

# The Daily Barometer

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PAGE 8



BRITTANY HARRIS: The sophomore has turned into a vocal leader.

## SPORTS

8 – The problem with conference tournaments

## NEWS

3 – Syrian opposition calls for international military intervention

## FORUM

4 – ASOSU fails to uphold duty  
4 – Kony, graduation advice

# 11 years of perfecting trigger control

■ Pistol and Rifle Club president discusses his 12 years as an OSU student, 11 years as a competitive shooter

By Amanda Antell  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

President of the Oregon State University Pistol and Rifle Club, Ph.D. prospect in electrical engineering, and one of OSU's longest standing students: Eric Sundholm has several notable labels under his belt.

Sundholm has completed his undergraduate and master's degrees at Oregon State, and is continuing on with his Ph.D., all in advanced studies in electrical engineering. He has been a student at OSU for a total of 12 years.

He chose to attend and stay at OSU due to its location, convenience, cost and

which to Sundholm means being close to family and living in a small town.

From the time he was young, Sundholm had shown the signs of an engineer. From playing with Legos when he was young to taking apart and rebuilding amplifiers in high school, his range of interests never seemed to sway too far. However, he has also played the trumpet, clarinet, bass and electric guitar.

Sundholm personifies a man that never does anything halfway, a claim that can be illustrated by his studies and his dedication to the Pistol and Rifle Club. He has been a competitive shooter for the past 11 years, and started shooting with his father when he was 12.

Growing up between Canby and Oregon City, Sundholm first got into shooting as a Boy Scout activity, and as a hobby to share with his father. However, he didn't start shooting competitively until his sophomore year at OSU. At first, Sundholm felt no pressure or anxiety in shooting competition, but a competitive streak set in when he first went to nationals in 2003.

"It was my first big shooting match, and I didn't want to let the team or myself down," Sundholm said.

It took three to four years for him to get used to higher competition. The main thing Sundholm enforces on his shooting team are the fundamentals: sight alignment and trigger control. Over the years, Sundholm has been in more than 300 shooting competitions, attending nationals every year and placing in local and distant competitions. "Shooting is a sport that takes a lifetime to master; there's always room for improvement," he said.

Sundholm has always had a strong appreciation of independent sport, but affirms that he



NEIL ABREW | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Sundholm, above, took an early interest in shooting. He is current president of the Pistol and Rifle Club, member pictured at left, which competes in the Willamette Valley Pistol League.

loves the camaraderie of team shooting events as well. Serving as the president, Sundholm and the club officers teach new members firearm safety and proper shooting techniques.

New members also have the opportunity to join Sundholm on his competition shooting team. The Pistol and Rifle club has more than 300 members.

Sundholm wishes to become a registered shooting coach sometime in the future. "Until

my hands and eyes don't allow it, I'm going to continue shooting," he said.

His advice for students who are going down a similar educational route is to apply for MECOP, make sure the debt is paid as early as possible, complete internships and form relationships with professors.

Amanda Antell, staff reporter  
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JOHN ZHANG | THE DAILY BAROMETER

## Community instigates energy-saving opportunities

■ Spring Creek Project offers students a way to brainstorm, connect writing to nature

By Kim Kenny  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Oregon State University and the Corvallis community are finding creative ways to approach a changing climate and our use of energy.

Among the numerous outlets for such work on campus and the Corvallis area are two that are connecting the small feats of individuals to the big issue of their relationship to the natural world.

The Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature and the Written Word owes its earliest roots to Franz Dolp, an economist and poet who died in 2004 with the wish that his 40 acres of Oregon forestland and the cabin he built within it be put to good use.

Kathleen Dean Moore, a philosophy professor at OSU, and Charles Goodrich, now director of the Spring Creek Project, worked to make that dream a reality by inviting writers and naturalists to utilize the secluded cabin as a peaceful place to work.

Now the cabin at Shotpouch Creek is the site of retreats, meetings and other Spring Creek events. One of two two-week residency programs offers two applicants the cabin as a setting to pursue their work, be it writing, science, philosophy or music that draws inspiration from the natural world. Many of the creations made in the cabin have stayed there; the high-ceilinged wood retreat is deco-

rated with quilts and artwork made by its visitors.

Goodrich believes that when it comes to environmental scientists and creative writers, too seldom is there enough interaction, although there is a lot to gain from such dialogue. "You need facts, but you also need to understand our values to understand those facts," Goodrich said.

Last year The Spring Creek Project started an annual contest called the "The Great Work: Reimagining Humanity as the Planet Changes," which asks OSU students to submit written works or videos that approach a changing world from a hopeful perspective. The winners will be featured at the screening of the new film "Journey of the Universe" on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. at the LaSells Stewart Center. The film will combine modern science and a wide swathe of cultural traditions in a discussion about cosmic evolution.

One of last year's winners, Alexis White, a graduate student earning her MFA from OSU, appreciates the opportunities through the Spring Creek Project that have allowed her to connect with other writers. "Writing can feel so solitary, but really we're all connected, and Spring Creek helps me see it through that context," said White, who has also been awarded a residency program at the cabin, which she will share with fellow student Karen Moon this spring break.

Another program working to con-

See ENERGY | page 3

## Interim dean recently appointed for College of Science

■ As search committee for permanent position holder begins, chemistry professor steps in

By Vinay Ramakrishnan  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Oregon State University has named Dr. Vincent Remcho, chemistry professor and faculty member since 1998, as the interim dean of the College of Science.

Dr. Remcho succeeds Dr. Sherman Bloomer, who is now the director of Budget and Fiscal Planning for OSU. Remcho previously served as the associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Science and was a professor of chemistry, with a specialty in analytical chemistry.

In talking about his previous job as the associate dean for research and graduate studies, Dr. Remcho said, "My job was to support the research mission, assemble startup packages, research initiatives and build core lab facilities which serve well beyond just our college."

In his current position, he said his role is "the chief administrator of the college of science, with oversight over undergraduate and graduate programs, curriculum, faculty advancement and the college's research mission."

As to whether Dr. Remcho is considering becoming the full-time dean of the College of Science, he said, "It's certainly something I've contemplated. I enjoy the administrative role more than I would have imagined. It would be an honor."

Remcho's predecessor, Dr. Sherman Bloomer, had previously

served as the dean of the College of Science since Sept. 1999.

Currently working as the Director of Budget and Fiscal Planning for OSU, Bloomer looks back with pride on his tenure as the dean of the College of Science. "I am most proud of the very talented faculty we hired over those 12 years, the innovate research and degree programs the faculty delivered, our success in providing access to critical 'gateway' courses in math, statistics, physics, chemistry and biology, and the growth in our student population and research awards," he said.

A national search for a full-time dean is now taking place, and according to Remcho, a committee is now being constituted.

"The search committee will be led by another dean who will work with a team of other faculty and people from around campus," Remcho said. "You want to make sure you find the absolute best person for the job."

"It is a given that individuals applying for a dean's position have an educational and research record that qualifies them for appointment as a tenured professor in one of the disciplines within the college," said Dr. Sabah Randhawa, Provost and Executive Vice President. "We are looking for indi-

viduals with administrative experience with ability to lead a complex college and work effectively within the Division of Arts and Sciences and across the university."

In terms of the implications this change in deans will have on students, structure and faculty, Bloomer said, "I don't think my departure will change the path of success and growth the college is on at all."

“...Individuals applying for a dean's position have an educational and research record that qualifies them for an appointment as a tenured professor...”

Sabah Randhawa  
Provost, Executive VP

"There have been some changes in organization and structure university-wide, but they are not coincident with the change in leadership in the dean's office," Remcho said.

Despite his promotion to the dean's office, Dr. Remcho will continue teaching. He will teach a class next term for graduate students in analytical chemistry. "It will keep me in close contact with the students, who we're here to serve."

"Over the next few weeks I will appoint a search committee consisting of faculty, staff and student representatives and members from the OSU Foundation and external advisory board," Randhawa said. "We will make every effort to engage the college community in particular, and the university community in general, in this process."

