



Emerald Media

THURSDAY



## DUCKS RESUME SPRING FOOTBALL PRACTICE

SPORTS PG 12

## KEITH SMITH OPTS TO TRANSFER

SPORTS PG 10



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NEWS PG 4

# INSIDE EUGENE'S STUDENT CO-OPS

**THE CO-OPS HAVE BEEN A PART OF UO'S COMMUNITY**

since the 1930s. But in recent years, they have faced issues with membership and are taking a serious look at their future.



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# VALLEY RIVER CENTER WILL EXPAND IN FALL 2018

BY BRAEDON KWIECIEN • TWITTER @BRAEDON\_JAMES

Valley River Center in Eugene will undergo construction soon, according to a press release from the center. Valley River Center will have a new front entrance and outdoor plaza, as well as 14,000 square feet of new space for retail stores and restaurants.

The construction aims to be done by fall 2018 and will begin late this week or early next week, according to a spokesperson for the center, Dani Olsen.

The new outdoor plaza will be built where a former Sports Authority was located and will have space for events, according to the press release.

None of the shops will be closed during construction, and according to Olsen, the interruption to shoppers should be minimal.

“Valley River Center is all about providing great experiences for people, and we are creating this appealing new entrance and beautiful outdoor space to bring our shoppers a fresh look and feel,” said Rob McOmie, property manager of Valley River Center.



(Courtesy of Valley River Center)

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**ON THE COVER**  
 The Lorax Manor, located on Alder St., houses some Eugene Student Cooperative Association members.  
 Photograph by Sarah Northrop

# UO CAMPUS SHUTTLE ADDS TWO NEW ROUTES DUE TO RECENT OFF-CAMPUS CRIMES

BY RYAN NGUYEN · TWITTER @RYANJNGUYEN

## SHUTTLE STOPS

1. EMU (near Columbia 150)
2. 13th and Olive (main lobby)
3. E 18th Ave. and Willamette Street (near Safeway and the Mediterranean Network restaurant)
4. Spencer View Apartments (outside of the Co-op Family Center)
5. HEDCO Education Building
6. E 19th Ave. and Agate Street (near Tom's Market)

UO students who live as far east as Willamette Street now have a safe ride home until 1 a.m.

The UO Campus Shuttle will be adding two off-campus routes. One winds from the EMU amphitheater to the 13th and Olive apartments, then heads near the Safeway on 18th Avenue and south to the Spencer View apartments. The other route, which is expected to begin week four, will take students to the apartments near Autzen Stadium, such as Chase Village and the Duck's Village Apartments.

These off-campus routes are in addition to the shuttle's main university route, which circles the area near the UO residence halls.

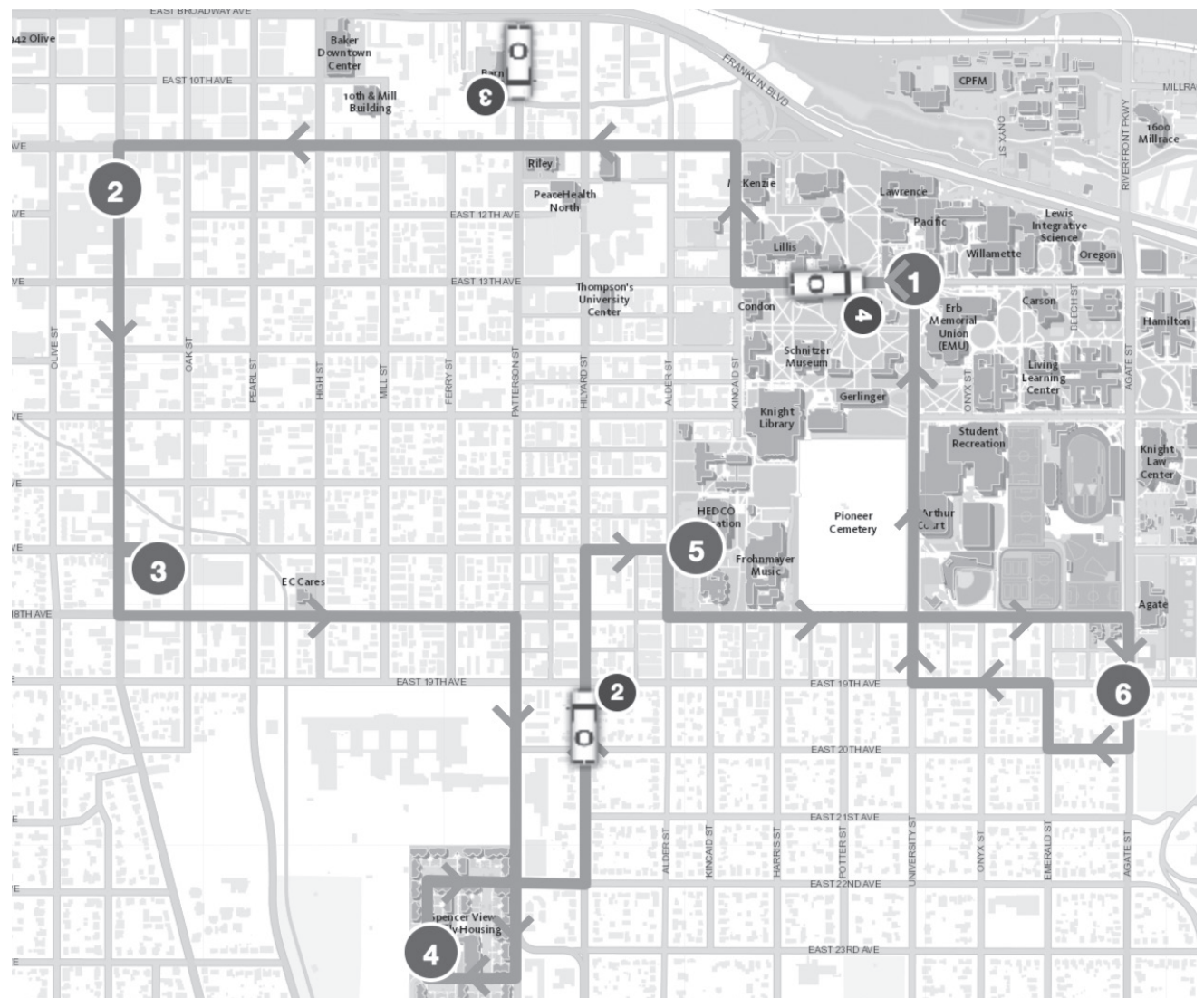
UOPD, which manages the shuttle, established the routes partly due to the recent spurt of off-campus crimes, according to UO spokesman Kelly McIver.

