barometer interview with Provost Sabah Randhawa last week, in which she said that department chair positions at OSU have largely disappeared as a result of the campus-wide reorganization led in part by the Provost. That's true, of course, but I had a different response to Provost Randhawa's remarks about the complexity of the department chair position. As a department chair for nearly 25 years at OSU, I always felt that the job had two major challenges: (1) satisfying the expectations of two masters — the dean and the faculty — whose interest frequently diverged; and (2) setting an example for the faculty by leading in research and scholarship.

I didn't see an awareness of these challenges in the Provost's remarks as published, and therefore, I was disappointed.

CHRISTOPHER K. MATHEWS, PH.D.
Professor of Biochemistry

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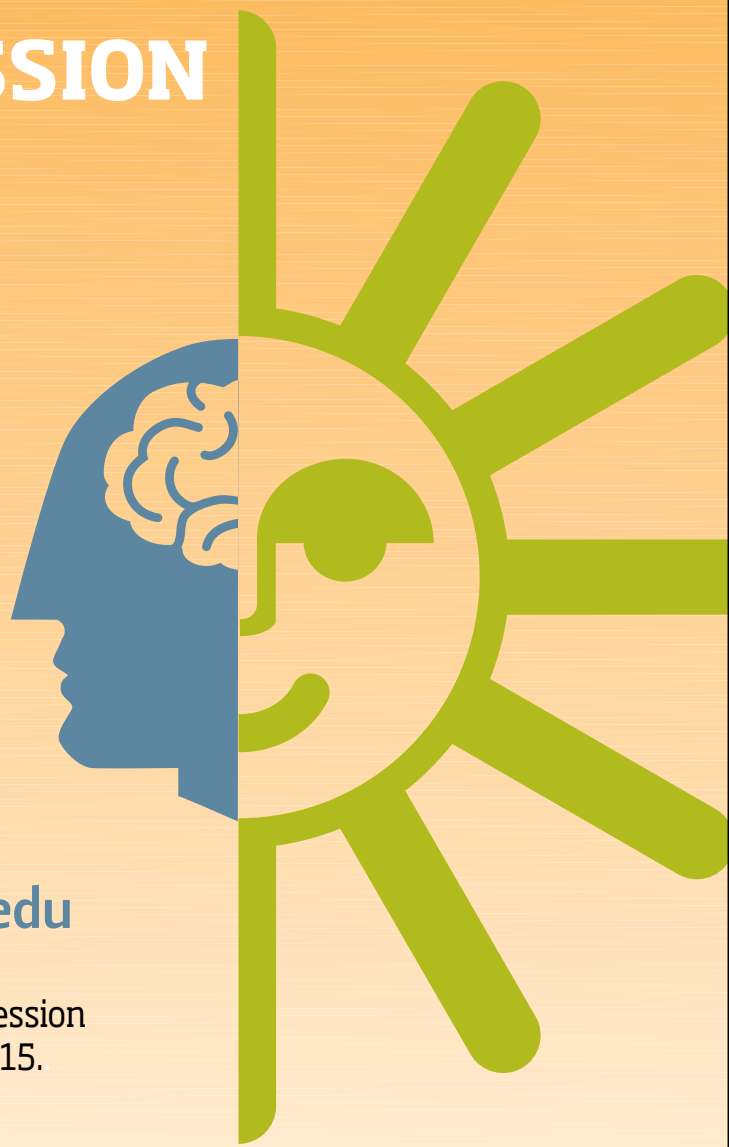
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President Obama to offer corporate tax plan

The Treasury Department will unveil President Barack Obama's corporate tax reform plan on Wednesday, senior administration officials told CNN.

Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner told a Senate panel last week the plan will be an effort to find "common ground" on broad principles between Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill.

"We want to maximize the chance we can take advantage of that (common ground) to build consensus on something that's going to work," Geithner told the Senate Finance Committee.

The Obama administration has been talking about unveiling a plan to fix the corporate tax system for well over a year.

Senior administration officials Tuesday would not provide details of the president's plan. They said it will be consistent with his commitment to fairness and the message he laid out in the State of the Union address.

In the State of the Union address and in subsequent speeches, Obama has called for ending tax breaks for companies that outsource jobs overseas and lowering rates for U.S. businesses that create jobs at

home. "Right now, companies get tax breaks for moving jobs and profits overseas," Obama said in his address to Congress in January. "Meanwhile, companies that choose to stay in America get hit with one of the highest tax rates in the world. It makes no sense, and everyone knows it. So let's change it."

Obama also said that it was time to end subsidies and tax breaks for the oil industry, which "rarely has been more profitable," while increasing tax credits for developing alternative energy sources.

Last year, the pressure for a corporate tax system fix heated up with news of General Electric's zero tax rate in 2010 due to profits overseas and losses at its financial unit. General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt is the chief of Obama's Council for Jobs and Competitiveness.

The top corporate tax rate of 35 percent, among the highest in the world, has long been bemoaned by business leaders and tax experts. They say it discourages foreign investment in the United States and hinders the ability of U.S. companies to compete internationally.