Vinay Ramakrishnan, staff reporter  
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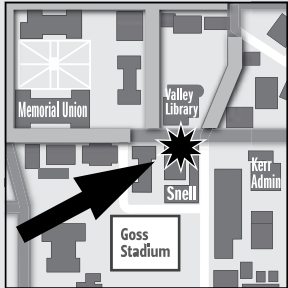
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# International News From CNN

## MIDDLE EAST

### Israel, Palestine agree to Gaza cease fire

After days of pounding violence, Palestinian and Israeli authorities have agreed to a truce and to stop all military operations, an Egyptian intelligence official told CNN early Tuesday.

The agreement was reached with the help of Egyptian mediators, the official said.

Israeli government spokesman David Baker did not immediately comment on the reported cease-fire.

Seven people were killed Monday in Gaza, and more than three dozen rockets fell into Israel, the latest events in days of fighting that marked the worst escalation of violence in the coastal territory in months, officials said.

Israel said its airstrikes have targeted militant rocket launching sites across the Palestinian territory in response to more than 200 rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel since Friday. More than 36 rockets were fired into Israel on Monday, Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

In Gaza, at least 25 people have been killed in strikes since Friday, while at least 80 people have been wounded.

"When I was sleeping, all of a sudden I found the entire house falling on top of us," Gaza resident Samer Sukar said from a hospital bed. "What can I say? There was no rocket fire from near our house."

Sukar said he was injured in a blast Monday while he was at home with his wife and six children.

Meanwhile, in the southern Israeli city of Ashdod, residents took cover.

"It's a very difficult time for us," said Eti Ifrah, 23. "It's impossible to live like this — every time we want a shower or anything we're worried a bomb will fall."

Nearly 1 million people in Israel have sought the safety of shelters during the violence, authorities said.

The fighting is the worst outbreak of violence in Gaza this year and comes as Israel and the world's attention has been largely focused on Iran and Syria.

"I am gravely concerned at the latest escalation between Gaza and Israel, and once again civilians are paying a terrible price," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement Monday.

## AFRICA

### Joseph Kony victim demands justice

One of the abducted boys featured in the viral video demanding the capture of infamous warlord Joseph Kony is now a man and says the time for justice has arrived.

Jacob Acaye, now 21, revisited the village where he was abducted by Kony's Lord's Resistance Army to tell why Kony's crimes should not be forgotten.

His story has touched millions since it was featured in "Kony 2012," a video from the Invisible Children charity that created a global online buzz and renewed public interest in capturing Kony.

Critics have questioned the film's accuracy and warned that it oversimplified the situation in Uganda.

Kony first unleashed his fury in eastern Africa more than two decades ago and is wanted for crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court.

The LRA terrorized Uganda in a brutal campaign against the government and civilian population. Since 2006, when it was pushed out of northern Uganda, it has largely operated in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic.

Invisible Children aimed to make Kony a household name and drum up global support to end the murders, rapes, abductions and other abuses committed by the LRA.

Acaye — sitting a few meters from where he was abducted — told CNN: "Whenever a brother is in a problem, whenever anybody is in a problem, it should get the attention of everyone in the world."

"It has been going on for the last 26 years. It shows that we are failing to solve it. And if there are any means that someone can help and it goes to end, then why not Americans get involved."

"For me the criticism [of "Kony 2012"] is unfair, because if I am to say it is fair then I wouldn't be here. Right now I wouldn't have been able to go to school. You wouldn't have been able to speak to me right now because I had no hope in my life. I reached even a point when I said, 'I can even die now' because I thought it would be the immediate resolution of my suffering, you know."

## ASIA

### Afghan villagers move back to find death

In a village in the district of Panjwai, in Kandahar province, a young man sits against a tree with his knees to his chest and his head hanging down. When he lifts his head, his eyes are full of tears.

The reason for his sorrow is lying in the back of pickup trucks a few yards away.

In the back of the trucks, a dead toddler with a bloodstained face lies between two dead men. In another truck, a blanket is pulled back to reveal the charred legs and feet of two more bodies. All of them are villagers killed in an attack while they slept in their homes before dawn Sunday.

They are some of the 16 victims of what Afghan officials have said was a rampage by a U.S. soldier from a base in western Kandahar.

"One guy came in and pulled a boy from his sleep and he shot him in this doorway. Then they came back inside the room and put a gun in the mouth of one child and stomped on another child," a mother said as she sat in her home.

Another mother was filled with rage and sorrow as she sat in one of the vehicles transporting the dead.

"Four girls and four boys. They are 2-year-olds. Are these Talibs?" she barked.

The Taliban has vowed revenge for the incident, but so far, no violent protests have erupted. Meanwhile, the families in the two villages where the shooting occurred spent the day burying their loved ones.

The western district has been known to be a hotbed of Taliban activity, even considered the birthplace of the Taliban. But the woman said she swears she hadn't seen Taliban fighters in five months.

She said she was one of many who had moved back to the village because people on the nearby military base had said it was safe to return home, and that nobody would bother them.

"This base told us to come back to our villages ... we will not bother you. This is your land, and this is your own village," she said. "But these dogs came and grabbed us."

## ASIA

### Afghans rail against American killings

Afghans railed at American forces Monday as investigators combed through two villages where a U.S. Army sergeant is accused of having gone on a weekend rampage, killing 16 civilians.

Men wept openly as they showed the bodies of their neighbors — and some of their neighbors' children — on Monday. In one truck, a toddler with a bloodstained face lay between the bodies of two men, while another held the charred remains of two more people.

"One guy came in and pulled a boy from his sleep and he shot him in this doorway. Then they came back inside the room and put a gun in the mouth of one child and stomped on another child," one woman said.

"This base told us to come back to our villages," another woman shouted. "They said, 'We won't bother you, this is your land and this is your own village.' Then those dogs come and grab us?"

Some of the villagers said more than one soldier appeared to have been involved in the killings. But Gen. John Allen, commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, said investigators believe the suspect, a veteran of three previous tours of duty in Iraq, "acted as an individual."

The dead included four men, three women and nine children, Afghan officials reported.

The suspect was based at a combat outpost near the villages. His motive remained unknown Monday. He invoked his right to remain silent after turning himself in to his comrades early Sunday, according to a senior Defense Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said the suspect was an infantry sniper from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, outside Tacoma, Wash.. He was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury in 2010, after a vehicle rollover in Iraq, but found fit for duty after treatment, the official said.

Other officials have identified the soldier as a staff sergeant in his mid-30s, with a wife and children and 11 years of service in the Army. Allen said the suspect's medical history would be part of the investigation, which would be handled by American military authorities.

# Calendar

Tuesday, Mar. 13

### Meetings

**ASOSU Senate**, 7pm, MU 109A. Convenes to discuss student issues. Students and student organization delegates are welcome to attend.

### Events

**The Pride Center**, 7-10pm, The Pride Center. Come study for finals, or work on that end-of-term project. We have plenty of work space and comfy couches! Yogurt parfaits will be provided.

**Coalition of Graduate Employees**, 3-5pm, Westminster House, 101 NW 23rd St. CGE and OSU will be beginning contract negotiations for the 2012-2016 contract. If you are a grad with a GTA or GRA or even an interested party, please come observe!

Wednesday, Mar. 14

### 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 devotions on "Mind, Spirit and Soul." Bring your favorite inspirational reading to share.

### Events

**ASOSU Senate**, 8pm, MU 109. Student Town Hall on ASOSU representation. This is an open forum event for students to come and share their opinions and get their ideas on ASOSU heard.

**The Pride Center**, 7-10pm, The Pride Center. Come study for finals, or work on that end-of-term project. We have plenty of work space and comfy couches! Yogurt parfaits will be provided.

**SOL**, 8-11am, MU Quad. Coffee in the Quad. Come enjoy free coffee during Dead Week.

# ASOSU Town Hall Meeting tomorrow

THE DAILY BAROMETER

Tomorrow, March 14, the Associated Students of Oregon State University will hold their second town hall meeting of the term at 8 p.m. in Memorial Union 109.

The meeting will be in an open forum format, which all students are encouraged to attend. Senators and representatives will be in attendance for a continued discussion, facilitated by Team Liberation. Student representation was brought up as a concern in the first town hall meeting and will be the topic of discussion at tonight's meeting.

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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.



# Syrian opposition calls for international military intervention

The opposition Syrian National Council called Monday for urgent military intervention on the part of the international community to help halt the grinding violence and protect civilians.

The SNC, an umbrella group that represents the opposition abroad, also demanded a no-fly zone across Syria and a "speedy operation" to arm the Free Syrian Army, a group of fighters made up primarily of defectors from forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.