Only one van is assigned to the new route to Willamette Street, but the shuttle completes a round every 30 minutes, so the wait time at stops will be no more than 30 minutes.

"You wouldn't want to be running vans that are not really getting very many people in them," McIver said. "We'd rather have an appropriate number running and make sure that they're being well-used rather than having too much use of gas and driver time."

Each shuttle will have a sign with the name of the route on it, according to an announcement on the UO Campus Shuttle Facebook page.

UO students can visit the shuttle's website or the UOregon app for routes and the real-time locations of shuttles. The UO Campus Shuttle operates daily, from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.



*(Courtesy of the University of Oregon)*

# COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE UNDER FIRE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



*(Courtesy of James Barber for Lane County Facebook)*

BY MICHAEL TOBIN • TWITTER @TOBIN\_TWEETS

University of Oregon College Democrats President Hannah Argento is calling on James Barber, a fellow Democrat, to back out of the race for East Lane County Commissioner. Barber, who works at Sixel Real Estate as a principal broker and has not previously held public office, posted multiple inappropriate and misogynistic social media posts from 2010 to 2013.

Barber's posts, which included tweets soliciting Twitter users for photos from a topless beach and Facebook posts joking about oral sex, came to light a few weeks ago.

As an example of his older posts, Barber wrote on Facebook in 2010, "Men have two emotions: Hungry and Horny. If you see him without an erection, make him a sandwich #factsaboutboys."

Argento and other members of the UO College Democrats signed their names on the website dropoutjames.com, which calls for Barber to back out of the race. The website details his responses to the accusations, as well as screenshots of his older posts on social media.

In a letter posted on the website, the group said there were "no words" to describe what they saw of Barber's posts.

"The continuation of his candidacy would set a precedent that would allow this derogatory rhetoric to continue demeaning women and discouraging them from the democratic process and that is unacceptable," the letter read.

On March 30, Barber made a post on his campaign's Facebook page addressing the posts, saying that he acknowledges that they are "inappropriate in their humor" and is sorry that he made a "contribution to a culture that objectifies and dehumanizes women." On April 1, Barber met with Argento and other College Democrats to discuss the matter and apologize for his comments.

In an interview with the Emerald, Barber said the discussion went well. "I was able to talk about my background, and they already know that the work I've been doing, that I am a different person than when I made those posts. I wasn't trying to add into this culture of objectification. I was ignorant about it at the time."

In a lengthy Facebook post on Tuesday, Barber detailed key points of that discussion, including how both parties got to understand how the other felt. He wrote that the College Democrats seek to help women in politics and keep misogyny out of elected positions, and that he felt attacked by what he saw as a "smear campaign" against him and that he has changed as a person since writing the posts.

"When faced with the inappropriate posts and their cringeworthy content, I realized how much I had grown over the last 5 years," he wrote. "Why would I be getting attacked over a handful of posts from so long ago, when I've

clearly grown and changed?"

Argento said that despite accepting Barber's apology as an individual, she holds a higher bar for how a future elected official thinks and acts.

"We thank James Barber for his apology and we accept it, however that doesn't take away from the fact that the candidate presented misogynistic view points," she said. "As a candidate, those posts and attitudes are unforgivable."

The College Democrats made no endorsements for the race, but Argento said that under her leadership, the group will not endorse Barber.

"As long as I am president of College Democrats, I don't believe that James Barber will ever receive our group's endorsement."

Argento said the decision was difficult, as it went against party lines.

"I stand by my personal belief that he should step down as a candidate. It's disappointing to see that he is supported and endorsed by so many Democrats who claim to support women."

