

# The Daily Barometer

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# The pitfalls, benefits behind credit cards

Without the proper knowledge, many students find themselves swimming in credit card debt

By **Gabriella Morrongiello**  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

PART ONE OF TWO

Drew sat panicking in his parents' driveway. It was just a year ago, during his freshman year at Oregon State University, while on spring break, he was bringing home far more than a suitcase. Drew bore more than \$1,000 in credit card debt.

"Listening to my voicemail scared me," Drew said, who requested not to be identified in this article. "I didn't want to hear any of the messages regarding the money I owed."

According to the United States Census Bureau, 19.7 million students were enrolled in college in the fall of 2010, Drew being one of them. Like Drew, these students were swarmed by credit card marketers and banks solicit-

ing cards. Brochures, t-shirts and even bottle openers were used to draw students in and get them to sign up.

For most of these students, the cards they acquire provided a way to pay for gas or books with no long-term negative consequences. However, for Drew, and a growing number like him, easy access to credit cards lead to uncontrollable spending and debt that could compromise one's future. A keg of beer and a late night Jimmy John's order now takes on a new meaning, with some freshmen racking up more than \$15,000 in credit card debt before they graduate.

Now more than ever, college students in the United States need to be taught a lesson concerning the responsible and wise use of credit before they wind up needing to pay off a seemingly insurmountable debt.

Recently, credit card companies have been under great scrutiny. Critics say companies have been known to offer rates and plans that extend far beyond students' financial means

and often come with little or no financial explanation, leaving some uncertain of their obligations. Eventually, when students build up balances on their cards, they find themselves facing unforeseen fees and confusing jargon.

William Mays, a first-year student at OSU, had heard from friends about how much nicer it is to pay for gas with a credit card than out of pocket. Mays visited the Bank of America branch in Corvallis, spoke with a teller and left with a few print outs and pamphlets regarding banking for students and credit.

"When I got back to my dorm room, I sat down at my desk and began reading the book about credit cards. I didn't find it to be very helpful," Mays said.

Unfortunately, Mays is not the only student who found the concept of credit to be baffling. The Charles Schwab Foundation performed a survey in 2007 which showed that only 45 percent of teens knew how to use a credit card, and a mere 26 percent understood credit-card interest and fees. It's not surprising that Mays,

as well as many other college students, remain in the dark about credit, interest and debt.

In response to students' confusion and inexperience, "Bank of America takes a conservative approach to issuing credit cards to students and our objective is to build the foundation for a long-term banking relationship," said Betty Reiss, senior vice president of the Bank of America in the San Francisco Bay area. "To help students use credit responsibly, we provide a number of tools."

Some of these tools include free "e-alerts" to notify customers who have reached their credit limit and an educational website developed through Bank of America's partnership with Monster.com that provides information on budgeting, banking, smart credit and paying for college.

Though most banks do a great deal to help guide students along the right path, when it comes to credit card use and debt, many

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# Spring one-act play festival begins tonight in Withycombe

Student directed shows highlight student talent, start at 7:30 in Withycombe

By **Annechy Beauchemin**  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Starting today, audiences can come to the Withycombe Theater to see what Oregon State University theater students have learned about production.

The Spring One-Act Festival is an opportunity for multiple interested students to select a brief one-act play and run the show as director. Students select a cast and are responsible for the final outcome at the festival in May of each year.

"It's been a lot of blood, sweat and tears, but it's been fun," said Davey Kashuba, a student director majoring in theater.

The casts of the one-acts range from new to experienced, which sometimes shaped the experience of

directing into a teaching experience.

"All my actors were new to the OSU stage," Tucker Minnick said, director of Mary Plowman's "Get out of Your Cage."

In contrast, Sarah McKinney directed Jack Junior "The Buccaneer's Bairn" with only two actors, both of whom she had worked with before.

"It lowered my stress level significantly," McKinney said, "especially since I had to teach them how to sword fight."

During the directing process, McKinney additionally corresponded with Jeff Goode, the author of Jack Junior. "He responded to my e-mail completely in pirate language," McKinney said.

"It's really been a give-and-take relationship," Megan Grassl said of working with actors regardless of their experience. Grassl is the student director of Crane Johnson's Fear. "If I didn't have their responses to what

See **ONE ACT** | page 3



**NEIL ABREW** | THE DAILY BAROMETER

ABOVE: Eric Leman performing in "The Actor's Nightmare" is about to be executed. LEFT: Jamie Bilderback and Jonathan Thompson perform in "Fear."



## Puppy love



**HANNAH O'LEARY** | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Mark Speulda, who with his wife, runs the Senior Dog Rescue out of their home plays with dogs Tuesday in the Memorial Union Quad as part of a fund raiser for Kappa Kappa Psi, Dogs in the Quad.

# New transcript notation for undergraduates

Undergrads can now have research, arts work completed noted on transcript

By **Michael Mendes**  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

A new program at Oregon State University gives all undergraduate students the opportunity to be recognized on their transcript for their contributions to research or creative contributions to the arts, and gives an additional incentive for undertaking such a project.

By completing and presenting a project and filling out the application for the program, a student can receive the title of undergraduate research fellow or undergraduate arts fellow marked on their transcript.

"The option is open to students in every major," said Kevin Ahern, OSU's director for undergraduate research and a senior instructor in the department of biochemistry and

biophysics. "A student can even do a project outside of their college."

Projects outside of a student's college must be approved by Ahern at least two weeks before the application for the term is due.

For all projects in the program, there are three requirements a student must meet, all of which must be completed before submitting the application. The application must be submitted before the student graduates.

"First, students have to do an independent, out of class project under the guidance of an OSU mentor," Ahern said. The mentor must be an assistant, associate or full tenured professor.

"Second, the student must give a public presentation of their work," Ahern said. For research projects, this could be a publication in a peer-reviewed journal, a presentation of their work at a symposium, or another

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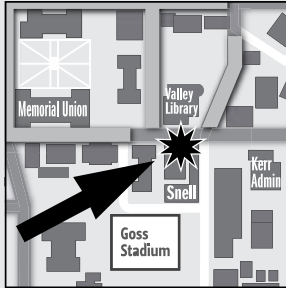
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Formal written complaints about The Daily Barometer may be referred to the committee for investigation and disposition. After hearing all elements involved in a complaint, the committee will report its decision to all parties concerned.

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# Alabama legislature passes new immigration bill

Alabama lawmakers passed a new bill Wednesday aimed at improving the state's controversial immigration law, but critics said the new measure might make things worse.

Demonstrators protested outside the chambers of the Alabama state House and Senate. Seven of them were arrested, said Justin Cox, staff attorney with the ACLU Immigrants Rights Project.

The Southern Poverty Law Center's legal director was among those arrested, said Marion Steinfelds, a representative of the organization.

Police could not be immediately reached for comment.

The center is one of the plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit against Alabama's immigration law.

The new immigration bill, known as HB 658, was approved by the state House and Senate Wednesday.

