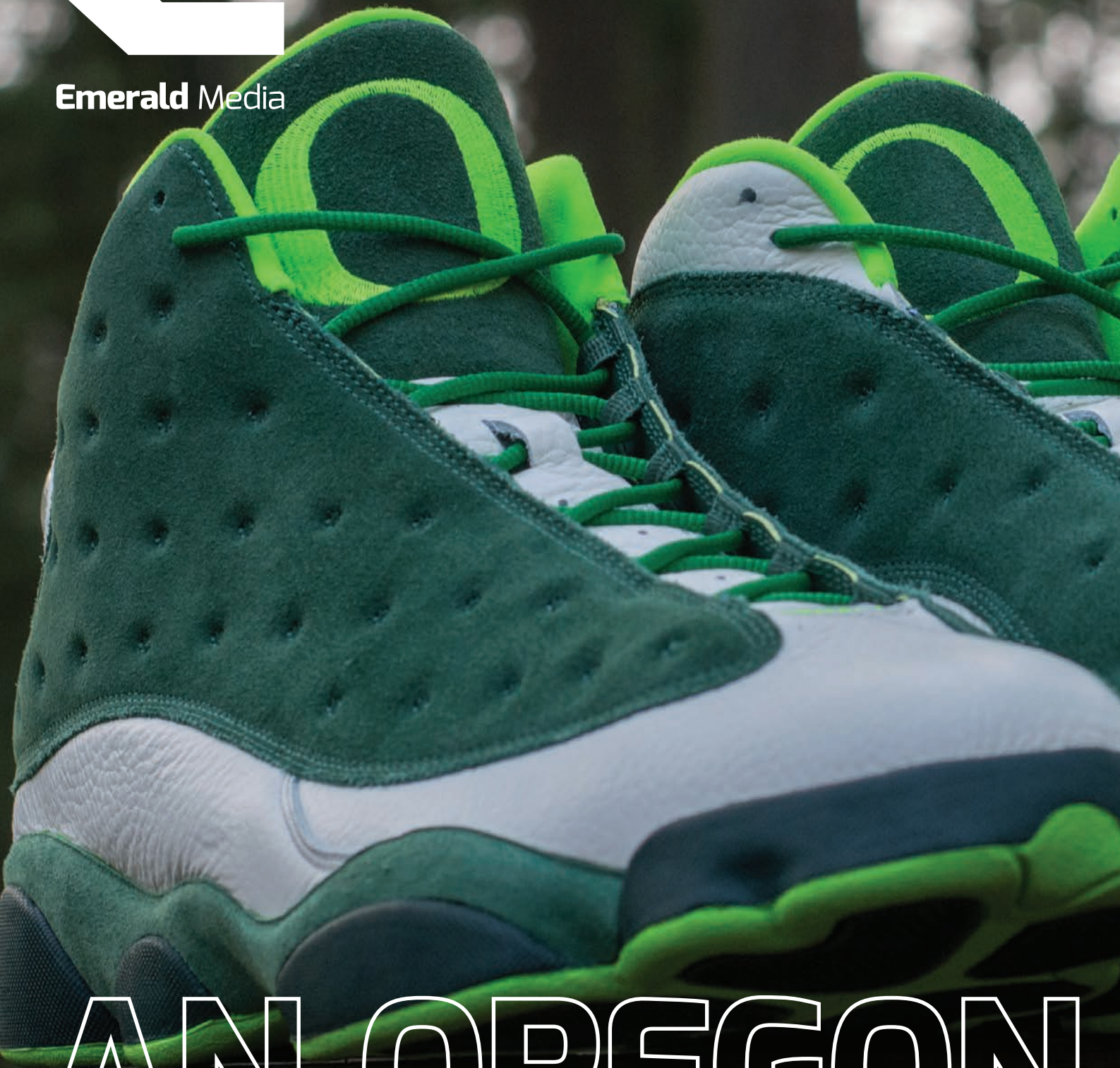




Emerald Media

OREGON-THEMED JORDAN SNEAKERS

are prized in the sneakerhead world, and UO athletes are often the only recipients of these coveted collector's items.