When asked about his reaction to the College Democrats' refusal to endorse him in the future, Barber said that it's not unexpected.

"There's a female in this race who they had supported prior to this, and I did not expect that decision to change," he said. "I fully respect their desire to see more women in office and for the most part I share that desire."



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John Krasinski during a video conference call with various college media groups. (Courtesy of TBD Marketing Group)



## JOHN KRASINSKI TALKS ABOUT THE TRIALS AND REWARDS OF DIRECTING HIS NEW HORROR, 'A QUIET PLACE'

BY DANA ALSTON · [TWITTER @ALSTONDALSTON](#)

"A Quiet Place" looks like the creation of an experienced horror director. The film tracks a family in a post-apocalyptic New York, ravaged by an unexplained event. Monsters hunt human survivors through sound, turning any remaining human civilizations into widespread cat-and-mouse games. Silence is the only lasting defense for Lee Abbott (John Krasinski), his wife Evelyn (Emily Blunt) and their two children (Millie Simmonds and Noah Jupe). They speak through sign language and hushed whispers, sacrificing their voices to protect their children.

It's a premise that lives and dies on the strength of its director, which makes Krasinski's position at the helm particularly surprising. The actor-turned-filmmaker has been behind the camera before – his indie dramedy "The Hollars" received mixed reviews back in 2016 – but never in the horror genre. Yet, Krasinski wrote, directed and starred in "A Quiet Place," tackling a notoriously difficult genre seemingly on his own.

That's a recipe ripe for skepticism; Jim from NBC's hit comedy "The Office" terrifying entire theaters is a head-scratching image. But "A Quiet Place" opened to rave reviews at this year's South by Southwest film festival, and early predictions point toward box office success when the film enters wide release on Friday, April 6. When Krasinski spoke to a series of collegiate newspapers over a shared Google Hangout last week, it was easy to glean his relief when he talked about the premiere.

"That was one of the best moments of my whole life," Krasinski said.

Maybe so. But the path to get there was almost as nerve-racking as the film itself. Until his recent turn as an ex-Navy Seal in Michael Bay's "13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi," he rarely stepped outside affable roles in comedies. This makes "A Quiet Place" more than a departure: it's a career risk.

"I'm a scaredy cat. I don't even watch horror movies," Krasinski told the Emerald. "If you told me that I was going to direct this a year ago I'd say, 'What are you talking about?'"

That changed when Krasinski was shown the initial script – written by thriller veterans Bryan Woods and Scott Beck – three weeks after the birth of his second daughter. He instantly connected with the story.

"I was already in the state of terror, [wondering] whether I was going to be a good enough father," he said. "In comes this script about a family that relies on each other – about parents that would do absolutely anything for their kids. I was wide open for this one."

Krasinski's rewrite refocused the story onto the family. The result is an unnerving mixture of themes. Even in the film's trailer, the tension comes from pairing parental anxieties with survival horror. It helps that dialogue is scarce – the script is 50 pages short of the industry standard – and that Krasinski cast Blunt as his co-lead. Their real-world relationship helped keep their characters grounded, even if

working together made them both nervous.