"Sympathy messages are no longer enough. ... What is needed is actions on (the) ground and decisions and measures against Assad's gangs," the group said in a statement after a meeting in Turkey.

Its demands came as diplomatic efforts to resolve the yearlong Syrian conflict faltered.

The U.N. Security Council took up the issue of Syria again on Monday, with the United States and Britain pushing for quick action on a resolution and Russia warning against a "take-it-or-leave-it" approach.

All sides called for an immediate end to the violence even as an opposition group said that dozens of women and children in the city of Homs had been stabbed and burned to death over the weekend.

"There is a growing understanding of the need not to talk to each other on the basis of take-it-or-leave-it, but bring the positions together and be guided not by the desire of revenge, of punishment, who is to blame and so on and so forth, but by the basic interests of the Syrian people," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters after the Security Council met. "And this requires an immediate end of violence as the number one priority."

Lavrov invoked the specter of Libya, whose government was overthrown last year after U.N. Security Council resolutions authorizing NATO enforcement of a no-fly zone to protect innocent civilians led to widespread bombing of Libyan military forces.

He cited reports that members of al Qaeda are responsible for fomenting violence in Syria and pointed to the Free Syrian Army as also being to blame.

Still, the Russian foreign minister described a cease-fire in Syria as "an absolute must." He said he hoped weekend meetings between al-Assad and Special Joint Envoy Kofi Annan "would succeed in developing some ideas which would make it possible for us to agree on how to stop the bloodshed immediately, how to stop the fighting, irrespective of the source of the violence."

For others at the meeting, the fount of the violence was not in doubt.

"The United States believes in the sov-

ereignty and territorial integrity of all member states, but we do not believe that sovereignty offers a grant of immunity when governments massacre their own people," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters. She described as "cynical" the Syrian army's "fresh assault on Idlib and continuing its aggression in Hama, Homs and Rastan," even as al-Assad was meeting with Annan in Damascus.

In an acknowledgment that Russia and China last month vetoed a Security Council resolution that would have condemned al-Assad and called on him to step aside, Clinton called on "all nations, even those who have previously blocked our efforts," to speak with one voice in calling for the killings of civilians to end and a transition to democracy to begin.

Valerie Amos, U.N. humanitarian chief, described as "clear deadlock" the situation on Syria at the world body. "It's not an ideal situation," she told CNN. "But we have to keep working on this, we have to keep trying, because there are people who need help."

Amos said she recently returned from a refugee camp across Syria's border with Turkey, where she spoke with displaced Syrians "who were very angry about what's happening in Syria and being abandoned by the international community."

Asked whether Annan had left Damascus empty-handed, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said it was "far too early" to draw that conclusion. "He has said that he has made proposals. Clearly, all concerned will be taking some time, but I hope not much time, to react to those proposals," he said.

The U.N.'s Human Rights Council met Monday in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss an International Commission of Inquiry report issued last month. The report said Syrian government officials were responsible for "crimes against humanity" committed by security forces against opposition members.

Monday's diplomatic efforts came in the wake of continuing bloodshed. In the Syrian city of Homs, at least 45 women and children were stabbed and burned to death, opposition activists said Monday. The massacre took place late Sunday, activists said.

The killings occurred in the Karm al Zaytoun neighborhood, according to the Local Coordination Committees of Syria, an opposition network. The Adawiya neighborhood of Homs was also involved, according to the London-based Syrian Network for Human Rights.

Children were stabbed to death in front of their mothers, and women and girls were sexually assaulted and then shot, the

network said.

Hadi Abdallah, a spokesman for the opposition Syrian Revolution General Council, said the attacks occurred after "Syrian forces and thugs" stormed homes.

The LCC called the killings a "massacre orchestrated by the regime" of President al-Assad.

Another 108 people were killed Sunday nationwide, activists said. The LCC reported Monday's death toll was 44.

Tuesday will be a day of mourning across Syria, the LCC said.

"Stores should remain closed; work, universities, and schools should not be attended; and streets should be blocked," the group said in a statement. "We urge everyone to participate, even if only symbolically, by wearing black ribbons, raising black flags, or wearing black."

After sunset Sunday, a live video feed online from opposition activists showed bodies from the Homs massacre.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights described a scene of brutality, saying the men were separated from the women and children and "systematically tortured" for hours. Some were sprayed with gasoline and set afire, while others were shot, the network said.

Activists recovered 31 bodies, the human rights network said. Others were burned, and still others were taken to unknown locations by security forces.

Syrian state-run media said the bodies shown were killed by "armed terrorist groups," which the government blames for the violence in the nearly year-long uprising.

"The terrorist armed groups have kidnapped scores of civilians in the city of Homs, central Syria, killed and mutilated their corpses and filmed them to be shown by media outlets," the state-run Syrian Arab News Agency reported.

On Monday morning, state-run TV aired a montage of telephone calls reportedly from Homs. The anchor listened to callers denouncing the killings and blaming the Karm al Zaytoun massacre on what they called anti-government armed gangs.

The state-run news agency reported that 15 army and law enforcement "martyrs" targeted by armed terrorist groups were buried Monday.

CNN cannot independently confirm reports of casualties or attacks in Syria because the government has severely restricted the access of international journalists.

But the majority of reports from inside Syria indicate the regime is slaughtering civilians to wipe out dissidents seeking al-Assad's ouster. The al-Assad family has ruled Syria for more than four decades.

—CNN



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- **KBVR FM Station Manager**  
Mid-June 2012 – Spring Term 2013
- **KBVR TV Station Manager**  
Fall Term 2012 – Spring Term 2013
- **Beaver Yearbook Editor**  
Fall Term 2012 – Spring Term 2013
- **Beaver Yearbook Business Manager**  
Fall Term 2012 – Spring Term 2013
- **Prism Editor-in-Chief**  
Fall Term 2012 – Spring Term 2013

The above positions are open to any bonafide student at Oregon State University.

To be considered, an applicant must: (1) have earned a g.p.a. of at least 2.0 from Oregon State University, (2) be enrolled for at least 6 academic credits, (3) not be on disciplinary probation, and (4) be making normal degree progress.

To apply, applicant must: (1) complete an application form obtained from the Student Media Office, MU East, room 118, (2) submit a transcript, (3) submit a letter of application, and (4) submit a resume. Deadline to apply is Monday, April 2 at 5 p.m. Positions open until filled.

Applicants will be interviewed

by the University Student Media Committee on April 6, 13 or 20. Candidates will be notified of interview date and time.

Oregon State **OSU**  
STUDENT **Media**

## ENERGY

Continued from page 3

solidate the solitary actions of community members into tangible change is the Campuses Take Charge Challenge. On an interactive website, Corvallis residents can select among approximately 90 energy-saving actions to help save energy, place them in their shopping carts and watch the gallons of gasoline or water saved as a result of their contributed work. Some of the suggestions include adding a rain barrel to the lawn decor to collect water, removing your name from a junk mailing list, turning off your car instead of letting it idle and unplugging electronics when they are not in use.

The project is a subset of a larger organization called Energize

Corvallis, a collaboration between the City of Corvallis, Corvallis Environmental Center, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, The Resource Innovation Group and Oregon State University Extension Service of Benton County. Carly Lettero, who earned her masters at OSU in applied ethics and anthropology and sociology, is the director.

"Adding an element of fun and joy makes it easier for people to engage with this issue," Lettero said. Lettero hopes that Corvallis can serve as a model community for the program and that in the future it can be expanded on a regional and national scale. She found that out of her masters work grew a motivation to do something on a personal level that addressed something global. "There's always a space for people to start."

Kim Kenny, staff reporter  
737-2231 news@dailybarometer.com

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Editorial

## ASOSU incompetent, incapable

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Associated Students of Oregon State University should be ashamed of themselves. Their incompetence and irresponsibility in executing their office is a sign of the gross disrespect they hold toward the student body which elected them.

Their behavior over the entire year — and especially at last week's joint session of congress — has shaken our faith in the power and ability of a student-elected and student-led democratic government. We doubt that our elected student leaders have the competence to do their jobs properly, and perhaps the power they wield is undeserved.