AN OREGON EXCLUSIVE

WEDNESDAY



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UNIVERSITY AND DUCK STORE WORKING ON MAKING TEXTBOOKS TECH-SAVVY AND COST-AWARE

BY ERIN CAREY • TWITTER @ELCAREY



The University of Oregon Duck Store started a new program to make textbooks more widely available online. (Henry Ward)

As technology changes, higher education changes with it. Part of that change is seen in the way students access their textbooks, with more and more required texts coming in electronic forms.

The University of Oregon Duck Store has started a new business partnership this fall to make textbooks more available online, eliminating the need for heavy books and introducing a new partnership with RedShelf to bring eBooks to the Duck Store.

According to Duck Store Chief Information Officer Alex Lyons, the Duck Store successfully launched its eBooks, selling over 700 of them fall term. It is continuing to expand the program as it works with RedShelf.

"On average, 20 percent of titles have eBook options," Lyons said. "Savings for eBooks range depending on the titles, but can be up to 15 percent for the digital purchase."

Students won't have to buy the

titles for eBooks if they don't want to. They can rent them for 90 or 180 days or buy the book outright, Lyons said.

Having electronic forms of textbooks gives students another option when buying their term's books. Lyons said that so far, the Duck Store has sold around 170 titles for winter term.

Freshman cinema studies major Nathan Awbry said that besides price, the accessibility of an eBook would persuade whether he would buy it. "I think that I would prefer the online cheaper one, as long as it's easily accessible," he said. "Like if I found out you have to put in a bunch of codes every time you want to access it, then maybe not."

Along with eBooks, UO is working to introduce more resources on an online platform.

Assistant Vice President for University Initiatives and Collaborations Chuck Triplett says that the university is working with both the Duck Store and the Knight

Library to expand the use of online resources and eBooks.

Open educational resources are open-license texts that don't come with an access code, which is a large part of some textbooks' expenses. The Knight Library is currently searching for a librarian that focuses on OERs to help students access these free online resources, Triplett says.

"The challenge we've had is around developing these materials," Triplett said. "Part of the challenge is where do they live? When you have to have access to them and they have to be available for others to build on or to download, how do they make these things available?"

For students, having textbooks available online and through the library not only gives more access, but it also can make textbooks more affordable, according to Triplett.

Triplett says that professors play a role by choosing more affordable textbooks for their classes.

"There may be a course where a

faculty member isn't even using a textbook. They're creating their own materials or they're allowing you to draw from internet resources," Triplett said. "When faculty members are assigning texts, please be conscientious of the cost, and hopefully that would yield better usage or at least more thoughtful approaches."

For both Triplett and Lyons, a large part of their work is raising awareness about these new approaches to textbooks, whether they're eBooks or OERs.

"It's being thoughtful about college affordability across the board, to which a textbook is a big component," Triplett said. "I would want to know that a faculty member which has the right and the responsibility to choose their curriculum and all the materials that support it is being cognizant of the fact that there is an impact on students."

Zach Demars contributed reporting to this article.

UO student and Army aviation captain Brian Gaudette is the owner of Captain Soup. After being diagnosed with Hashimoto's Thyroiditis, an autoimmune condition, he turned to clean eating to manage his illness. (Dana Sparks)

UO GRAD STUDENT AND ARMY PILOT OPENS CAPTAIN SOUP TRUCK IN EUGENE

BY EMILY MATLOCK · TWITTER @EMILYD_MATLOCK



About five years ago, Brian Gaudette noticed a change in his health. He was about 50 pounds overweight and was experiencing spatial disorientation and anxiety. As an active-duty aviation captain in the Army, he knew the brain fog and overall deteriorating health wouldn't fly. His health would need to seriously improve to maintain his way of life, so he turned to soup.

Gaudette, now on what he called a "mid-tour hiatus," is studying at the University of Oregon to receive his Masters in Business Administration. In addition to his studies, being a father and an active-duty officer, Gaudette is the founder and CEO of his food truck, Captain Soup. In the Lundquist College of Business, Gaudette found a support system of other entrepreneurs and an abundance of fresh resources that the Willamette Valley offers.

The soup is made with either locally sourced lamb or ground beef, bone broth and organic vegetables, and comes in classic or dijon flavors. Though he's sold his product online for a year, he decided to open a physical location after discussing the idea in courses at the UO and with colleagues.