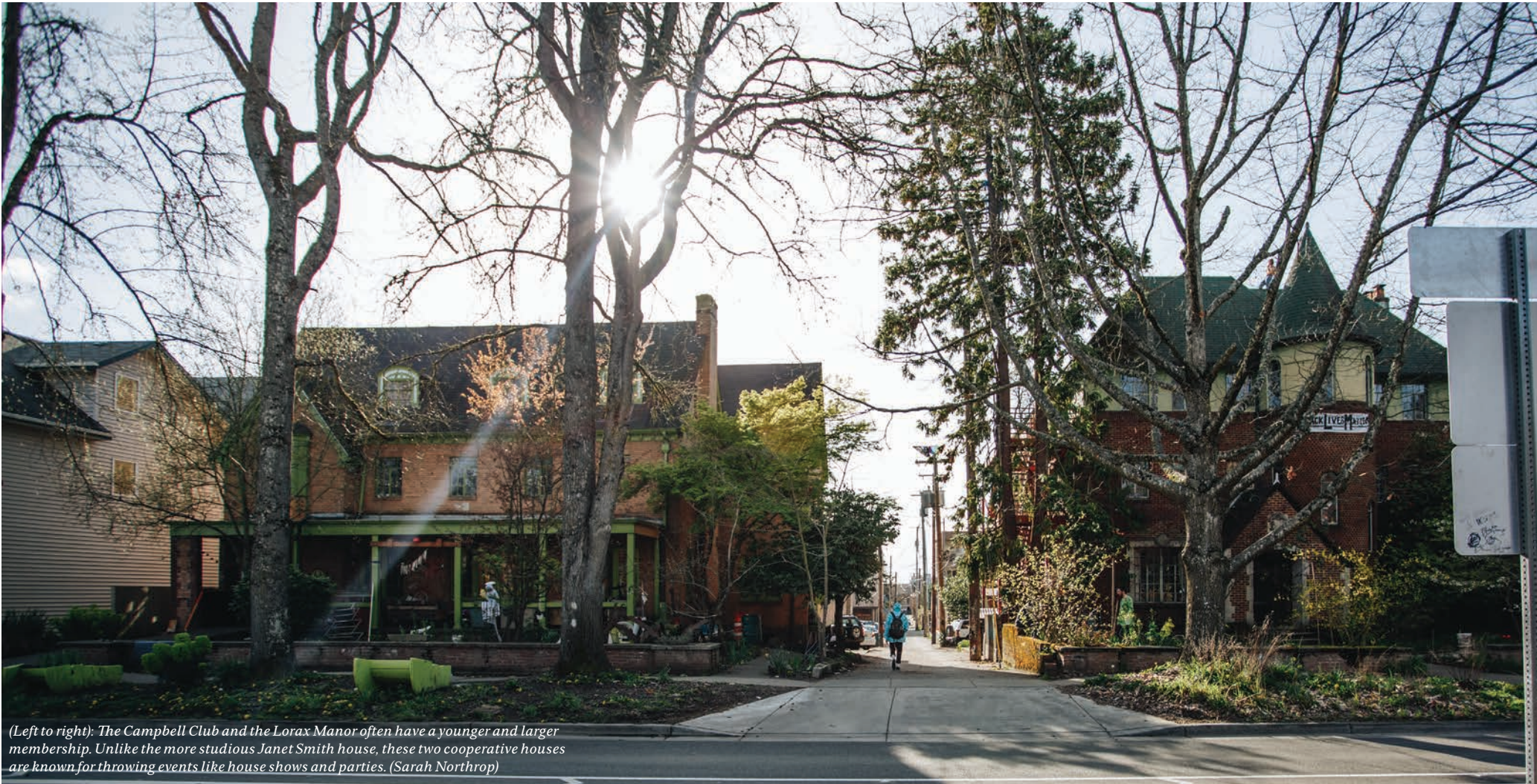
"I didn't want [Emily] to do anything that she didn't want to do," Krasinski said. "So when she actually signed onto the movie, it truly [was] the greatest compliment of my career. I've seen what it takes to get her to say yes to things."

Directing his wife was only one of many challenges while filming. Learning American Sign Language was another. Millie Simmonds, a 14-year-old deaf actress who portrays one of the two children in the film, helped teach American Sign Language to the rest of the cast. Meanwhile, Krasinski had to balance the film's reliance on silence with a rousing score from composer Marco Beltrami. There were monster designs from special effects artists, a tight schedule and a moderate budget (\$17 million) stretched to its limit.

In short, Krasinski's hands were full long before he called "action." To handle it all, Krasinski turned to advice his father gave him when he was a child:

"One of the most confident things you can say as a human being is 'I don't know,'" Krasinski said. "I was willing to say that a lot. And it helped. I have always found that the best moments of my life are when I do actually jump. Even though the fall can be scary, when the end result is good it's the best moments that you'll ever have in your life, and it will define you."

"A Quiet Place" opens everywhere Friday, April 6.



(Left to right): The Campbell Club and the Lorax Manor often have a younger and larger membership. Unlike the more studious Janet Smith house, these two cooperative houses are known for throwing events like house shows and parties. (Sarah Northrop)

# CONTINUING CO-OP CULTURE

BY SARAROSA DAVIES · TWITTER @SROSIEDOSIE

Sun leaks in to the Janet Smith House’s living room, lighting dust particles and debris from maintenance work happening in the kitchen next door. A small white projector screen sits blank on a metal stand and there are pillows, instruments and other knick knacks scattered around the room. Just outside, a fridge with a sticker that reads “Meaty-Mcmeat-Face” quietly hums.

This is the room where most of the important housing decisions happen at the Janet Smith House, a cooperative living community on 18th and Alder. Members of the non-profit Students’ Cooperative Association in Eugene, including those who live at Janet Smith, the Lorax and the Campbell Club, make these decisions by consensus.

Other students might assume that the houses’ residents are hippies who throw large house shows all the time, or that the cheap rent (\$433 for a single room, food and utilities) is the only reason worth living in a co-op. The Lorax and Campbell Club look like rustic castles on the outside, sometimes adding to this mystique. Co-op members say they see their houses as a respite from a sometimes harsh and difficult environment.

“For me, personally, honestly, I wouldn’t be alive if it weren’t for the people in this house,” Mark Landon, a Janet Smith resident, said about the support the community has provided. Janet Smith members like Landon –

specifically a slew of graduate students and non-traditional students – decide on everything from house quiet hours to accepting new members by reaching an agreement or consensus that everyone in the house can live with. Rather than have a vote on a specific rule or action with the majority winning, decisions must all be agreed upon.