Last Wednesday, both houses were supposed to vote on the student fees for different budgeting boards, and approve or disapprove them for the next fiscal year. This is one of the most important tasks, if not the most important task, that student government must accomplish every year. Deciding how students are taxed by student fees, and how that money is spent, is one of the few times student leaders affect the student body in a very direct way. But more than half of the representatives decided it wasn't worth their time or effort to show up to vote and discuss these student fees, leaving a house without the quorum necessary to conduct business.

These representatives should be ashamed of their actions, as well as the other representatives and senators who did not show up, or who sent proxies to vote in their stead. These senators and representatives should somehow be punished, whether by censure or removal from office. The student body elected these leaders and expect them to serve to the best of their ability. But deciding that showing up to vote on next year's student fees is far too difficult of a task shows that they are incapable of being entrusted with the responsibility they hold.

We don't enjoy being the voice pointing out the foibles and inadequacy of student government. But they leave themselves open to such criticism by consistently demonstrating that they probably shouldn't wield the power they do. We wish that we could focus on celebrating the accomplishments of ASOSU, but when week after week we are left with stories of leaders breaking rules or shirking their duties, it is hard to believe that anyone in ASOSU has any idea what they are doing.

ASOSU needs to take its job seriously. Our elected leaders need to know the rules they are supposed to uphold. They need to show up when they are supposed to. They need to know the issues and facts surrounding the bills they are supposed to be voting on. If our leaders can't do that, then perhaps we as a student body do not deserve to have a say in how our student fees are spent.

Tonight, we hope that ASOSU will have a quorum and be able to vote on the budgets presented to them. We hope that they will approve all the budgets presented to them, which have all been fairly vetted and examined by the Student and Incidental Fees Committee, and will result in lower student fees.

We hope that senators and representatives will act responsibly and maturely, and execute their office to the best of their ability. But we have our doubts that any of this will happen, and exhort the student body to show up to tonight's meeting to challenge their elected leaders.

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.

The Daily Barometer  
c/o Letters to the editor  
Memorial Union East 106  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR 97331-1617

or e-mail: editor@dailybarometer.com

# Advice, lessons after four years of college

Normally, I don't like to toot my own horn — usually because nothing I do is remarkable enough to warrant self-congratulation. But this week marks my last at OSU, as I will be graduating at the end of the term. For those of you keeping score at home, that is a term earlier than the standard four-year plan for a degree — so toot-toot.

Please forgive my attempt at enthusiasm, but the positivity is much needed. Being a naturally worrisome person, I am trying my best to get excited about my upcoming departure from my undergraduate studies, but it can be a little difficult. As a psychology major who does not like talking about feelings or dealing with people, let alone crazy people, the job market is a little thin. And while George Costanza from "Seinfeld" was humorously able to deliver the line, "I'm unemployed and live with my parents," I don't know how funny I could make it sound. It might hit a little too close to home.

Still, earning a degree is a great accomplishment which will not only advance your knowledge and allow you to explore your interests, but put



Charles Leineweber

The Pen is Mightier

you ahead of many in the job market. And in my roughly four years of working toward my degree, I've noticed and picked up a few things that I wish I would have done more of, and that can help make the transition out of college more bearable.

It may sound selfish, but when it comes to your undergraduate experience, it is best to focus on yourself. This doesn't mean to be an uncaring jerk, but it is your education, your money and your future you are working with, so study something you are interested in — something that you like. As college is a huge investment of both time and money, you should at the very least enjoy yourself. And by enjoy yourself, I don't mean partying everyday and living at the Peacock, as tempting as it may sound. I mean getting out and joining a club, taking a fun PAC

class and just enjoying what you are studying.

With all your effort over the course of however many years it takes, you do not want to be stuck with something that genuinely feels like a chore and does not appeal to you. I haven't written for the paper for this long because of the high profile lifestyle and wads of cash that come with the job. I've done it because I have genuinely enjoyed it.

And as long as you are studying something that you like, it also never hurts to suck up a little bit. I know nobody likes a suck-up, but it took me way too long to realize the importance of having a professor know who you are. It usually is not enough to simply take a class from a professor; you need to actually talk to them, even if you don't necessarily have a question or need help.

This is an easier task for some students than others, but having some sort of recognition from faculty is crucial. Most professors are perfectly normal human beings and are more or less aware of what it is like to be a college student, so you might even make a friend. But come graduation

time, realizing there is no one to write a recommendation for you is not a very good feeling. Believe me.

Overall, college is a great opportunity and the experiences you have will stick with you for a long time. Sure, there will be things that bother you, like the lack of a single Civil War football win in four years, or the always fascinating student government, or those around campus who try to make an issue out of everything — I'm looking at you, feminists, Second Amendment straightshooters and atheist guy who keeps writing in the paper. But all in all, it's best to not let things like that get to you. It's really not worth it.

Earning a degree is a great accomplishment, a personal milestone and a head start to your future. It's a big, scary world out there, so try your best to take advantage of opportunities and enjoy whatever it is you do. You don't get too many chances at college; you might as well enjoy it.

Charles Leineweber is a senior 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.

# In pursuit of the true meaning of happiness

The United States Declaration of Independence proclaims that citizens have the right to "The pursuit of happiness" but doesn't describe what exactly that endeavor entails. What does it mean?

Happiness may be the single most disputed definition in the world. It is the standard by which we judge the quality of our lives, but it is about as easy to fathom as it is to accomplish. Is it possible that some of us may pursue it all our lives and never truly attain it? Is it possible that some of us have already attained it and just don't know yet?

To answer these questions, we have to try to understand what exactly happiness means to us. My journey to explore this idea has led me to



James Leathers

## The Daily Barometer

derive a new definition: Happiness is a disposition — a disposition of absolute acceptance unmarred by the superficial and unaffected by things out of our control. True happiness, on its most fundamental level, is looking in the mirror at the end of the day and being satisfied with the person staring back.

When beginning my quest to define the undefinable, I decided to explore the most basic of sources — the dictionary. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary provided two definitions of happiness.

The first defined happiness as

"good fortune." The problem with this definition is that the word "fortune" is often used in temporary contexts. According to this definition, a single day of misfortune could determine a person's happiness in that moment. I disagree with this because happiness is not determined by luck or chance, or by the spontaneous ups and downs of a day. Rather, it is determined by a personal outlook on life that allows someone to assess situations rhetorically, concentrate on the good, not the bad, and understand that it is not worth worrying about things that are out of one's control.

Merriam-Webster's second, more traditional definition of happiness, "A state of well-being and content-

ment," bears remarkable similarity to Oxford's definition, "The state of being happy." These definitions are broad oversimplifications that lose power due to their vagueness.

Additionally, use of the word "state" implies change, which suggests that these definitions define happiness on the emotional level. A person's level of happiness is subject to change, but not on the transient level of human emotion. It is possible for humans to feel sadness, anger or boredom while still maintaining an underlying level of self-respect and self-esteem. Therefore, according to my definition, it is possible to feel sad and still be happy, because

See LEATHERS | page 5

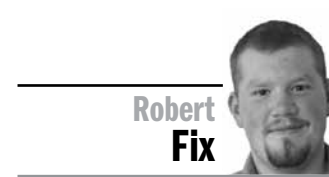
# Kony attention alone can't solve the problem

By now, everyone on campus should be aware of who Joseph Kony is and what the Stop Kony/Invisible Children movement is trying to do. But for those of you who aren't aware, Joseph Kony is a warlord in Uganda where he kidnaps children, forcing them to murder their parents and then using those same children as bodyguards.

Currently, there is a movement spreading throughout the Internet to raise awareness and stop Kony — most notably a 30-minute video called "Invisible Children," which goes a little deeper into the horrible situation taking place in Uganda.

Don't get me wrong, people should be aware. We should be trying to find a way to stop this monster, but at what point are people going to realize that awareness and empathy will not solve the problems at hand? If shown a blank map of the world, could you point to Uganda? What is the ultimate plan for stopping Kony?

In general, the situation in Africa isn't good — some people don't have access to clean water, they don't have an established agriculture system and many of the countries are terrorized by warlords. I'm well aware of the serious human rights violations occurring in African nations, but there isn't anything I can do. I simply don't have the



Robert Fix

Rebel without a pulse

power to help out Africa or any other country.

And it's the same in this case: people are upset about Kony, but they don't have a plan to stop him. Some protestors want Kony assassinated, and other are trying to get the United Nations to step in and arrest Kony.