"Without the Willamette Valley, without being here in Eugene, without the University of Oregon, Captain Soup doesn't exist," he said.

Before beginning his soup business, however, Gaudette was diagnosed with an autoimmune condition called Hashimoto's Thyroiditis, or Hashimoto's disease, in which his immune system mistakenly attacks his thyroid. After visiting

numerous specialists, he was prescribed a pill that alleviated some of the symptoms, though he said he still felt foggy, anxious and overweight.

Though he had reached the limit of what Western medicine could provide for him, he knew he couldn't stop there if he wanted to continue to be an aviation captain, he said.

That's when a friend gave Gaudette a book about using food to heal chronic diseases, which sparked his interest in researching the topic. Chronic illnesses and autoimmune conditions affect 23.5 million Americans, according to the National Institute of Health, though those numbers may be higher due to undiagnosed conditions.

While Gaudette said he knew that starting a clean, whole-food diet would relieve his symptoms, committing to a new diet would be more difficult with travel and an intense work schedule.

"When you look at the food that's really convenient, and that's readily available, none of it is clean." He asked himself, "How do you exist in this food system and society that doesn't have clean food? And the answer is the burden is completely on you to source and make your food every day."

He decided to commit to a six-month trial diet, eating only soup that he prepared from whole, organic ingredients known to heal stomach ailments. He'd cook large batches and freeze portions to take on the go.

After only four or five weeks on the new diet, he said it felt like a veil had been lifted from his eyes. He had more mental stamina, slept better and was

quickly shedding the extra weight.

"When your brain doesn't work, it's really hard to remember what it's like to feel normal, it's just sort of this slow fade into gray," he said.

When Gaudette realized the diet was working for him, the next step was figuring out how to transport soups when he was on deployment. He learned how to tin cans of soup in his home, and would ship 500 pounds of soup to destinations while on deployment, earning him the nickname "Captain Soup."

He began selling soup to some family and friends, who ate the soup every day for 30 days and reported losing weight and reversing symptoms of type two diabetes, among other health improvements. After seeing the results, he decided to open the online shop.

"It's really humbling to watch someone who's going through living a shell of a life to all of a sudden they're thriving and they're being healed from things that were not supposed to be possible without medication," he said. "That's been incredibly humbling to be a part of and really why we're still here."

Gaudette also hosts talks and said he hopes that by sharing his experiences, and his soups, others will be able to make healthy diet changes as well.

Captain Soup is located on the corner of West 11th and Chambers in Eugene. The truck is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, but you can order the soup online anytime at captainsoup.com.

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EMERALD MEDIA GROUP
1395 UNIVERSITY ST., #302
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541.346.5511

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BUSINESS

PUBLISHER & PRESIDENT
BILL KUNERTH X317
EMAIL: BKUNERTH@DAILYEMERALD.COM

VP OPERATIONS
KATHY CARBONE X302
EMAIL: KCARBONE@DAILYEMERALD.COM

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
COLE PETROCCIONE X327
EMAIL: CREATIVE@DAILYEMERALD.COM

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ON THE COVER

Oregon has an 11-year, \$88-million apparel sponsorship deal with Nike. The Ducks are one of the only Nike-sponsored schools to receive exclusive gear from Jordan Brand.

Photograph by Jake Willard



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WAYS TO STAY ON TRACK WITH YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

BY AMIRA BORDERS · TWITTER @MIRRAAAAAAAA



The first week of 2019 has now passed, and you are in your first trial of the New Year. The one question everyone is asking is centered around their New Year's resolutions made before commencing into January. Some of the most common resolutions people make include going to the gym more, quitting their smoking habits and improving money management skills. There are a few other notable goals that are commonly made and just as hard, but one thing all resolutions seem to have in common is people's inability to maintain them.

Around the end of December, people start to feel like there are things that need to change in the new year. They hope that once January comes, all of these things will magically happen. This is a disaster waiting to happen. Instead, what usually takes place is a failure to pursue new goals past February. According to a 2016 study conducted by the Statistic Brain Research Institute, only eight percent accomplish their New Year goal by the end of the year. In other words, the "new year, new me," motto usually doesn't hold up too well.