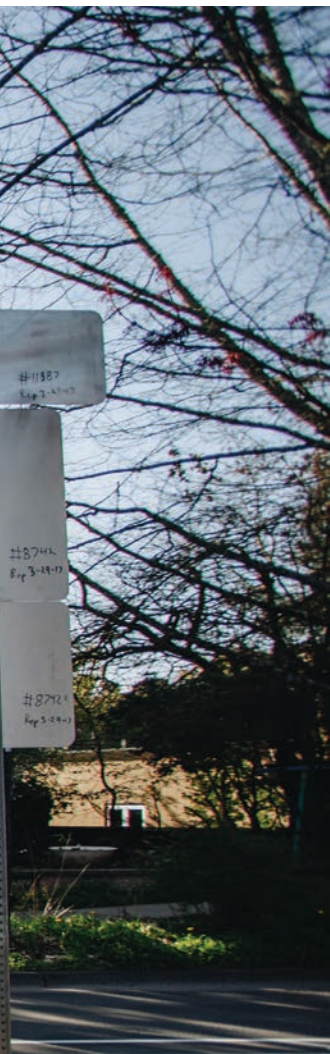
For instance, the SCA board will have to decide to close one or two houses for a much-needed summer term renovation – a touchy subject among some house members because they would have to move out. Additionally, they’ve been losing money. According to the SCA’s nonprofit 990 tax documents, the organization reported financial losses from 2014 to 2016.

But the SCA, which has roots in Eugene dating back to the 1930s, is seeking to do more outreach in the UO community to change perceptions and increase students awareness of the co-ops.

In order to address the issues, the SCA says it plans to recruit more students by tabling at housing fairs and having more of a presence on campus, which is something it hasn’t done in recent years.

For students who currently live in the co-ops, the houses are a place of intentional community – their members work a few hours a week to keep the community self-sufficient and thriving, and in return they have a ready-made





*Susanna Payne-Passmore is a graduate student in the music school and a Janet Smith resident. They serve as the house's treasurer and help coordinate the house's food budget. (Sarah Northrop)*



*After a few years of fluctuating membership, the Student Cooperative Association is aiming to do more outreach in the UO community. (Sarah Northrop)*



*Most important decisions at the Janet Smith house happen during meetings in the living room. Everything is reached by consensus, where house members must all agree. (Sarah Northrop)*

community and a cheap place to live. Co-op members coordinate everything from house shows and events to shaping what the food budget is for the month.

Aakash Upraity, an environmental studies graduate student who lives at Janet Smith and served as its president last term, says one of his favorite parts of the decision making process is the hand gestures co-op members use. Besides the normal hand raise for voting or the raise of a fist to abstain, there are others, such as a jazz-hand style gesture to emphasize points made in discussion. With the 15 residents living there now, this is a way to value all voices, according to Upraity.

Susanna Payne-Passmore, a graduate student in the music school and Janet Smith resident, serves as house treasurer and helps to coordinate the house's food budget. They said that members of Janet Smith have a wide variety of dietary restrictions – from vegan diets to gluten sensitivities to an allergy to brassica (vegetables like cauliflower and broccoli), so they have to coordinate meals around those needs.

Landon helps cook meals and says he values the time he spends with other housemates when eating dinner. Dinner is at a set time everyday at Janet Smith. Its members sit down together and reflect on the day, naming their highs and lows, while eating

meals such as rice and beans.

Janet Smith, because of its older residents, is sometimes known as the quiet house among SCA community members. The Campbell Club and Lorax Manor often have a younger and slightly larger membership population, and these two houses often hold more parties, house shows and events than Janet Smith.

Janet Smith house members are usually so engulfed in studying that they rarely hold events at the house. During the Emerald's tour, Payne-Passmore repeatedly mentioned "thesis holes," referencing graduate students' deep studying.

But that doesn't mean that Janet Smith's members don't have fun. On an upper floor of the house, a ladder leads to the roof where a little wooden deck covers the flat area. During the summer, its members like to watch the sunset there.

"People would be coming up here no matter what, so we decided to make it easier," Payne-Passmore said.

Some members of Janet Smith have pets, and the walls are adorned with art prints, political posters and paintings of cherished house cat, Pichu. In the kitchen, a whiteboard is adorned with notes and Polaroids of the house's current members.

Fifteen people live at Janet Smith right now, and the house is in disarray because of kitchen renovations, but still, its members say they enjoy living

there, even when it becomes difficult with elbow-grease work abounding.

"I'm used to living in a functioning house, I guess," Upraity said. "Which is why I definitely sought out a cooperative setting."

While some students like Upraity live in co-ops because they don't want to live alone, students like former SCA president Leni Ament and Payne-Passmore are drawn to cooperative living because it's what they are used to. Ament grew up in Eugene and says she was drawn to the co-ops after living in the dorms for a year because she wanted a sense of involved community. She moved into the Lorax two years ago and just recently moved out.

Payne-Passmore was drawn to this specific living arrangement because it's what they are used to. Payne-Passmore grew up Quaker, a religious community that uses consensus decision making, and when they came to Oregon to study music, they sought student co-ops because of the familiarity.

Everest Jarvik, who is moving from the Campbell Club to the Lorax, is a part time student at UO studying music technology. They have booked, organized and run shows at SCA houses and have found that living in an SCA house has not only provided a cheap place to live and a community, but an opportunity to acquire hands-on experience doing what they love.