The state's governor will have the final say, with the power to sign the bill into law or veto it.

Jeremy King, a spokesman for Gov. Robert Bentley, said Wednesday evening before the House's vote that Bentley had not yet taken a position on the bill.

Alabama Sen. Dick Brewer told CNN that the new bill addresses unintended consequences of the immigration law, including clarifying the types of documents that can serve as a form of official identification.

It does not address parts of the law that are at issue in federal courts, he said.

Critics say parts of the new measure would be even harsher than last year's immigration law.

"The new bill preserves most of the law while adding several positions that

make it even more dangerous," the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice said in a statement.

Cox, of the ACLU, said the biggest problem of the state Senate's bill was that it would require the Alabama Department of Homeland Security to post the names of illegal immigrants that appear in state courts.

The coalition said that provision "amounts to a 'scarlet letter' provision likely to lead to harassment and vigilantism."

House lawmakers voted 68-37 in favor of the Senate's version of the bill Wednesday night.

Before the vote, several lawmakers appeared skeptical about the Senate version of the bill. House lawmakers approved a different version of the bill last month.

Rep. Napoleon Bracy Jr. criticized senators for the pro-

posal, calling it "a totally different bill that no one has had a chance to read that's full of unintended consequences."

Other lawmakers worried that the measure would negatively affect the state's economy, and expressed concerns about racial profiling.

But lawmakers backing the bill said it protects the state's residents and helps its economy.

Alabama's existing law, known as HB 56, has several provisions, including one requiring police who make lawful traffic stops or arrests to try to determine the immigration status of anyone they suspect might be in the country illegally.

A federal appeals court has blocked some components, however, including one requiring Alabama officials to check the immigration status of children in public schools.

— CNN

# NASA estimates 4,700 'potentially hazardous' asteroids

About 4,700 asteroids are close enough and big enough to pose a risk to Earth, NASA estimated Wednesday after studying data beamed back from an orbiting telescope.

The figure — give or take 1,500 — is how many space rocks bigger than 100 meters (330 feet) across are believed to come within 5 million miles (8 million km) of Earth, or about 20 times farther away than the moon.

"It's not something that people should panic about," said Amy Mainzer, an astronomer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. "However, we are paying attention to the issue."

NASA defines a potentially hazardous asteroid as one large enough to survive the intense heat generated by entry into the atmosphere and cause damage

on a regional scale or worse. The figure released Wednesday is lower than a previous rough estimate had projected, but more are now thought to be in orbits inclined like Earth's, making them more likely to cross its path.

Mainzer said asteroids in orbits pitched at a similar angle offer not only a hazard, but also an opportunity. They would be easier for spacecraft to reach.

"They're a population of interest, and we want to keep an eye on them," she said.

NASA says a 40-meter asteroid would strike the Earth with an impact comparable to a 3-megaton nuclear bomb. A 2-km asteroid striking Earth "would produce severe environmental damage on a global scale," the space agency estimates, but an impact of that magnitude

isn't likely to occur more than twice per million years.

The estimate comes from infrared scans of the cosmos by the 16-inch WISE telescope, which was launched in December 2009. The instruments aboard the satellite allowed scientists to spot close-in asteroids by picking up the heat they emit, Mainzer said.

"It allows us to find the very dark asteroids, the ones that are more like a piece of coal and than shiny pavement," she said. "We can also tell the difference between an asteroid that's very large and very dark and a small one that's very shiny."

Mainzer said between 20 perfect and 30 perfect of the estimated 4,700 potentially hazardous objects have been discovered so far.

— CNN

# Federal judge turns down Tombstone's emergency bid to fix water pipeline

The city of Tombstone, Arizona, has lost the first round in its showdown with the federal government over water.

U.S. District Judge Frank Zapata this week shot down Tombstone's request for an emergency injunction ordering the U.S. Forest Service to step aside and let the city use heavy equipment to repair its 130-year-old pipeline in the Huachuca Mountains.

The pipeline and some of Tombstone's springs lie within

a federally protected wilderness area, requiring a permit from the Forest Service. But Tombstone says it owns the land and doesn't have to ask anyone for permission to make repairs that are critical to its survival.

In a 14-page written decision, Zapata said the evidence showed that the Forest Service had attempted to approve some permits, but that the city did not provide enough information.

Tombstone immediately appealed to the 9th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals. Tombstone also plans to ask the 9th Circuit court for an injunction.

"We will take it all the way up to the Supreme Court if necessary," said Christina Sandefur, and attorney with the Goldwater Institute, which represents Tombstone.

Tombstone's 26-mile water line, which dates back to 1881, was damaged in landslides

that followed last summer's Monument Fire.

The city plans to hold the Tombstone Shovel Brigade on June 8 and 9, hoping hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteers with donated shovels will head into the mountains and work on the pipeline.

"The most desperate part of our work is to try to protect the work we have done from the monsoons," said Tombstone City Clerk George Barnes.

— CNN

# Calendar

Thursday, May 17

Meetings

**Baha'i Campus Association**, 12:30-1pm, MU Talisman Room. "Building a Spiritual Democracy" is the topic for this interfaith devotion, meditation and quiet time. Please share your favorite inspirational material.

Events

**Center for Leadership Development**, 5:30-6pm, MU Council Room. Officer Transition Series: Join student leaders at OSU for workshops on officer transitions.

**Student Sustainability Initiative**, Noon-4pm, MU Brick Mall. Dust off your bike and come join us for the 2nd Annual Bike Extravaganza. Bike mechanics from Dixon Recreation Center will be present to help fix your bike.

Friday, May 18

Events

**Music Department**, Noon, MU Lounge. Music à la Carte, featuring Toby Ort, principal trombone of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and OSU's Jay Chen on trumpet. Free nighttime concert open to all.

Saturday, May 19

Events

**Native American Student Association**, 1-10pm, Gill Coliseum. 36th Annual OSU Klatowa Eena Powwow, Grand Entry 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**Native American Student Association**, 10am, Native American Longhouse, 311 SW 26th St. Jim Thorpe's Dash for Diabetes 5k Fun Run. Free diabetes screening by Student Health Services.

Sunday, May 20

Events

**Native American Student Association**, 1-5pm, Gill Coliseum. 36th Annual OSU Klatowa Eena Powwow, Grand Entry 1 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22

Meetings

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

Events

**Center for Leadership Development**, 4:30-5pm, MU Council Room. Officer Transition Series: Join student leaders at OSU for workshops on officer transitions.

**ASOSU**, 5-6:30pm, MU 109. ASOSU Town Hall: An open forum to come and get your opinions on ASOSU heard!

Wednesday, May 23

Meetings


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

**Vegans and Vegetarians at OSU**, 5:30pm, 330 NW 23rd St. All welcome to potluck-style meetings, share recipes and have great conversation.