Arrest or assassination would seem like a good solution, but all that will create is a power vacuum. The situation is in no way like a snake, where when you cut the head off, the body dies. Kony's removal would spawn a Hydra-like situation, where another head grows and continues to massacre people. What should happen is the people of Uganda, with cooperation from the real military, must arrest and charge Kony for the crimes committed against the people. Other potential warlords in the country have to be made aware that the people of Uganda are no longer going to roll over and allow a tyrant to terrorize their country.

See FIX | page 5

## Letter to the Editor

### Repeal campus gun ban Misguided policy measure

Like most students, I received an e-mail and read in the Barometer that firearms are now banned on the OSU campus. Furthermore, trained and licensed individuals with concealed weapons permits have also been banned from rightfully carrying a firearm.

I called Jack Rogers, the OSU public safety director and strong supporter of the ban, to ask him some questions. My first question was what motivated the ban — Had there been problems with accidental firearm discharges on campus? His response was, "No, there have not been any firearm discharge problems on campus. We instated the ban to prevent such discharges from happening."

My concern with this is that they are trying to fix a problem that isn't there. The university has no solid basis or reason for creating the ban.

I then asked about what the Constitution of the United States says, about the "right to bear arms shall not be infringed." He said the university is a private entity (which it isn't; it's a publicly funded university), and therefore has the right to override the

Constitution. This is appalling. Our public officials, at least Jack Rogers, view the Constitution as a "guideline" instead of a set of human rights. They see the Bill of Rights more as a "Bill of Privileges" that the government can restrict, remove and regulate."

I then asked if there was a school shooting, what is the response time for police officers compared to the response time to a concealed weapons permit holder?

In a very angry voice, Rogers responded, "I do not entertain hypothetical situations," and he hung up the phone. This action was the most disturbing of all.

First off, he is a public official and does not have the right to not answer questions. Second, school shootings are not hypothetical. Think of the Ohio school shooting a few weeks ago, the Virginia Tech shooting, the Columbine shooting and the Thurston Oregon school shooting — Jack needs to realize that concealed weapons permit holders are not against the police; they want to help them. People get their permits to protect themselves and others around them when police aren't around. Repeal the ban.

BRANDON ROSES  
Senior, chemistry



## LEATHERS

Continued from page 4

whereas sadness is an emotion, happiness is a disposition.

William O'Malley, professor at Fordham Preparatory School in Bronx, N.Y., advocates that happiness is more than a simple emotion or a temporary feeling of bliss. He describes a common misconception of how to obtain happiness: "... (People believe) if they can accumulate enough money, fame, sex and power, they'll be happy." Too often, people confuse happiness with the feelings of joy connected with accomplishment, or the pleasure associated with material gain.

As young kids, did the euphoric excitement we felt opening presents on Christmas Day retain its vigor three months later? No, we got used to our new toys and soon after began looking for what we could put on the list for next year. This destructive association between material possessions and joy is often a root of unhappiness.

O'Malley states, "The wise Greeks believed that genuine happiness resided not in the feelings at all, nor in our accumulations, but rather in the soul." O'Malley believes that happiness comes from being satisfied with the person we are. Our conscience governs our self-judgment and is responsible for our personal view of our character. This stresses the individual's power to determine his or her level of happiness based on his or her own personal disposition.

O'Malley goes on to emphasize a different aspect of his definition: "Happiness, then, independent of feelings, means being serene in the face of the unchangeable, courageous before the changeable and wise enough to know which is which." O'Malley establishes a connection between happiness and what an individual chooses to focus on. An individual must look to the future, the changeable, rather than preoccupy himself or herself with the unchangeable, the past.

This idea emphasizes the effect

that peace of mind has on happiness. An individual who can understand when to let things that are out of their control go will have a greater capacity to focus on things within their domain of influence. Elimination of unneeded stress will lead to better physical and psychological health. Although health within itself is not happiness, improving it will make one more content and satisfied with one's inner being.

Within the philosophy of Buddhism, the primary goal is to obtain "nirvana," which by definition is the end of suffering and the freedom of the mind. It seems as though what Eastern cultures call nirvana, is closely acquainted with what Western cultures define as happiness. Many Buddhist monks live in relative poverty, yet they do not suffer because their disposition is such that they take only as much as they need. They are at peace with their inner spirit and comfortable with who they are.

According to common Buddhist beliefs, the process to obtain nirvana is that of rejecting worldly possessions and pleasures in order to find an inner peace that is not based on physicality. O'Malley's views agree with those of Buddhism; happiness is not won through pleasure or riches, but through a self-reflection process in which one can definitively give themselves a vote of confidence.

Happiness is something we may have at some times and lack at others. However, it is neither a fleeting emotion nor a transient moment of joy. It is obtained when one embraces himself and the world for what they are. It is lost when one loses respect for who they are and the life they live. It is the process by which one enhances the things they can, and learns to accept those they cannot. Above all, true happiness is the approval and satisfaction of the man staring back from the mirror.

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.

## FIX

Continued from page 4

There is too much focus on the general problem, instead of all the reasons that allow this problem to be in the first place. There's always talk about starvation in Africa, warlords and poor health conditions, but there is no talk about fixing the problems that cause all those crimes to occur.

Starvation is a result of a failed agricultural system, and the United States continually sending food doesn't help solve the problem. If we really wanted to help, we would work on way to create farmlands in Africa and help the people cultivate the crops. Poor health conditions are a result of a lack of substantial food and clean water. If we could create a water system that provides clean water to the people that they can manage themselves, poor farming and health would no longer be a concern. Warlords have power because people are afraid of where their next meal is going to come from. Give the people the power to take care of themselves and their situation will instantly improve, with less involvement on our part.

Look at crime in the United States: We are developing improved police tactics, and better tracking and detection methods, however, we aren't focusing on the real problems that create more and more criminals.

Our failing education system is a major reason for the increase in crime rates. Schools from the inner cities, even here in Corvallis, aren't the best they can be, nor are they funded to level they should be. School is the beginning for every child; we need to be encouraging and helping students to succeed and reach their potential. Sure, some students are going to go further than others, but we shouldn't give up on a single student because of their attitude or how far they're expected to make it in life.

Nowadays to get a job, you need a degree of some kind, and when most of the people barely have a high school diploma, it becomes difficult for them to feed their families since they don't have a job to support themselves. That isn't to say we should lower the standards, but it does suggest that we need to raise our citizens to a higher level so they can provide for their family without having to resort to crime.

I digress; Kony may be a horrible man, but our awareness of the situation or sympathy for the poor people of Uganda will not help the victims. If you run across a starving child, how will your sympathy or awareness of a starving child save his life? Being there first hand and buying the child food or shelter will make an impact, but words can't so far.

Our focus should be on solving problems rather than reacting to a horrible situation. Fantastic, several million Americans are aware of Kony, but guess what, he is still in power, still killing people and still ruining the lives of children. Awareness may help to move the gears and get people motivated to do something, but unless we fix the situation that allowed for a man like Kony to take power, nothing will change.

Robert Fix is a senior in business. The opinions expressed in his columns do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff. Fix can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

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		6	3	1	8	4		
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		6		5		9		4
				4		9		3

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6		2	7		4			
2		7			5	9	8	
	3			6		2		
		6	3	1	8	4		
	7		4				3	
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# Administration blocks Texas voter ID law

A controversial new Texas law requiring voters to present personal identification before going to the polls has been blocked by the Obama administration.

In a letter Monday to state officials, the Justice Department said the legislation could have a discriminatory effect on Hispanics and other minorities.

Texas is among eight states that require official photo identification in an effort to stop what officials say is voter fraud. Opponents of the laws say they disenfranchise poor, minority and disabled voters.

The department concluded there is little evidence of voter fraud in Texas warranting the legislative changes.

"We note that the state's submission did not include evidence of significant in-person voter impersonation not already addressed by the state's existing laws," said Thomas Perez, assistant attorney general.

The landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 gives the federal government the power to oversee any changes in voting procedures in states and jurisdictions with a history of voter discrimination.

Texas' new voting boundaries for congressional and legislative seats are also being challenged separately in federal court.

The Justice Department, relying on statistics provided by the state, said Hispanics in

particular would be negatively affected by the Texas law.