Jarvik, who has lived in intentional communities their whole life, sought out the SCA after a bad experience with a roommate during their sophomore year. They walked past the Campbell Club and saw flyers for shows.

"Campus culture was starting to get me down a little bit," Jarvik said of the time they found the Campbell Club. "Just like how many frats there are, a whole bunch of stuff like that."

House membership still sometimes fluctuates due to turnover that happens normally in student populations, and the natural flow of people moving in and out with friends, according to Jarvik.

Other members of the SCA community say that despite the hard work and involvement it takes to live in the houses, the effort is generally worth the reward. The SCA houses, despite some contention between them at times, have served as intentional and supportive communities for those who live in them, food allergies and all. While some members of Janet Smith feel like the house serves a guiding role for the rest of the SCA, it still is worth being involved.

"I'm constantly so surprised at the amount of compassion, the amount of kindness, the amount of care my housemates have for me. I just often feel really alone in this world," Landon said. "Knowing that I do have a family here is very amazing, just feeling like I am being a part of something bigger."

## OREGON FORWARD KEITH SMITH TO TRANSFER



Ducks forward Keith Smith (11) leaps up to block the alley-oop. (Ben Green)

BY GUS MORRIS • TWITTER @JUSTGUSMORRIS

Oregon's roster took another hit on Tuesday.

Oregon reserve forward Keith Smith announced on Twitter that he will be transferring from the university.

"After much thought and consideration from my family, I've decided it's in my best interest to transfer," Smith's post read. "I'm very thankful for the lifelong relationships I've made during my time at Oregon, I'm forever grateful."

The announcement comes hours after

guard Troy Brown announced that he's forgoing the remainder of his collegiate eligibility and entering the NBA Draft.

Smith, a sophomore, logged most of his minutes off the bench in his two seasons with the Ducks. The 6-foot-7, former three-star recruit averaged 1.9 points, 1.4 rebounds and 8.9 minutes per game this season with the same number of average points and one rebound in 27 games as a freshman.

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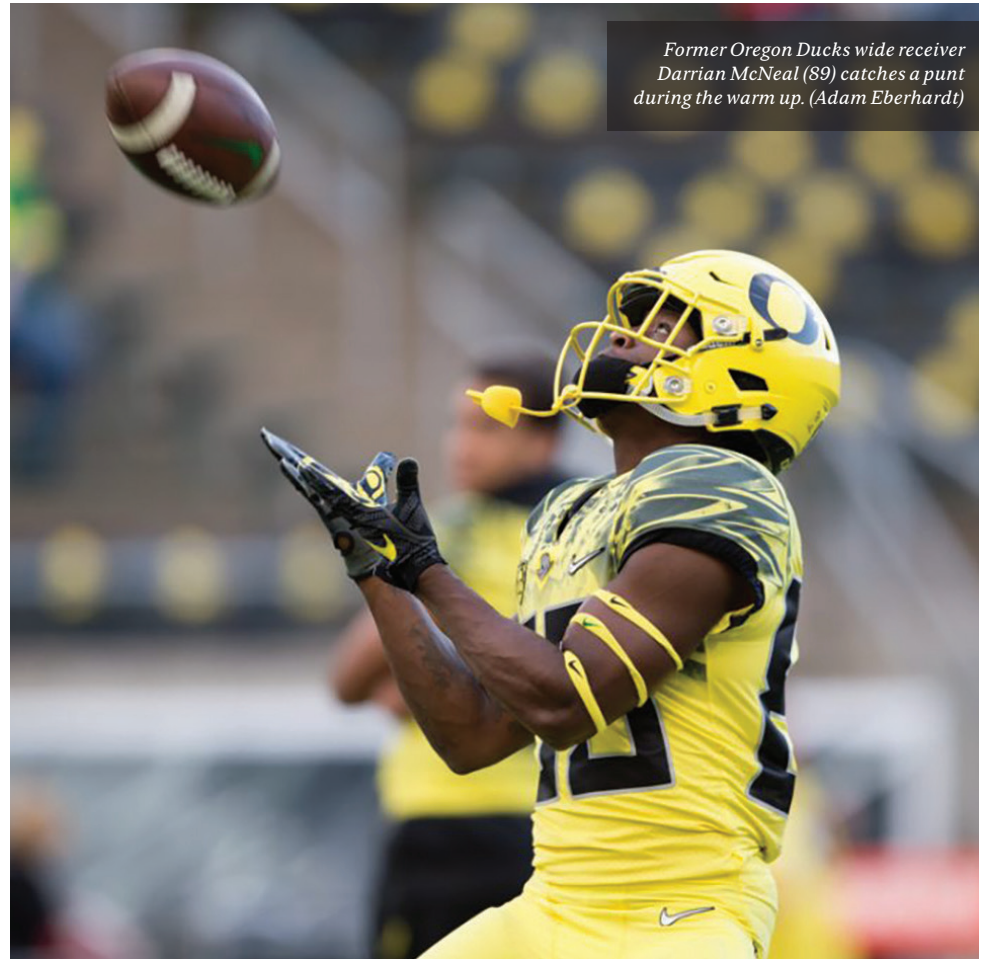



# SOPHOMORE DARRIAN MCNEAL LEAVES OREGON FOOTBALL PROGRAM

BY MAVERICK PALLACK • TWITTER @MAVPALLACK

Sophomore wide receiver Darrian McNeal has left the Oregon program for undisclosed reason, first reported by the Register Guard's Steve Mims. McNeal is no longer enrolled at the University of Oregon. Not much is known about the situation, but the receiver was not at practice when it resumed this week. McNeal played in seven games last season,

rushing for 21 yards on three carries, and he had 10 yards on two catches. McNeal was a three star recruit coming out of Armwood High School in Florida and received offers from at least 17 other schools, according to ESPN. This comes a couple days after four-star wide-receiver recruit Jalen Hall officially joined the team as an early-enrollee.