Events

**Latter-Day Saint Student Association**, 7:30pm, MU Journey Room. Outreach: Presenting the movie "Joseph Smith: The Prophet of the Restoration"

**Women's Center**, Women's Studies, Office of Equity & Inclusion, Memorial Union, 4pm, MU 109. "After the Silence": a story of inspiration for anyone whose life has been touched by the horror of domestic or interpersonal violence. Peggie Reyna (with interpreter), the social worker on whom the film is based will answer questions. Representatives will be available from CARDV and CAPS.



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# House passes bill lengthening elections

## ■ Bill hopes to increase voter turnout in ASOSU elections in future

By Don Iler  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

In a quick business meeting, the Associated Students of Oregon State University House of Representatives passed one bill and tabled two others.

JB 71.07, which passed eight to one, would increase the length of ASOSU primary and general elections, and changed the language of when elections would occur.

The bill increased the primary election from two days to three, and the general elections from two days to five.

Andrew Struthers, one of

the bill's sponsors, thought the increased length would allow for more students to participate in the elections, which would increase student turnout. He cited that the University of Oregon had over 3,000 votes in their last general election, whereas only 1,871 OSU students voted in this year's presidential election. That is approximately 7.5 percent of the student body.

The House then moved to table two resolutions, HR 03.08 and HR 03.09, both having to do with accessibility, until the future, when more information could be determined, such as how many accessible parking spaces are located on campus and who would implement the resolu-

tions if they are passed.

The House then heard JR 71.04, which the Senate heard last night. The resolution would lend ASOSU's support to the cause of legalizing same-sex marriage, and encouraged both the state and federal government to end bans on same-sex marriage.

The resolution encountered the same questions as it did in the senate, with many representatives unsure if supporting such a hot-button topic as same-sex marriage was truly the opinion of the student body.

"We need to consider what the impact on ASOSU and our ability to serve students may result from any possible backlash from it," said Representative Michael Robb.

Jesse Davis encouraged representatives to attend next Tuesday's town hall meeting at 6 p.m. in the Memorial Union to hear other student's opinions about a resolution supporting same-sex marriage.

The House of Representatives meets again next Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Union.

Don Iler, managing editor  
managing@dailybarometer.com  
On Twitter: @doniler

## ONE ACT

■ Continued from page 3

they're doing on stage, we wouldn't be where we are now."

The one-acts range from psychological thrillers to comedy and surrealism to slice-of-life.

All one-act plays run together each day of the event. The Spring One-Act Festival opens May 17 at 7:30 p.m. and continues through May 19. For those who can't make it in the evening, the festival closes with a matinee at 2:00 p.m. on May 20.

Tickets start at \$4 for OSU students. For more information, call the box office at (541)737-2784.

Annecy Beauchemin, reporter  
news@dailybarometer.com  
On Twitter: @dailybarometer

# Obama, congressional leaders talk about debt

President Barack Obama and congressional leaders met Wednesday to discuss upcoming budget deadlines, one day after House Speaker John Boehner drew a line in the sand over what could be another bitter showdown between the White House and Congress later this year.

The president focused on his "to-do list" for Capitol Hill, a five-step plan of fiscal policies the White House says is aimed at building economic growth. But Boehner's office said the meeting largely centered on the next scheduled debt ceiling increase, set to go to a vote at the end of the year, along with a "fiscal cliff" of expiring tax policies and new spending cuts coming before Congress, all by January 1, 2013.

Along with Boehner, Obama sat down with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The speaker, according to a statement from his office, told the president he would "not allow a debt ceiling increase without doing something serious about the debt," echoing comments he made at a summit Tuesday in which he demanded massive spending cuts in exchange for an increase in the debt limit.

Obama, according to Boehner's office, said he would propose a debt hike that does not include spending cuts.

— CNN

## CREDIT CARDS

■ Continued from page 3

also make the point that students have to be responsible for their own actions. Some banks have argued that they have to act like responsible parents, keeping credit cards out of the hands of some students who want them. These banks also recognize that parental advice about credit use can be extremely beneficial to a young adult or student.

Raymond Brooks, a professor of finance at OSU and author of the book "Financial Management Core Concepts," can't exactly applaud his parents for teaching him about credit card use.

"My parents taught me probably nothing. I was the first user of credit cards, they had no prior experience," Brooks said.

When asked what his top three pieces of advice would be for students looking to acquire a credit card, Brooks strongly suggested that students "pay it off every period, pay it off every period, and pay it off every period!"

Brooks says that fundamentally, this is the most important lesson to be learned, especially in the event of an emergency. He

asserts the idea that a credit card can act as an emergency loan card, and emphasizes the importance of paying off your monthly balance.

According to the organization College Parents of America, only 17 percent of students who hold one or more credit cards in their name regularly pay off all of the cards' balances each month. It is no wonder so many college students are finding themselves in debt these days. The primary way to accumulate debt comes as a result of not paying off one's monthly balance.

Obtaining one's first credit card is much more important than some think. It's an opportunity to build up a credit score and for those looking to buy a house or car, take out a loan, or start a business in the future, a higher credit score can result in a lower borrowing rate, as well as many other valuable offers.

While credit cards can have many effects on cardholders, the issuing banks and companies can have substantial benefits and/or consequences as well.

Gabriella Morrongiello, reporter  
news@dailybarometer.com  
On Twitter: @gabriellahopem

## UNDERGRADS

■ Continued from page 3

er public performance. For a project in the arts, this could be a public performance or recital.

"Third, the student must make a digital copy of their work and submit it to the ScholarsArchive@OSU." This could be in any readable or viewable format, such as video, audio file, slide show or presentation, etc.

The award can be applied for before the end of any term. This term is the first term the program is in effect, and the deadline for applications is June 1, 2012. The application should be turned in to the head adviser of the student's college.

"This can happen anytime during a student's career," Ahern said. "If you can get it on your transcript early, before you go out applying for jobs, then employers and graduate schools will see it noted on your transcript."

The program was first discussed two or three years ago, designed one and a half years ago, and approved by the university last year. According to Ahern, only a few colleges have this kind of program available to all majors.

"I think it's going to make student transcripts much more valuable," Ahern said.

More information about the program, including the application students can fill out (the transcript notation application for undergraduates), is available at <http://oregonstate.edu/students/research/> or by contacting Kevin Ahern.

Michael Mendes, reporter  
news@dailybarometer.com  
On Twitter: @MendesMHM

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Editorial

## Illegitimate internships

Summer is approaching, which means it's about time for college students to lock down summer internships.

If you're crazy enough to want to get into journalism — which naturally, some of us are — finding a legitimate internship is key.

Contrary to popular belief, finding a writing "internship" isn't as hard as one may believe. It's finding a legitimate one that is tough.

Chances are, if you can string together sentences at a WR 121 level, have a couple samples (even if it's a paper from a class and not something that was actually published), someone will be willing to let you write for them.

But we feel the need to make a clarification and point out what is wrong with journalism "internships" these days.

There are two types of internships out there.