"Under the data provided in January, Hispanics make up only 21.8 percent of all registered voters, but fully 38.2 percent of the registered voters who lack these forms of identification. Thus, we conclude that the total number of registered voters who lack a driver's license or personal identification card issued by [the state Department of Public Safety] could range from 603,892 to 795,955," Perez said in the letter, addressed to the director of elections for the Texas secretary of state.

"Even using the data most favorable to the state, Hispanics disproportionately lack either a driver's license or a personal identification card ... and that disparity is statistically significant," Perez said.

A similar voter ID law in South Carolina was blocked by the Obama administration in December.

Texas and South Carolina now have the option of asking a federal court in Washington to review the laws, and allow them to be enforced this election year.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry released a statement soon after the Justice Department's decision was announced, slamming it as "yet another example of the Obama administration's continuing and pervasive federal overreach."

"The DOJ has no valid reason for rejecting this impor-

tant law, which requires nothing more extensive than the type of photo identification necessary to receive a library card or board an airplane," he said.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott has defended the law, saying it imposes "minor inconveniences on exercising the right to vote."

Voters in the state would be required to present one of seven types of government-issued photo identification, including a driver's license, a passport or a concealed handgun permit. Those lacking the ID would be given a provisional ballot, but the voter would have to present an approved document to the registrar's office within six days of the election.

Those lacking acceptable identification would be given a free voter identification card.

Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act has been used by federal authorities for decades to oversee election changes in 16 states or selected areas, including parts of New York City.

Texas and other jurisdictions have chafed at the requirements, saying there has been no recent government effort to discriminate. They argue they should not continue to have the burden of showing that any voting changes would not burden or interfere with someone's ability to vote.

Opponents of the voter ID

law in Texas have said minority voter turnout could be suppressed 3 percent to 5 percent at a time when the Hispanic population there is growing rapidly. There have also been complaints the new law has not been sufficiently publicized.

"Texas' voter ID law would prevent countless Latinos, African-Americans, elderly citizens and others from casting their ballot," said Katie O'Connor, a staff attorney with the ACLU's Voting Rights Project. "We're pleased the Department of Justice has recognized the harms this discriminatory law would have on people's fundamental right to vote."

The Justice Department said Hispanic registered voters in Texas are 46.5 percent to 120 percent more likely than a non-Hispanic registered voter to lack the required identification.

The nation's second largest state has a population of 25.1 million, an increase of 4.3 million in the past decade. That explosive growth ensures Texas will gain four congressional seats, requiring new voting boundaries that are still being litigated in court. The Supreme Court in January ordered a special federal court in Texas to reconsider its rejection of the maps approved by the state's Republican majority.

— CNN

## Intense rains cause flash flooding, spur evacuations in Louisiana

A burst of intense rain caused perilous flash flooding Monday in parts of Louisiana, spurring the rescues of hundreds — from people marooned inside their homes to middle school students stranded on a bus.

According to the National Weather Service, southern Louisiana was pelted with an estimated 15 inches of rain in six hours, with on-and-off rain continuing for hours after that.

"I'm 46 years old, native to this area, and have been through several hurricanes, and I've never seen anything like this," said Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Kip Judice.

Hours after the biggest pocket of rain hit, Judice said that 10 rescues were under way around 6:30 p.m. This is in addition to the more than 150 such operations that took place earlier to get people out of residences

and cars.

One of those involved 16 adolescents whose bus became stuck after more than 4 feet of water covered the road, Judice said. Boats and dump trucks were used to reach the children and bring them to safety.

The town of Carencro was among the hardest hit communities in Lafayette Parish, according to Capt. Craig Stansbury, who is also from the Parish Sheriff's Office. He noted there were reports of water as high as 8 feet on some roadways.

Stansbury said fire department vehicles, tractors and conventional boats and air boats were being used to reach those stranded in homes and cars.

"A lot of things that we have at our disposal, we're just going to go ahead and utilize," he said. "Whatever it takes to get to the people."

One of the worst hit parts of the state

was St. Landry Parish, where Government Administrative Director Jessie Bellard estimated 2,000 people had been affected so far. A state of emergency has been declared for the parish, though there are no known injuries or fatalities there or elsewhere.

People were driving dump trucks to rescue residents who have flooding in their homes and can't get out. He said several minor and major roads, including part of U.S. Highway 190, have experienced significant flooding.

"It's just a terrible situation," said Bellard.

Maj. Ginny Higgins of the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office said at least 15 to 20 roads were affected by flooding Monday in that parish. Several people were safely rescued after being trapped in their vehicles, she said.

— CNN

## Classifieds

### Help Wanted

**TB GELDING NEEDS EXERCISE PARTNER** at close-in facility; intermediate plus rider, dressage/event background preferred. Lesson/ride/work exchange possible. 541-929-7510 or e-mail [wrf@peak.org](mailto:wrf@peak.org) for more info.

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**REWARD IF FOUND -- BLACK IGO BAG** Lost: a small, black, oval-shaped bag that says "iGo" on the outside. It contains an antenna and three spare batteries, 2 flash drives and possibly other computer-related accessories. Cash reward and good karma if found or seen. [Email.millejas@onid.orst.edu](mailto:Email.millejas@onid.orst.edu)

### Health & Fitness

**OSU GUYS!** Get answers to questions you have always had and get paid for it! Attend a free MARS appointment and receive a \$20 gift certificate to Fred Meyer. Talk 1:1 with a MARS peer educator about sexual health and relationships. All appointments are confidential. To schedule call OSU Student Health Services at 541-737-2775. [studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/mars](http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/mars)

**STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES** has a fully integrated Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program to support any student, regardless of gender identity, who is a survivor of sexual assault. Call 541-737-9355 or come to Student Health in the Plageman Bldg. [studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/sane](http://studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/sane)

### Buyer Beware

The Oregon State University Daily Barometer assumes no liability for ad content or response. Ads that appear too good to be true, probably are. **Respond at your own risk.**

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**CLASSIFIED ADS are now ON-LINE!**

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No refunds will be issued.

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15 words or less, per day - \$3.75  
Each additional word, per day - 25¢  
10 Days - 25% off • 20 Days - 50% off

## Beaver Business LINEUP

Corvallis is bigger than OSU. Explore off-campus, starting here: Feed your sole with new Birks (Footwise).

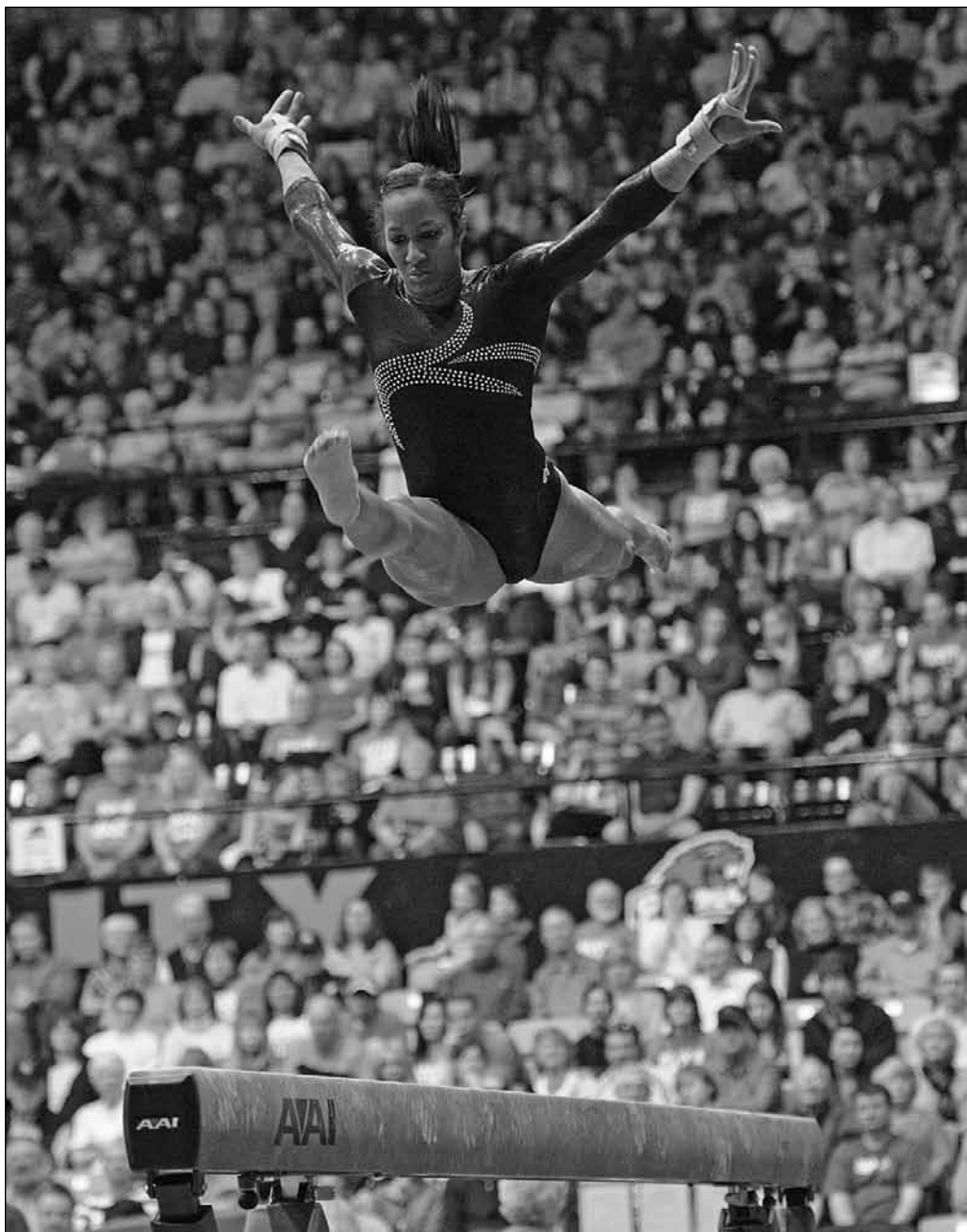
Drop us a line to suggest a business be included in next week's edition! 541-737-6373 [baro.business@oregonstate.edu](mailto:baro.business@oregonstate.edu)