Former Oregon Ducks wide receiver Darrian McNeal (89) catches a punt during the warm up. (Adam Eberhardt)

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# OREGON FOOTBALL RESUMES PRACTICE WITH NEW RECEIVER ROLES



Justin Herbert throws a pass during practice. (Adam Eberhardt)



Oregon Centers & Guards Coach Alex Mirabal talks with his players in between drills. (Adam Eberhardt)

BY MAVERICK PALLACK · TWITTER @MAVPALLACK

After a brief break for finals and spring break, the Ducks returned to practice in preparation for the April 21 spring game.

“We kind of want to pick up where we left off,” head coach Mario Cristobal said. “Again, that temperature is going to be turned up a little bit both from a football standpoint, culture standpoint and from a temperature standpoint. It will be a good thing for all of us.”

One unit that has been enjoying competition and is looking forward to getting back on the field is the wide receivers.

The three returners that played a big role last season are projected starters Dillon Mitchell, Johnny Johnson III and Brenden Schooler.

“I know Dillon Mitchell is a guy that we’re looking forward to stepping up and playing a big role,” wide receivers coach Michael Johnson said.

With a year under his belt, junior Brenden Schooler will continue to play at wide receiver, and sophomore Johnny Johnson has lost 16 pounds, according to Michael Johnson.

“He’s a little smoother, faster, quicker and still the same aggressive guy he’s always been,” Johnson said. “I’m just excited about the entire group from the bottom up.”

With Charles Nelson now gone, Johnson expects junior Dillon Mitchell to run with the No. 1 role.

“It’s like any other position,” Johnson said. “If you’re gonna be the No. 1 guy, you have to be a guy we can count on each and every week and it starts with habits. ... The older they get, the more they are able to handle that situation.”

Mitchell has been utilizing his coaches, listening for anything that can improve his game.

“[I] mostly have been staying in the coach’s ear – finding out stuff I can do well and stuff I can improve on,” Mitchell said. “Finishing is a big thing coach Cristobal and coach Johnson have been on. Especially being around a program like Alabama. Coach Cristobal, he knows about finishing. That is something those guys do well and we should incorporate that into our play.”

Four younger players looking to contribute are sophomore Jaylon Redd, redshirt freshmen Daewood Davis and Demetri Burch and early-enrollee Jalen Hall.

Hall might have missed the first half of spring ball, but that doesn’t worry Cristobal. The 6-foot-4 freshman from Long Beach Poly is expected to “swim” right away.

“He’s gonna be swimming regardless,” Cristobal said. “At least he is swimming on day one install as opposed to day six. ... The receivers in general have had a really strong spring. The benefit of having a veteran quarterback certainly helps out.”

Hall has already gone to work to catch up on what he missed, studying the playbook with coach Johnson.

“We went over about four installations yesterday,” Johnson said. “That’s about 120 plays that are all gonna get crammed into one. So I’ll be behind him and kind of guide him a bit, but we’re just gonna throw him in there and let him get his feet wet. He’s eager to be here.”

# MARY IAKOPO COMING ALONG AS GWEN SVEKIS'S SUCCESSOR

BY SHAWN MEDOW · TWITTER @SHAWNMEDOW

Stepping onto the college diamond for a freshman can be daunting.

Under the lights, in front of several thousand fans with television cameras surrounding them, they play with and face some of the best players in the country.

When Oregon softball's freshman catcher Mary Iakopo stepped up to the plate against Weber State on March 9, she had the bases loaded with the Ducks up 3-1. With the swing of her bat, Iakopo launched a grand slam – her first home run at Jane Sanders Stadium.

"It's a great feeling," Iakopo said after that game. "Haven't had a packed stadium like this – never played in front of a stadium this big. It was a great feeling to have so much support from everyone."

As a freshman, Iakopo has the difficult task of getting play time for the Ducks with an experienced catcher in front of her: senior Gwen Svekis. However, Oregon has found a way to rotate the two of them with Iakopo being a part of 34 games while Svekis has played a role in 35 games.

Iakopo plays as a designated player more often than as a catcher, leaving Svekis as the go-to catcher, helping Iakopo along to be the natural successor.

One day after her grand slam, Iakopo had another big play, but this time she was behind the plate.

Montana had a runner on first, and as the Grizzlies attempted to advance their runner to second, Iakopo quickly responded with a throw across the diamond to pick off the baserunner.