— CNN

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

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4	9	7	2	8	1	3	6	5
1	3	8	4	9	6	5	7	2
6	4	5	7	3	2	8	9	1
9	7	2	8	1	5	6	3	4
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MEN'S HOOPS

Continued from page 7 tomorrow.

They may be struggling defensively — the Beavers rank last in the Pac-12 and 302 out of 345 teams nationally — and have some shooters mired in slumps, but OSU should have no problem getting fired up for Sunday's home game vs. Oregon.

"Losing gets you down a little bit, obviously, but it's not too bad," sophomore Ahmad Starks said. "We know we got a big game coming up — everyone's gonna be here for the Civil War. It's gonna be packed. We got a big game and we have to perform."

The scheduling gods were perhaps looking kindly upon the Beavers this week giving them what will be, without a doubt, their biggest home crowd of the season.

"It's a good time to play a team that is vying for a NCAA bid, vying for a conference championship, and a rivalry game," Robinson said. "It won't be hard getting these guys up but it wouldn't have been hard anyway because this team isn't used to losing that many in a row this year."

Alex Crawford, sports writer
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TAYLOR HAND | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Jared Cunningham has been a bright spot, as he's scored at least 20 in four of his last five games.

SWIMMING

Continued from page 7

As a team, the Beavers are hoping to improve on last year's last-place finish at the Pac-10 Championships.

"We do know that we don't want to be last," Kibby said. "We're hoping to be 8th or better."

There are nine swim teams total in the conference. Colorado, Washington and Oregon do not have programs.

"We have had a good year and we had a good January with our dual meet wins," Liebowitz said. "The team has been working incredibly hard and I believe we are poised to have our best Pac-12 Championships."

"I am excited it's the last swim meet as a team, so were just hoping to go out there and have fun together and we are hoping to make Beaver Nation proud," Kibby said.

Natasha Raines, sports writer
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WATER POLO

Continued from page 7

Their practices are held at Langton Pool on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m.

"It doesn't matter if you've never played before, because we are more than willing to help people learn the sport," said Nagle.

Last year, two girls who had never played water polo were able to compete in regionals due to their dedication to the club.

"It was so great to be a part of something at OSU and it was easy to join. I am looking forward of years to come," Kayley Klemencic said, a freshman on the team this year.

If you are looking for a way to get out some frustration, or to go learn something new, the water polo club is a great place to start. Whether you have experience or not, it is a great way to get started.

"We are more than just a team," Nagle said.

"We are like a family."

Caitie Karcher, sports writer
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The Daily **Barometer**

Men's hoops team isn't going to give up



TAYLOR HAND | THE DAILY BAROMETER

There hasn't been much that's happened games to make Craig Robinson happy in recent weeks, but he has been pleased with his team's effort in practice.

■ **Beavers have lost 4 straight, but Robinson says team is still working as hard as ever**

By **Alex Crawford**
The Daily Barometer

High expectations often yield disappointing results.

After the men's basketball team finished nonconference play 10-2, Beaver Nation was dreaming that OSU would be dancing in March.

Now, mired in their longest losing streak of the year and a 5-10 conference record, the Beavers can find solace in the fact that they are only graduating one player.

"Everybody knows it's a four game losing streak, but we come to work everyday like it's not," sophomore guard Roberto Nelson said. "We come hard and we're just making sure that we're preparing ourselves and trying to put that in the past and trying to bounce back toward the end of the season. I'd just say overall that we're down on ourselves but we're not to the point where we're giving up."

Still, Beaver fans are asking why it always has to be next year that's going to be the good one. It's like the sign

outside of those Joe's Crab Shack restaurants that say, "Free crab tomorrow." Beaver Nation wants to know when tomorrow will come.

Despite the recent downturn, coach Craig Robinson and the players are remaining positive and confident that they can close out with a strong finish.

"This team all year, I haven't had trouble getting these guys up," Robinson said. "They're motivated by the fact that they're used to winning games in a row rather than losing games in a row. So for an extending losing streak that they're on now, it didn't take much for them to be working their butts off (at practice)."

All season long, Robinson has expressed his love for his team's positive and hard-working attitude at practice following all games, win or lose. Eventually, one would hope that these hard practices translate into more wins. But Robinson only focuses on one day at a time. In fact, Robinson said that it's easier to work one day at a time when you aren't winning.

"That's when you really have to dig in and just concentrate on each day that you're working on," Robinson said. "I'd say we won this day, now we gotta win

See **MEN'S HOOPS** | page 7

Swim team ready for Pac-12 Championships

■ **Several swimmers have chance to qualify for NCAA's, OSU hopes not to finish last**

By **Natasha Raines**
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Jenni Dole and Rachel O'Brien competed at the NCAA Championships last year, yet most of the Oregon State community doesn't even know who they are.

"It's actually quite frustrating. We work just as hard as all the other teams on campus and hardly get any recognition for it. Especially when we have very talented athletes on the team," said Dole.