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ALEXANDRA TAYLOR | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Harris has been steady for the Beavers this year. In last week's meet, she led the team with a 39.200 score on all-around.

## HARRIS

Continued from page 7

the higher clips compared to most other college gymnastics arenas. It's not the same in other places.

"It's a really important type of leadership role," said assistant coach John Carney. "Because everybody around here gets to see it at Gill, but it's even more impactful when we're at arenas that have less of a crowd. Like when we were at UC Davis, and there's 530 people in the arena, she kind of brings that rally of energy to the team and keeps that rolling."

Although the vocal direction she can give off to the rest of the team is extremely important, her performances as a gymnast are just as vital. As one of four regular all-arounders on the team, Harris is relied upon to put together strong showings in four different events in a given meet.

"She's very critical as we don't have a large, large squad," Carney said. "With her being able to con-

tribute the talent that she was recruited for on all four events – that's a huge testament to her work."

Harris has the ability to balance being both a strong competitor and also a team member who spreads her own confidence to the rest of the gymnasts. It's that kind of passion that makes her more one-of-a-kind.

"I just want to pour my heart to everyone on the team and try to fire them up in ways that are a good example," Harris said.

So the next time there's a gymnastics meet, just know that there's nothing fake behind the pump-up-the-crowd display that gets put on. It's all real, and it means a lot to both Harris and the team for it to happen.

"O WHAT?!" – "O STATE!" – will be a signature for Oregon State gymnastics for years to come, and the legacy will continue with the passion Harris brings for all eyes to see.

Warner Strausbaugh, sports writer

Twitter: @WStrausbaugh  
sports@dailybarometer.com

## DISC GOLF

Continued from page 7

Putters are used for close-range shots, such as 20 feet and closer to the basket. Mid-range discs help get a player as close to the basket as they can. Drivers are used for ultimate length and at the beginning of holes.

Like regular golf, the main goal is to make it through the course with as little throws as possible. Whoever has the lowest score wins.

Because the team is so new to campus, they are looking to expand and are doing all that they can to fundraise for upcoming tournaments and nationals.

If you are looking for a way

to get involved, and if you like the outdoors, disc golf might be for you.

Delohery added, "Disc golf is a fun way to be active and meet new people. Since we are a new club, we are all working together to make it even better."

Caitie Karcher, sports writer

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sports@dailybarometer.com

## STRAUSBAUGH

Continued from page 7

three games.

How is that even close to fair? Teams shouldn't be rewarded for timely hot streaks, no matter how fun they are to watch.

Going back to college hoops, the conference tournament showcase affects the small schools even more than the big ones. Take a look at the Sun Belt. Middle Tennessee went 25-6, 14-2 in conference, was clearly the best team in the conference. But, guess what, the 15-18 Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky (under .500!) go on a nice run and they get to participate in the play-in game to decide who gets the honor of losing to Kentucky by 40.

It even has a great deal of effect on the seeding in the tournament too. Florida State, in a perfect example, knock off Duke and UNC in the semis and finals of the ACC tournament, and – boom – instantly move from a five to a three-seed. A huge difference. Fives are notoriously upset by the 12-seeds they play, 3's rarely, if ever, lose to a 14-seed. I also can't tell you how many times during Sunday's Big 10 final between Michigan State and Ohio State did I hear, "the winner of this game

will be a one seed!" uttered by the announcers or the talking heads of CBS.

The justification for these tournaments plainly is not just at all. It generates excitement, every team gets a shot. But WHY should every team get a shot? Doesn't that threaten the integrity of sport in general? I'm sorry, but this isn't tee-ball. We're not giving out trophies to every 8-year-old just because they showed up. Sports are about competition, about pitting the best against the best when it matters most.

Conference tournament weekend is one of the most fun times to watch as a sports fan. Every team plays so hard, because they all know what's at stake. It's great basketball; it generates interest in the sport, no doubt.

In the end, it's way too much weight and influence on these tournament games that must make some of those teams watching March Madness from their couch look at the television and ask, "why did we even play those 30 games this season if our most recent loss deleted it from everyone's memory?"

But hey, that's sports and life. Not fair, I guess.

Warner Strausbaugh, sports writer

Twitter: @WStrausbaugh  
sports@dailybarometer.com

# ASOSU

## Intern Appreciation and Open House Event

### ASOSU THANKS AHE 406 INTERNS

The Associated Students of Oregon State University would like to extend their appreciation and gratitude to the all of the interns and volunteers who have worked with us over the past term.

These students contributed time and effort to many influential projects and events, helping to improve the OSU community. Among others, these events include the Northwest Student Leadership Conference, the passage of the Student Experience Center, the 6th annual Gripe Fest open-student forum, and many other vital aspects of campus life.

**Tuesday, March 13**  
**5:00-6:50 p.m.**

**TODAY!**

**Memorial Union East**  
**Snell Hall Lounge (149)**  
Pizza and refreshments.

**ASOSU could not have accomplished any of these projects without the support of the following individuals:**

Bandar Alkudhiri  
Prachet Bhatt  
Rachael Buck  
Brytann Busick  
Joanne Davaz  
Kelsey Downs  
Nicholas Hart  
Russell Jernstrom  
Radhika Kaushal  
Vanessa Kung

Chen-Chuan Li  
Molly Meiergerd  
Anusha Neelam  
Donald Paulson  
Nagini Reddy  
Victoria Redman  
Nicholai Rosoff  
Mark Saxton  
Lingyu Zhou  
Jliali Zhou

**Please join ASOSU in thanking these students for their help, passion, and dedication in the areas of social justice and community-building.**

**If you are a student interested with helping continue this great work next term, please consider registering for the Spring Term AHE 406 Class (CRN: 58429).**

# ASOSU

Associated Students of Oregon State University



## Setting the tone

■ **Brittany Harris has developed into one of the team's vocal leaders as a sophomore**

By **Warner Strausbaugh**  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

If you have attended an Oregon State gymnastics meet, you know what happens when the team heads to the final event of the night — the floor routines.

Every gymnast for the Beavers gathers on the floor mat, center stage in Gill Coliseum. The band begins to play the OSU fight song. A chorus of “OOOOOOOO-SSSSSSSS-UUUUUUUU — Oregon State, fight fight fight!” echoes throughout the arena from both the 3,000-plus fans in attendance and the gymnastics team.