There are legitimate internships, where you actually get compensated for your work and receive hands-on training. That's a real internship. It's competitive and tough to land. If you do land one, and do a good job, it could help launch you into a real job one day.

Then there are "internships" where an online website — which claims to have a huge following — sends out mass e-mails seeking writers. The only compensation you receive is in the form of hope — "we don't pay interns, but if you do well enough, one day we could hire you. And even if that doesn't happen, the exposure you'll receive by writing for us will help you land a job somewhere else."

These "internships" will essentially take anyone. For them, it's quantity over quality. The more content they get out there, the better. They use students for the content, then they themselves reap the benefits.

Not only do these programs take advantage of students by not legitimately compensating them, they also give the interns false hope.

Let's say a student lands an "internship" with an online site that has a big following. The student feels as though they've made it big. They think, "Wow, I have very little experience, but I've already landed an internship with an online site that has a big audience. This must be an easy field to get into!"

In reality, the students who are actually going to make it in the field are likely interning elsewhere.

The point of this is not to knock students who choose to take these illegitimate "internships." It's simply to warn them that all these companies are simply taking advantage of them.

Unfortunately, these illegitimate internships are here to stay. They'll continue to take advantage of students. Unless, of course, students realize that they're being taken advantage of. We'd love to see how companies would deal with that.

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  
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# OSU objections to grad unionization are ludicrous

"In short, the unrepresented assistants are students and not employees."

This sentence, as opaque as it may be to most people, was a revelation to anyone paying attention to the recent unionization effort at OSU.

Currently, around 900 of OSU's 1600 graduate students who are employed to do teaching and research work are part of a union called the Coalition of Graduate Employees (CGE) on the Oregon State University campus. The remaining 700 or so — mostly employed to do research — do not currently have union representation.

In the first three months of 2012, about 65 percent of them voted for the Coalition of Graduate Employees to represent them as well. The CGE proceeded to ask President Ed Ray to voluntarily recognize the will of the 700 employees.

Nevermind that a clear majority of people had already decided, he ultimately refused, claiming that he wanted to see a more traditional process involving the state's Employment Relations Board (ERB) followed.

As a result, the CGE filed the paperwork with the Oregon ERB asking for recognition of the employees' will. On May 1 — International Labor Day, ironically, and the last possible day it could have happened — OSU filed objections to the union's request with

Dennis Dugan  
CGE Member

the state ERB.

That these objections were filed at all are a clear lie of omission on the part of President Ed Ray. Rather than respect the outcome of a democratic vote — what he has claimed was his position — he has decided to fight it.

Even setting that aside, what's more interesting is the nature of the objections.

OSU's first objection — that the currently unrepresented persons are not employees — is laughable.

To wit: Both the represented and unrepresented groups fill out W-2s when OSU hires them. Both are taxed on their income. Both use the same group health insurance plan (in fact, the carrier reportedly refuses to insure non-employee graduate students, so it is clear that at least the insurance carrier believes the 700 are, in fact, employees).

When individuals in each group are hired, OSU uses the same template hiring documents. Individuals are often employed throughout the year and moved from represented to unrepresented positions and then back again — and sometimes their job is split into two components, one of which is represented and one of

which is not, though often the difference exists only on paper.

The list of similarities goes on; in short, the idea that the people currently without representation are not employees is simply silly, and President Ray ought to know better.

The second objection is that the two groups are too dissimilar to be included in one union.

I should point out that for the outcomes of the last several rounds of contract negotiations, OSU has chosen to extend the same employee benefits negotiated for represented employees to unrepresented employees, though they are not required to. Given the similar treatment each group receives at the hands of OSU, it's hard to see how the two groups are all that dissimilar.

Nevertheless, OSU tries: "The relationships and interactions between the student and faculty adviser do not constitute a supervisor-employee relationship."

Try telling that to the faculty who refer to unrepresented employees as employees, or to the departments who tell incoming graduate employees that they should treat their work as a full-time job. Both of these cases exist.

Or: "Unrepresented graduate research assistants will undertake whatever work is necessary to complete their academic work, whether compensated or not."

You know what? The same is true of represented graduate assistants. And that holds true for both the academic and non-academic work — that OSU would dare suggest otherwise is a blatant insult to the work graduate employees of all kinds are already doing.

For many people, the entire topic of graduate employee unionization is esoteric and perceived as far removed from daily life. The point here isn't to dispute that, though the question of graduate employee unionization is obviously important to the 450 graduate employees who decided they wanted union representation earlier this year. Rather, the point is first that OSU deceived the CGE by suggesting they would respect a democratic process and then filing objections; and second, that the objections filed are ludicrous, even using OSU's own behavior towards the two groups as the metric by which they are evaluated.

President Ray and Oregon State University should recognize the democratic will of their employees, full stop. To do otherwise — especially in the manner they have chosen — is poor behavior on the part of a university who needs the respect and trust of the public.

Dennis Dugan

Graduate Teaching Assistant, CGE member

## To the end of good television

I sat idly by and watched broadcasting services cancel show after show as we entered the months of April and May. I cheered when I heard that the "Walking Dead" would return, I cried manly tears when I was informed that "House" would have its series finale, and I felt little emotion at the long list of failed shows that met their demise to low ratings and overall horrible script-writing.

But now, I can't sit by and watch. Enough is enough.

It started with the mini-revolution that came when NBC was ready to pull the plug on "Community." It continued when shows like "Pan Am," "CSI: Miami," and "Alcatraz" were cast off into the pits of the non-successive shows of the past. It almost reached the breaking point when NBC said both "Community" and "30 Rock" would be canceled after one more season.

But then, Fox finally did it in for me when they announced "The Finder," a brand new show that had captivated my interest from start to finish, would not come back in the fall.

Several years ago, I abandoned all hope for television and stopped watching things altogether. I want to say it was because I preferred doing something outdoors and healthy, but I'm betting it was because Olivia Munn stopped being a host on a G4 show I watched daily. I slowly reentered the world of television by relocating my love of "House," introducing myself to "The Office," and even venturing overseas to experience the amazing work of art that is "Sherlock."

But now, that reborn hope is once again being crushed from existence. "House" is done, "The Office" is more than likely on its way out, and as much as I love "Sherlock," we fans are only given three episodes every eighteen months.

Once again, I will cease to find any kind of value in television shows because the ones that held potential and merit were killed before they could shine, and the ones that did shine grew too old to even glimmer.

Why are we seeing such a drastic slice into the world of television? Greed. Because broadcasters like NBC, CBS, and Fox find their flagship shows, the ones that get them ten million views per episode, and then they hold these flagship shows as their quota setters.

James Phillips

### The Daily Barometer

Every show that makes its way onto their schedule has to reach that quota.

Let's be real here: not every show is going to get ten million viewers. Even the ten million-mark is something to be desired for the best shows.

Just for a review: the shows "Grey's Anatomy," "The Big Bang Theory," "The Office," and "House" belonging to ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox respectively, garnered on average between 7.7 and 16.1 million views. And those are for the good shows, the ones that deserve renewal.