"Mary has a cannon of an arm, and we've been dying for someone who can show it off, and it was great for her to come out and throw one down there," White said. "I think DJ [Sanders] almost didn't get there it was that quick. It was a great throw."

In the circle that evening was junior Megan Kleist, who retired the other 20 batters she faced that night in a no-hitter win.

Kleist has seen several catchers while at Oregon, including Janelle Lindvall – current senior Lauren Lindvall's sister – and Svekis. Now with Iakopo coming into the rotation behind the plate, just how different are the two catchers?

"I don't think there's anything really

different," Kleist said. "Mary has learned so much from Gwen this year. She's almost like a clone."

For Svekis, she doesn't buy the comparison.

"I think Mary and I are completely different players," Svekis said. "I challenge her to do some things the way I do them and she challenges me to do some things the way she does them, so in that way maybe we have some moments of mirroring each other."

"But we're completely different players."

The upside of having Iakopo, along with fellow freshman Shaye Bowden, is there will be experience under their belts, especially in Iakopo, who is in line to be the starting catcher next season when she's just a sophomore.

"Super proud where she's going," Kleist said. "And I'm excited to see where she goes for the next four years."



Ducks catcher Mary Iakopo (17) looks at the Oregon dugout inbetween plays. (Ben Green)



Ducks catcher Mary Iakopo (17) catches the ball. (Ben Green)

## GUEST COLUMN: THE NORMALIZATION OF SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

*This piece reflects the views of Patience Greene, and not those of Emerald Media Group. The piece is part of a series of op-eds from Peter Laufer's Reporting I class at the SOJC. It has been edited by the Emerald for grammar and style. Send your columns or submissions about our content or campus issues to [letters@dailyemerald.com](mailto:letters@dailyemerald.com).*

A friend with self-diagnosed “senioritis” once described to me a common fantasy he had of shooting everyone in his history class one by one. We were walking home from high school with another friend. They joked about teacher reactions, discussing who was most likely protect the students.

After knowing both these boys for several years, I would argue that neither is a real safety hazard. They don't own guns or show violent tendencies. But they joked about the horrific issue because it has become so normalized in society.

Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, a fund formed after the Newtown shooting to research and create policy around guns in the U.S., recently compiled a list of all firearm incidents on school property since 2013. Looking only at school shootings intended to cause others harm, data shows shootings usually happen in clusters close together.

For instance, in January 2013 there were seven school shootings, but the most any other month that year had was four. Most months had at least two attacks, and these were usually close in time to one another.

Malcolm Gladwell, author of “The Tipping Point,” a book on how epidemics spread, wrote an article in The New Yorker comparing the contagious nature of school shootings to sociologist Mark Granovetter's explanation of riots. Granovetter theorized that people riot because others are rioting. Everyone has a different “threshold,” or number of people around

them who need to riot first.

The more regular shootings become in society, the more people will join in.

If this is true, what can be done to deter school shootings other than precautionary measures with gun laws and mental health? Does the media in control of the story have an obligation to protect America from this epidemic? Or do citizens have a right to know any available information?

Charlie Deitz, a UO doctoral student who completed his masters thesis on media ethics covering school shootings, described the standard shooting coverage. After the first official statement, journalists go to the scene and seek information – they go on what Deitz calls a “news carousel.” Then media focuses on the victim or the shooter's profile.

Deitz said some theories push against naming the shooter because it encourages copycats, but instead he focuses on this news carousel.

The time spent dwelling on the unknown plays up the drama and suspense of the story. Sticking to the facts and keeping people informed without excess coverage could help avoid normalizing the issue.

Another ethical issue of media coverage comes from handling traumatized sources.

Stephanie Domurat, a Eugene journalist at KMTR NBC, said being a local station comes with advantages when handling trauma. They have the option to look back on the reunion of a tragedy, but in Domurat's case, they didn't feel the need to revive the pain. Local journalists are part of the community, and because of this personal investment, they are more likely to treat victims with respect.

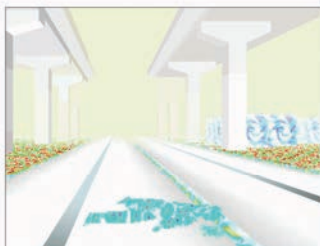
Perhaps if media took a less-is-more approach to tragedy, teenagers wouldn't feel so comfortable joking about committing massacre.

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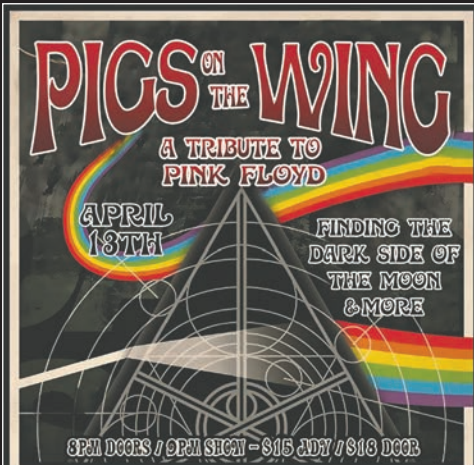


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