It's a staple of a home meet for the Beavers to get everyone in the stands fired up for the final show of the night.

Then the electric scene comes to a halt. Brittany Harris, the 5-foot-7 sophomore out of Tulsa, Okla., takes the spotlight for the cherry on top of the rousing spectacle.

“O WHAT?!” Harris bellows to the crowd.

“O STATE!” the crowd responds.

This continues two more times, culminating in the beginning of the end of the night's meet.

Harris's role as the crowd-starter and motivator is important during these meets and with the rest of the team. The development of her as the vocal leader of the gymnastics team has blossomed this year, and will ultimately continue throughout her career as a Beaver.

“I really do love the role of cheering the ‘O what? O State!’ because Jen Kesler did it last year and every time she did it at a meet, I was so excited,” Harris said. “I got pumped up too. Even if I didn't compete [on] floor, I was just pumped up to watch everyone else go.”

Kesler had the role before, and now it's Harris's. She has cherished the responsibility ever since she first did it in the Jan. 13 home meet against then-No. 3 Oklahoma — a meet in which the Beavers upset the Sooners.

“The first time I did it, I'm pretty sure



ALEXANDRA TAYLOR | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Brittany Harris brings energy each time she competes. Her energy is particularly noticeable before the final rotation of home meets, when she leads the “O WHAT” cheer.

that was the most nervous I've ever been,” Harris said. “What if I'm not loud enough? What if my voice cracks? I was thinking about everything that could go wrong. And then Jen Kesler stood beside me for support, and I was like ‘OK, I can do this. O what?!’ They did it back! It was so much fun.”

Teammates and coaches both recognize the strength Harris brings to the squad as an outspoken person who can provide support to the rest of the team through her personality and ability to lead.

“Brittany is a huge part of getting the team fired up,” said junior Kelsi Blalock. “I think it starts downstairs in the locker room before we get up. She's

always the loudest and voicing her opinion and it really does get everyone fired up.”

Senior Olivia Vivian agrees: “Brittany just has this energy — this just fired up, dominant kind of, ‘let's get them, let's beat them’ fire from within. When you have someone that comes along and treats the team in that aspect, it gets you all fired up.”

That kind of leadership from a sophomore is unique, and Harris will undoubtedly only increase that presence for the next two years. Vivian has provided plenty of senior leadership from the vocal side of things, and Leslie Mak, last year's Pac-10 Gymnast of the Year, and junior Makayla Stambaugh

play more of the lead-by-example role for the team.

But that quality of being able to have someone who can always be counted on to get the team ready to compete, and to get them excited in doing so, is something that Harris truly brings to the table for OSU.

“It would be strange to not have someone like Brittany Harris, who just has that ability to pump the whole team up,” Vivian said.

Even when the team is away from home, that kind of mentality can be even more important. The passionate fans of Gill fill in the stands at one of

See **HARRIS** | page 7



Warner **Strausbaugh**

My name is my name

## The problem with conference tourneys

This past weekend was conference tournament weekend. ESPN, CBS — all the big networks advertise the heck out of these tournament games, and everyone goes nuts about them. But I would argue that conference tournaments in college hoops are the single worst thing about the sport.

Sure, the regular season can be kind of dull. Teams play sporadically throughout November and December, and once conference play picks up, there's really only two months of basketball to be played.

Don't get me wrong, the conference tourneys are thrilling — as a fan. And especially this year for everyone in Corvallis who got to see the Beavers get a real shot at going dancing for the first time in 24 years.

But why should a team who has no business going to the Big Dance even have that opportunity in the first place?

Compare these two teams from the same conference going to their conference tournament:

Team A: 21-9 overall record, 14-4 conference record.

Team B: 17-13 overall record, 7-11 conference record, 0-2 vs. Team A.

Team A is the Washington Huskies, Team B is OSU. But guess what? In one fell swoop in the Pac-12 tournament, OSU knocks off UW, and like that, Washington's season is over. No hope for a tourney bid because of one upset.

Now, this is no knock on the Beavers, they're just the perfect and most recent example of why there is a glaring flaw in this system.

Washington played a great season; albeit in a very weak Pac-12 this year, but still, they or Cal were the best team by anybody's standards. On the other side, OSU vastly underachieved this year. They were expected to make a run at the Pac-12, and couldn't deliver.

But for one weekend in March, OSU can beat Washington, and the entire rest of the season is erased.

The Huskies were not great in the grand scheme of things. Weak conference, low RPI rating, unspectacular nonconference schedule outside of games with Duke and Marquette (they lost to South Dakota State by 19 by the way...watch out Baylor!).

Let's put conference tournaments in perspective. Imagine for a moment that there's a similar model in the NBA. Teams play their standard 82-game schedule from November to April, but rather than going into the normal playoff structure, we hold a “division tournament.”

So in the Southwest division, San Antonio, Dallas, Memphis, New Orleans and Houston play in a single-elimination tournament; winner gets a guaranteed spot in the playoffs. Somehow, some way, at this time in the year, the Hornets, who are 20-plus games out of the final eighth seed in the playoffs, are just clicking. Greivis Vasquez decides to put on his best Kemba Walker impression and they rattle off some big wins to take the crown. They're in.

And then on the other side of things, Portland, who had the eight-seed locked up at the end of the regular season, well, they got upset by the T-Wolves in their tournament. No playoffs for the Trailblazers. Their 82-game grind of a season is washed away because the atrocious New Orleans Hornets won

See **STRAUSBAUGH** | page 7

## Club sports at Oregon State: The disc golf team

■ **Oregon State has made it to nationals for the second consecutive year, thanks to some unique circumstances**

By **Caitie Karcher**  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

For the first time in school history, the Oregon State disc golf team hosted a national qualifier at Milo McIver State Park at the Riverbend Disc Golf Course this last weekend.

OSU, along with University of Oregon, Willamette University, Portland State University, Lane Community College and Humboldt State University competed in the qualifier.

The top two teams qualified for the National Collegiate Disc Golf Championship in Augusta, Ga., which will be held on April 11 and 12.

Oregon State was able to secure a spot due to some unique circumstances.

Overall in the tournament, OSU placed fourth with 674, but because University of Oregon is the reigning national champion, they get an automatic spot in nationals — and Portland State decided it did not want to go to nationals.

Because of these events, Oregon State will be joining Humboldt State, who placed first in the tournament with 642 points, in Georgia come April.

Since the team consists of 30 members, they can only send their top four players. The players are Jordan Bowser, Jon Lebsack, Connor Smith, Casey Walker and alternate Andrew Downey.

Member Randi Gullickson took second and member Katelyn Cooley took third in the wom-

en's individual event, which will allow them to compete in nationals as well, but as individuals.

The OSU disc golf team was founded in 2010, and has made it to nationals two consecutive years.

“Last year we were able to go to nationals because of our coach's connections and because it was our first year,” said Sean Delohery, vice president of the club.

Nate Sexton, their head coach, is currently ranked No. 25 in the world professionally, and has made a large difference in the team.

Each Tuesday, Sexton will come up with a lesson to teach the team, and that is what they try and focus on for the rest of the week.

“Nate is phenomenal, and he really helps out the team more than he even knows,” Delohery said.

Each Tuesday and Thursday, the team meets at the Truax Building from 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. for practice.

Willamette Disc Golf Course and Adair Disc Golf Course are the two local courses they also try to practice at on a regular basis.

At practice, they typically warm up with putting and mid-range shots, then move onto the lesson that Sexton comes up with.

They have 30 due paying members, and usually about 20 members show up for each practice. The club fee is \$20 per year, and all skill levels are welcome to join.

The main competition within the club is for spots on the team that travels to nationals. Otherwise, each member comes to practice to improve their skills and have fun.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | COURTESY OF THE DISC GOLF CLUB

The OSU disc golf club will send four members to nationals in April.

Each member has a certain bag tag, and they compete with each other to swap bag tags. Bag tags represent a member's skill level, so to get certain bag tags, a member must beat out another member.

“This can be a lot of fun, because it creates competition within the team and helps us improve our skill levels,” Delohery said.

Disc golf has very similar rules as regular golf. The only main difference is the use of frisbees instead of clubs.

There are different kinds of frisbees used for different kinds of things performed on the course. The three main elements of the sport are putting, mid-range shots and driving.

See **DISC GOLF** | page 7