But then we get shows like "Scandal," "Blue Blood," "Whitney" and "Bob's Burgers" from the same broadcasters — each get an average viewing between 4.5 and 10 million views. I've heard of one of those shows, yet all four have been renewed for new seasons. Someone, please explain to me the logic behind a show like "Bob's Burgers," which got 4.5 million viewers on average, getting renewed while "The Finder," which started halfway through the season and garnered 5.5 million viewers on average, is canceled.

Also, please explain why shows that have enormous followings as well as potential, like "Community," "30 Rock" and "Awake" are going off while other shows that leave no mark on the viewer get to keep polluting our eyes.

If the only determining factor is viewership, then instead of scrapping good shows, perhaps producers could step back, look at the show and go, "How can we adjust this amazing idea and make it more widely-known?"

I know the determining factor isn't quantity. Shows like "The Cleveland Show" and "American Dad" just never seem to give up with their 22-episode seasons that get 5 million viewers. That pretty much pales in comparison to shows overseas like "Doctor Who," which released 13 episodes last season and received around 3 million more average viewers in the UK alone.

Don't even get me started on "Sherlock" — a show that has two seasons with an average of 9.5 million viewers from six episodes in total. Yeah, that's right, six.

Obviously the British are doing

## Letters to the Editor

### On redistribution, equating it to GPA GPA comparison not accurate

The assumption is often made that in capitalist societies, individuals earn their wealth, whereas in socialist societies, wealth is unfairly taken away from those who have earned it.

It is easy to use the issue of GPA to make this argument, as GPA is something that is indeed based on merit. Assuming the economy is also based on merit, it's a fair and consistent comparison to use to make your argument.

Unfortunately, this is an entirely false and misleading premise.

Let's turn this argument on its head.

Let's imagine a GPA system in a purely capitalist society. You inherit it from your parents. If they were valedictorians, just sit back and relax — you've got a free ride.

If your parents got straight Ds, good luck raising your GPA even if you're a genius, because you also have to pay all your professor's wages since it would be unfair to tax the rich kids to fund your education.

Here's how a meritocracy works: government creates a level playing field, so that everyone has the tools they need for success.

In an economy, that means that yes, sometimes people who hold a disproportionate amount of the wealth must be taxed disproportionately. Not because the government is full of a bunch of bullies trying to take your money, but because as a society we need roads, schools, healthcare, a military, etc. Things we as a nation have gotten together democratically and decided are worth it.

To whom much is given, much is required. It's not as if the rich aren't coming out ahead in this equation; they have benefited more from participation in this society than anyone else.

It's your right as much as

anyone else's to make an argument for your worldview, but please don't base your argument on a false comparison.

JOSEPH RYAN

Junior in nutrition-dietetics

### GPA redistribution, fictional concept Journey into the imagination

I wanted to add my own voice to the brilliant synopsis and discussion of the policy implications of "Atlas Shrugged."

I too think we should base our tax and economic policies on fictional works. For example, instead of Ayn Rand, let's apply the imagination of J.K. Rowling:

Everyone knows that the Weasleys are poor because they are too stupid and lazy to get ahead in life like the Malfoys. Lucius earned every gold coin he has by working hard at being born a Malfoy and then used that immense wealth to create jobs for thousands of happy house-elves.

He just wants to pass that entrepreneurial spirit on to his son Draco without it being stolen by the Ministry of Magic. The only thing the government does is redistribute the wealth to filthy muddbloods anyway.

Everyone knows that in a world where infinite money can be created by spells and is then guarded by honorable goblins, poverty is a lifestyle choice of the weak and academically challenged.

I prefer to base my political beliefs on make-believe times, places and people. It's a convenient way to solidify my "politically incorrect" views on class and race without having to actually put forth the effort to examine them in the real world.

Who knows what would happen if I actually had to think for myself.

KENNY RUZICKA  
PhD student

Forest Ecosystems and Society



# On Elizabeth Warren's (apparent) ethnic background, what it means for all

As the U.S. presidential and congressional elections approach, a number of key political races are shaping up across the country. One of the most intriguing competitions pits Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., against Harvard Law School professor Elizabeth Warren. This campaign for Ted Kennedy's old seat has already turned out to be the most expensive Senate race in the nation. But a recent distraction has refocused the attention from the rivals' political views to Warren's ancestry.

The Democratic challenger to Brown has recently come under fire for allegedly claiming minority status at various institutions to advance her career, despite being only 1/32nd Native American. Both Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania listed Warren as a minority faculty member in official publications during her tenure at the respective institutions in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Brown campaign and

the Native American Rights Fund have publicly questioned Warren's ability to list herself as a minority employee. Although the extent to which Warren benefited from her great, great, great-grandmother's Native American descent benefited her when she was being considered for teaching jobs at elite universities is unclear, there are a few lessons to learn from this ongoing fiasco.

First and foremost, this incident should serve as an opportunity for us to consider the state of affirmative action policies in the United States. Ethnic and racial identity is more complex than can be reflected by simply checking off a box.

According to the latest Census data, the multiracial population among American children has increased by almost 50 percent to 4.2 million people over 10 years. This vast increase makes children identifying as multiracial the fastest growing racial group among youths in the country.

But this changing demo-

## Kevin Francfort The Dartmouth

graphic also raises important questions about the wisdom of continuing policies that emphasize race as the main determining factor in affirmative action programs that attempt to assess a lack of opportunity for certain groups of people. Opponents and supporters of affirmative action alike ought to come together to acknowledge the shifting makeup of our population and the implications of such changes.

We must ask ourselves what the standard for allowing prospective students and educators to claim membership in a minority group should be. This is an important question, and it is one that will only grow in importance as the country's racial demographics continue to become more loosely defined.

This episode also should push each of us to consider the major cultural influences in our lives

and what makes these influences an integral part of who we are and how we are treated. Warren claims that she feels closely tied to Native American traditions and lore. As the topic has been thrust into the spotlight, she has explained that she is "very proud of [her] heritage."

For the moment, let's assume that Warren's Native American ancestry has had a significant impact on her life. If so, maybe she should be granted special consideration for employment under affirmative action programs.

But even if we agree with Warren's claims that she associates with Native American culture, and if we believe that she should receive benefits that

are meant to remedy the historical mistreatment of Native Americans, where do we draw the cutoff between who is and who is not a member of a racial or ethnic group?

If a person is 1/64th or even 1/132nd Native American, can they identify as being a part of the Native American population and claim the benefits that may come with that identification? There's a hazy line when it comes to determining whether or not individuals should be considered members of an ethnic or racial group that constitutes only a small percentage of their heritage. Consequently, it remains unclear what benefits should be afforded to these

individuals.

In light of the recent controversy surrounding Warren, we need to reflect on the role our affirmative action policies are having on employment opportunities and society as a whole. If it was okay at one time to give preference to narrowly defined racial groups, is it still appropriate given our country's changing demographics?