Swim meets have never attracted a roaring Reser Stadium crowd, but with the recent accomplishments Dole and O'Brien have under their belts, it is understandable that they want a little more notoriety for themselves and their fellow teammates.

"I am extremely fortunate to have athletes as highly motivated as Jenni and Rachel," said head coach Larry Liebowitz. "The best thing about Jenni and Rachel is their consistency of training. They rarely miss workouts and I would say 99 percent of the time they are prepared to give it their all."

Dole, O'Brien and the rest of the Oregon State swim team are in Federal Way, Wash. for the Pac-12 Championships, a four-day event that kicks off today.

To qualify for the NCAA Championships, a swimmer must finish in the top 32 among Division I swimmers nationally for their specific event.

Dole and O'Brien, the only two Beavers to qualify for nationals last year, each have very realistic shots of getting back.

Dole, who holds the school records in the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke, qualified for last year's nationals in three events: the 100 and 200 back and 100 fly.

She will compete in those three events this week.

"It took a 53.3 for fly to make it

last year so Larry and I both think it's going to be a little bit faster to qualify for Nationals," Dole said. "My best time is a 53.1 so anything under a 52.9 I would be ecstatic with."

Out of everyone on the OSU swim team, O'Brien has the highest probability of qualifying for nationals. Going into the Pac-12 meet, she sits at 22nd in the national rankings for the 200 fly with a time of 1:57.19. O'Brien has the fourth fastest time in school history in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 54.39 and in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:59.46.

"At Pac 10's last year I did really well, I got sixth in both the 100 and 200 fly," O'Brien said. "I qualified for NCAA's there and I got my best time by over a second. In the 100 fly I already had my b-cut but I was able to prove it more. So I was able to swim the 200 and 100 fly at NCAA's."

This week she hopes to prove herself again in the 100 and 200 fly.

A new Beaver and strong asset to the team is freshman Shelby Webber, who has had a successful season racking in the points in the 100 free and 100 back. This week, she will be competing in the 100 free, 200 free, 50 free, 100 back, and 200 IM.

"I want to make NCAA's in my 100 back, go under 2 minutes in my 200 IM, and go under 0:50.00 on my 100 free and finish top 8," said Webber.

In the Pac-12, Webber is seeded 13th at 53.63 in the 100 back, 19th at 49.85 in the 100 free, and 12th in the 200 IM at 2:00.39. Nationally she is ranked 40th in the 100 back.

Sophomore Crystal Kibby will be competing in the 200 and 400 IM as well as the 100 and 200 breaststroke this week.

"I'll hopefully make it back to finals in those three (200 IM, 400 IM, and 200 breast) and hopefully get best time. I would like to see if I can get my NCAA cut in my 200 breaststroke," Kibby said.

Kibby is currently 67th nationally in the 200 breaststroke.

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COURTESY OF THE WATER POLO TEAM | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

According to co-captain Margaret Nagle, the OSU women's water polo team is "more than just a team, we are like a family."

Club sports at OSU: Women's water polo

■ **The OSU club team plays several tournaments a term, including 3 regional tourneys**

By **Caitie Karcher**
THE DAILY BAROMETER

During high school physical education classes, most play an assortment of games such as field hockey, soccer, basketball and maybe even wrestling.

It is unlikely, however, that anyone combines all of those sports while also adding swimming to the mix.

By doing this, you get the sport of water polo.

Members of the Oregon State women's water polo team can tell you all about the difficulties that come along with their sport.

"It is typically very overlooked, and many people don't realize the skill it takes to play," said co-captain Margaret Nagle.

Nagle has been playing water polo for eight years, and has been swimming all her life.

"I played in high school, and I fell

in love," she said.

Water polo can be a high-contact sport because it incorporates different aspects of other games all into one.

Seven players are allowed in the pool at once for each team, including a goalie. The concept of the game is to score against the opposing team by throwing a ball into a net, which might seem easy until you look at the rule book.

While playing, all players must continue to tread water until the game is over. They are also only allowed one hand on the ball at once.

You're also not allowed to completely tackle an opponent, but what the ref doesn't see won't get called.

"If you can't play nice, play water polo," said Casey O'Neill, a member of the team.

"A lot of the fighting goes on underneath the water," added Nagle.

After tournaments, the team is constantly mending wounds.

At their last tournament, one girl even got a black eye.

The team typically plays three

tournaments a term, and they also have three regional tournaments.

Two of the regional tournaments help seed the teams, whereas the last determines the regional champion.

Oregon State University placed fifth in the region three years ago, but has placed second each of the past two years. They are hoping to continue their improvement this year.

They play teams all across Washington and Oregon. The University of Oregon has two teams, and their "A" team has a tendency to give OSU troubles.

"At our last tournament, we were able to play really well against them, which is a nice boost for us," said co-captain Karin Rottman.

OSU went 2-2 at a tournament two weekends ago. They are hoping to get as much practice in as possible before regional seeding starts.

Joining the water polo team is not a difficult task. All you need is to pay the club dues and show up to the six hours of practice per week.

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