We should not be placing the burden of defending their pedigree as a member of a specific race onto people like Warren. This is the very problem that affirmative action was originally created to end.

Kevin Francfort  
Dartmouth College

## PHILLIPS

Continued from page 5

something right when it comes to television and they also don't just offhandedly cancel shows. Hell, "Doctor Who" has been around longer than some of the creators of our most popular shows and it's still going very strong.

But no matter what, it will always be about the greed. Because those broadcasters want to make big money; they want to have every single show getting ten million views an episode. If it doesn't, then it's done. Or at least, that's the mindset you'd think they held when they canceled their shows.

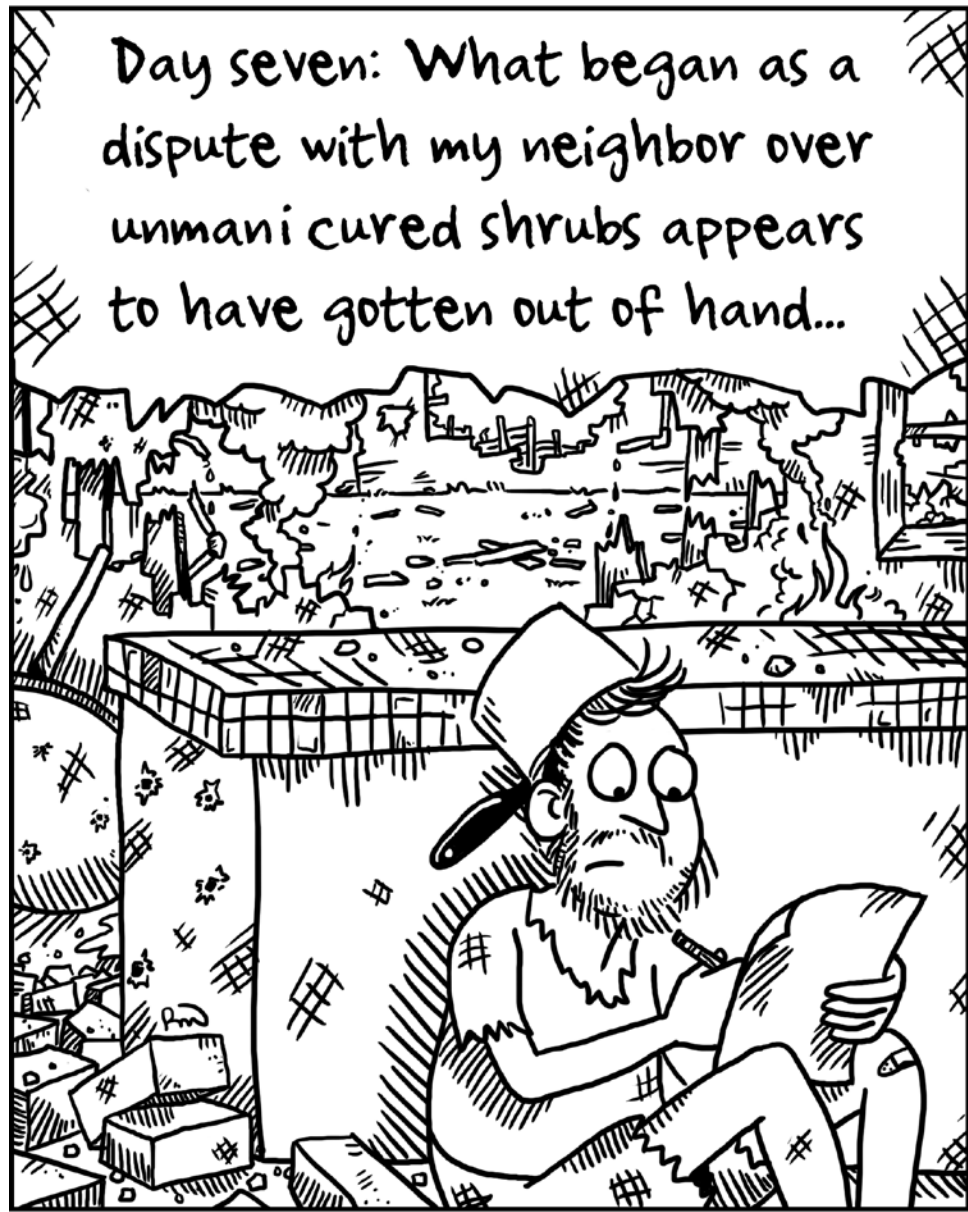
But obviously the facts don't hold true to that. Not when shows with 2.5 million average viewers are being renewed like they're the greatest thing since the toaster.

I went from having seven television shows I could enjoy on a weekly basis to two, with one of them more than likely entering its final season. From where I stand, my Hulu Plus subscription is starting to look like more than its worth.


Someone call me when good television comes back.

James Phillips is a freshman in English and education. The opinions expressed in his columns do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff. Phillips can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

## At Random by Ryan Mason



RYAN MASON IS A SOPHOMORE IN GRAPHIC DESIGN



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Yesterday's Solution

# U.S. contemplating next steps in Syria

Fifteen months into the crisis in Syria, and the Obama administration is, as one U.S. official describes it, in "a holding pattern," waiting for Russia to abandon its support for President Bashar al-Assad, waiting for sanctions to topple the economy and waiting for an organized Syrian opposition to present a coherent vision for a post-Assad Syria.

As the U.S. waits for what many believe is the inevitable failure of a United Nations-backed plan, American officials say they would rather U.N.-Arab League special envoy Kofi Annan to pronounce his diplomatic efforts a failure himself.

Senior officials say the international monitors provided for in the current agreement with the Syrian government, however small in number, offer a small buffer against Assad's forces. Additionally,

the U.S. and its allies on the U.N. Security Council want Russia to come to its own conclusion that Assad is not living up to his end of the agreement in ceasing the violence, and the plan is a failure. The concern is should the U.S. push for the next step, it would further alienate Moscow, which is skeptical about efforts to push out Syria's president. How the plan fails is as important as when it does, Western diplomats said this week.

"You have the politics part of this plan, and you have what is really happening on the ground," one U.S. official said. "We are going to be in a bit of a holding pattern for a while, debating on whether this has succeeded or failed, and whether it was designed to fail."

But the U.S. is looking for ways it can further aid the opposition. U.S. officials and

Congressional sources say the Obama administration has realized that nonlethal communication, currently the bulk of U.S. support for the opposition, is not enough. In recent weeks, the U.S. has broadened its outreach to include Syria's rebel groups, including the Free Syrian Army.

Sources say the administration is already increasing coordination with Gulf nations working to arm the opposition and is actively debating providing additional military support.

"These guys need space, training and greater capabilities," one congressional source said. "What is that, where would it be done, who would it be for? Those are the questions the administration is trying to answer, and they need to be moving a lot faster."

So far, representatives of the rebel groups say the weapons

are not coming in any significant numbers.

"The problem is we want weapons but have received nothing so far," said Free Syrian Army Capt. Riad Ahmed, currently in Istanbul.

Sen. John McCain R-Arizona, one of the administration's harshest critics on Syria policy who recently returned from a trip to the Turkish border with Syria, has openly called for arming the opposition and supporting havens for opposition members.

"What they need, first of all, is weapons to defend themselves," he told CNN's Anderson Cooper. "Then we need to talk with our allies about a sanctuary, a place where the government can organize, where we can train and equip these forces so that we can have a fair fight."

— CNN

# 200-year-old shipwreck discovered in northern Gulf of Mexico

A wooden ship believed to be over 200 years old was discovered during a recent exploration of the northern Gulf of Mexico, according to a press release from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Scientists were able to view the remains of "anchors, navigational instruments, glass bottles, ceramic plates, cannons, and boxes of muskets" aboard the ship, NOAA stated.

"Artifacts in and around the wreck and the hull's copper sheathing may date the vessel to the early to mid-19th century," said Jack Irion, a maritime archaeologist with the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

"Some of the more datable objects include what appears to be a type of ceramic plate that was popular between 1800 and 1830, and a wide variety of glass bottles. A

rare ship's stove on the site is one of only a handful of surviving examples in the world and the second one found on a shipwreck in the Gulf of Mexico."

Scientists aboard the NOAA ship "Okeanos Explorer" were able to view the wreckage using advanced multi-beam mapping sonar technology and a remotely operated underwater vehicle, named "Little Hercules." Little Hercules made 29 dives during the 56-day mission in March and April, according to NOAA.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management requested that NOAA investigate the site after it was originally detected as an "unknown sonar contact" by Shell Oil Company during a 2011 oil and gas survey of the Gulf, government officials said.

The expedition also used "telepresence" technology that allowed scientists and citi-

zens on shore to partake in the exploration via the Internet as it happened. According to daily logs posted on NOAA's website, others followed the exploration remotely using e-mail, on-line chat rooms, video streams, and file transfer sites to exchange information.

"Shipwrecks help to fill in some of the unwritten pages of history," said Frank Cantelas, a maritime archaeologist with NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research. "We explored four shipwrecks during this expedition and I believe this wreck was by far the most interesting and historic."

The shipwreck site was located approximately 200 miles off the U.S. Gulf coast in water that was over 4,000 feet deep, according to NOAA. Until now, the area has been relatively unexplored.

— CNN

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# CRAWFORD

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athletes who have decided not join in on the trend.

Offensive lineman Michael Phillipp feels that communicating using Twitter is excessive.

"It's up to you if you want to do all that Twitter stuff, but you can just keep it old school and talk to people face-to-face," Phillipp said.

Although he doesn't have a Twitter account, Phillip realizes the positives of having increased fan interaction.

Because so many athletes use Twitter to connect with fans, I asked Phillip, "What should a Beaver fan do if they want to get to know more about Michael Phillip?"

"They can meet up with me and we can exchange numbers if they ever want that," he answered.

I would have expected that response out of Ken Simonton if I asked him the same question in 2001, but not a Division I student-athlete in 2012.

Nowadays, ask any professional or collegiate athlete how to best connect with them and they will tell you to follow them on Twitter.

Freshman soccer player Natalie Meiggs (sister of Lindsay), said that if a fan asked how to get to know her better, she would most definitely recommend following her on Twitter.

"Twitter is a good way for actual athletes and people who are in the spotlight to get even more acquainted with fans," Natalie said. "I feel like

Twitter, even if it's not for your social side, it's for your fanbase to see what you're up to, what you're doing, whether it's practice or games or events."

Give fans an opportunity to know more about their favorite athletes and they will jump on it. With increased fan interaction comes decreased privacy, though.

By putting themselves out on Twitter, college athletes and even top-notch high school athletes are becoming more well-known than ever before.

"I think since so many people are putting their business out, it puts them more

on celebrity status instead of just being an athlete," Phillipp said.

We live in an era of celebrity worship. An era where people that have done nothing significant (i.e., the Kardashians) are looked up to by millions and shoved down our throats via all aspects of media.

With each advent of media, from the newspaper to television to social media, the athlete has gone from someone playing their sport on the field to full-blown celebrity status.

If, in 1962, you wanted to know what Terry Baker was up to, you would have had to seek him out on campus and talk to him in person.

If Terry Baker played in this era, he would have thousands of Twitter followers and would receive tweets daily. A two-sport athlete at Oregon State, Baker's daily life would have been under the microscope. I'm sure he is thankful he grew up in a different era.

Still, as much privacy as Twitter has taken away, Handford reminds us that in the Twitter world, "You put out what you want to put out."

Whatever a person tweets, they chose to tweet. If that person happens to be a student-athlete, then they must recognize the potential implications of what they are putting out there.

If a football player tweets something about being wasted at a party, they run the risk of getting in trouble for that. Natalie Meiggs told me that opposing schools printed out goofy pictures that some of the basketball players had posted on Twitter and held them up at away games to taunt the athletes.

All the student-athletes I talked to echoed one thing: Be smart with your Twitter.

Phillipp made an analogy between a student-athlete sending out a controversial tweet with Oregon running back

LeGarrette Blount punching Boise State linebacker Byron Hout in the face two-and-a-half years ago.

"It ain't a bad thing if they don't have regrets about it. LaGarrette Blount doesn't have any regrets about sockin' that dude," Phillipp said. "In his mind, it's not a bad thing, so it's not a bad thing but if he regretted [it] then it's a bad thing. It's his decision."

Phillipp's analogy makes total sense. If an OSU student-athlete posts a tweet that gets them in trouble but they don't regret tweeting it, then it wasn't a bad tweet.

Twitter is a place for people to voice their opinions, promote themselves and their activities, and interact with each other.

Phillipp's answer is the perfect summary to the question of whether Twitter is a good thing or a bad thing for student-athletes.

Twitter is what you make it. Phillipp's teammate Mana Rosa had a blunt, yet philosophical answer when I asked him what he thought of Twitter.

"Why tweet when you can speak?" Rosa asked. His statement made me truly question the direction that our generation is headed.

It seems like nowadays too many individuals hide behind computer-mediated communication instead of actually talking to people face-to-face.

God gave us a voice, so why don't we use it?

There is no doubt that our generation would rather text than talk on the phone and would rather tweet someone than take the time to seek them out.

For better or worse, I will continue to check my Twitter multiple times daily and I will continue to be concerned about the number of followers I have.

Twitter is here to stay, and social media is just as much a part of our generation as Dubstep (stock down) and yoga pants (stock up).

Still, I wonder if the world would be better off without social media.

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**"I think it's a good thing because it reassures people that we are more than just athletes. We are actually people."**

Ryan Handford  
OSU football

**"It's up to you if you want to do all that Twitter stuff, but you can keep it old school and talk to people face-to-face."**

Michael Phillipp  
OSU football

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- May 10 Tragic Bitches, 7-10pm, MU Lounge
- May 12 Kalmekak – Festivalito, 11am-4pm, MU Brick Mall
- May 16 M.E.Ch.A.101, 5-6pm, NAL
- May 17 Latin@s in the Making – Our Cultura Then and Now, 6-7:30pm, NAL
- May 21 WOU Workshop – Anti-Immigration Laws Across the U.S., 3-4:30pm, CCCC
- May 22 500 Years Chican@ History, 5-7pm, CCCC
- May 23 Screening – "The Bronze Screen", 6-9pm, CCCC
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Alex  
Crawford

Cut me Mick

## Athletes in the Twitter spotlight

Seventy-three years ago today, on May 17, 1939, the United States' first televised sporting event was broadcast by NBC.

Since then, the world of sports has been forever changed.

Similarly, on July 15, 2006, the social media site Twitter was introduced to the public and the world of sports saw an even more radical shift.

Just as television monumentally changed the way sports were consumed by the masses, Twitter has altered the way individual athletes are viewed by millions.

Without a doubt, Twitter has changed the game. It has taken fan and athlete interactions to the next level.

Fans can directly interact with anyone, from Shaq to Oregon State running back Malcolm Agnew.

Ten years ago, fans' only chance at interaction with their favorite player was waiting in the parking lot next to the stadium after the game or by getting on some creepy stalker level like Damon Wayans in Celtic Pride.

Nowadays, a simple tweet can allow the world's biggest Blazer fan to have an online conversation with LaMarcus Aldridge.

The question remains, though — is Twitter a good thing or a bad thing for athletes?

There is no white or black answer to that question; just many shades of gray.

The question is even more compounded at the student-athlete level, where average college students who play sports now have their lives bordering celebrity status.

Today's generation of student-athletes is the first to experience this wave of social media that will no doubt change sports as much as television, instant replay and the wave did.

At Oregon State, many student-athletes have embraced the social network, tweeting every day and accumulating thousands of followers. Just last month there was a column in this very paper ranking the top-10 student-athlete tweeters at OSU.

Ryan Handford, a senior cornerback on the OSU football team, is an avid tweeter and sees it as an opportunity for athletes to show people who they truly are.

"I think it's a good thing because it reassures people that we are more than just athletes. We are actually people," Handford said. "You can use Twitter in so many different avenues, meeting people and making connections that you probably wouldn't have made before."

Handford also uses Twitter as a promotional tool for his clothing line, Doughpe.

Junior soccer player Lindsay Meiggs also views Twitter as a promotional tool for student-athletes.

"If you're using it correctly, you can bring a lot more fans to follow your team," Meiggs said. "Women's soccer doesn't have a huge following. We have certain fans who follow us and love everything and tag us in everything, and it's awesome because it brings more awareness to our team."

As popular as Twitter has become, there is still a fraction of student-

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JULIA GREEN | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Jace Fry, pictured here in a game against Stanford earlier this year, decided not to sign with the Oakland A's this past summer after he was drafted in the ninth round out of high school. As a freshman, he leads the Beavers in complete games, earned run average and opponent's batting average.

# Frying the competition

■ Jace Fry has turned into OSU's most dominant pitcher after turning down the pros

By Andrew Kilstrom  
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Stay in school, or go straight to the pros and make millions? It's arguably the biggest dilemma young superstar athletes face in sports today.

In fact, Oregon State saw one of these stars choose the latter just a couple of months ago when junior guard Jared Cunningham decided to

forgo his senior season for a chance at fame and fortune in the NBA Draft.

Catty-corner to Gill Coliseum — what has been Cunningham's home for the past three seasons — there's another Oregon State star who was faced with a similar decision less than a year ago.

Freshman starting pitcher Jace Fry has dazzled in the beloved orange-and-black all spring, but most people don't know that the left-hander was dangerously close to choosing a different set of colors which hold the opposite connotation for Beaver Nation — green and yellow.



VINAY BIKKINA | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Teammates say Fry possesses a "bulldog mentality" when he's on the mound.

Not the green and yellow of Oregon, but of the Oakland Athletics. The A's drafted Fry in the ninth round of the 2011 MLB Draft.

It's not uncommon at all to see a baseball player forgo college altogether and jump straight to the minors — especially one as heralded as Fry. So most figured he would ditch his plans to attend OSU and sign with the A's.

That's not how things played out. "From the information my advisor and I had, I thought I was more valuable than the money they were offering," Fry said. "The money just wasn't right, so I chose to go to the school I always liked growing up instead."

The decision to pass up the guaranteed signing bonus and salary that comes with being drafted into the Major League system was undoubtedly one of the toughest Fry has had to make. But fortunately for No. 23 Oregon State, the 18-year-old chose school, as Fry has quickly turned into arguably the Beavers' best pitcher.

Going into this weekend's series with Washington State, Fry leads OSU with an ERA of 2.19, three complete games — including a shutout against No. 11 UCLA — and has held opponents to a .197 average. All three of those stats are a staff-best.

Fry is also tied for second on the team with five wins, and won Pac-12 Pitcher of the Week earlier this spring after posting an ERA of 0.89 in the month of April.

"He's been tremendous for us all year, no doubt about it," said head coach Pat Casey. "He's adapted to the college game even more quickly than I thought he would. He goes out and competes every single start and does what he needs to do to win ball games."

Fry's performance this year has been even more impressive when considering he missed the majority of offseason workouts all the way up through the first three weeks of the season after coming back from back surgery.

"I was surprised with how well I pitched early, because I had only thrown a couple of bullpens before

my first start," Fry said. "I was nervous, but it was a good kind of nervous and I was really encouraged after the first couple starts because I pitched pretty well, and I knew it wasn't up to my normal level."

In addition to his instant success, the 6-foot-1, 195-pound Southridge High School product has already earned a reputation for possessing the bulldog mentality that all great pitchers seem to have.

"He just has a really good feel for pitching that's beyond his years," said senior catcher Ryan Gorton. "He really understands the game and how to get hitters out... the other thing with Jace is his attitude. He has that bulldog mentality and he trusts his stuff. He kind of says, 'Here it is. Try and hit it.'"

That fearless approach to pitching is one of the main reasons Major League scouts fell in love with Fry, but is a trait that Fry claims is simply a part of him as a person.

"People tell me I have a bulldog mentality, but to me it's just natural," Fry said. "When I go out there, I just play my game and play for the team. It's just me kind of doing my thing out there."

In a little more than two years time, Fry will be faced with the same decision as before when he's again eligible for the MLB Draft after completing three years of college ball.

If his success continues at its current clip, he could be drafted much higher than he was initially.

But for now, it seems as though he made the right decision, choosing college over money. Not only from Oregon State's perspective, but from Fry's as well.

"I think I made the right decision," Fry said without hesitation. "Just being a unit with this team is huge. Getting that family feeling and enjoying the college environment has definitely been worth it so far."

Andrew Kilstrom, sports writer

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