Here are three simple tips that can help you stay on track and feel proud of your efforts at the end of the year.

Be real with yourself

For some, going cold turkey is not realistic at all. And, in some cases, it may not be the healthiest, either. This is where you have to have an honest conversation with yourself and figure out what is doable. If you want to stop a certain habit, try weaning off of it first, and then gradually get to the point of no longer practicing the hobby anymore. If you want to start a new hobby, go slow and then build the momentum up. Remember, this New Year's resolution is for yourself; at the end of the day, the person who needs to be satisfied is you. Start off strong and honest with yourself about your own abilities.

Pace yourself with the number of resolutions you have

People will often set multiple goals for themselves to achieve and ultimately realize they are struggling to accomplish even one. This is not a race, and you are only competing with yourself. Therefore, the number of goals you set should be realistic and doable. Instead of looking to accomplish three goals all at once, start with one and don't move on until

you feel like you have mastered it. The process is like building a skillset, you can either be really great at one thing or mediocre at a wide variety of things.

Speak it into existence, but don't jinx yourself

One common online trend was the overbearing amount of people sharing their goals for the new year. It is a good idea to speak things into existence, but not everybody needs to know your goals. Not everybody is on your team, and misery loves company for a lot of folks. A common saying goes, "It is better to work hard in silence and let the success show for itself." This makes it easier to accept rejections or setbacks you may encounter on your way to accomplishing your goals. The best thing to do to stay on the right path is personally track your goals and make it something you are doing for yourself, rather than a social media post to be shared.

Staying consistent with new changes is hard and, as stated before, there are bound to be some setbacks. However, even if you mess up your goal for the new year or feel you have already disappointed yourself, remember that there are still more than 300 days left to get it right.

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ASKING FOR A FRIEND IS A WEEKLY SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS COLUMN HOSTED BY ARTS AND CULTURE WRITER DANA SPARKS AND FUELED BY YOUR CURIOSITIES. GO TO DAILYEMERALD.COM TO ANONYMOUSLY SUBMIT QUESTIONS REGARDING SEX, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION.

BY DANA SPARKS • TWITTER @DANAMSPARKS

HELP, I'M A HOPELESS ROMANTIC

QUESTION:

"HOW DO I DEAL WITH ALWAYS LIKING GUYS WHO EITHER HAVE NO IDEA I EXIST OR PROBABLY WOULD NEVER BE SEEN WITH ME?" - HOPELESS ROMANTIC

ANSWER:

Dear Hopeless Romantic,
Sounds like you kind of have a taste for jerks.

Of course, everyone has the right to unrequited feelings or attraction, but when you say they "probably would never be seen with [you]," maybe you should reconsider wanting to be seen with them.

Your observation tells me that whatever person, or people, you're referring to doesn't actually see your value as a person. There is a big difference between not wanting to be with someone and not wanting to be seen with someone. The latter implies some sort of shame — Why would you want to give your time to someone who feels shame or embarrassment around you?

The simple answer: You don't. You're a hopeless romantic and — if I were to take a guess — that means you're in love with love and searching for a genuine connection. In your pursuit for romance, you can't forget that love and respect must be a package deal if it's truly worth your time.

When it comes to people who

act like you don't exist, chances are — to them — you don't. It's kind of like when people say, "You don't know what you don't know." It's likely there hasn't been the interaction — perhaps an introduction or spark of intrigue through conversation — necessary for a space to be created for you in their mind. Think about how many people you pass each day without realizing who they are, the life they're living or perhaps even their existence. There might be someone who feels that way about you right now. This sort of situation is exactly why we need this seemingly cliché advice: You have to put yourself out there.

Demanding respect and pursuing whom you want places a lot of responsibility on you because, in a way, I'm saying you have to make your own kind of love. (That's kind of romantic, isn't it?) At some point, we need to recognize what we manifest in our own lives by how we treat ourselves, letting others know how to treat us (which is a little less romantic).

The hard truth is that if you keep chasing after the wrong people in the wrong places, you're

going to get exactly what you're getting now. If you continue to rationalize why someone is treating you poorly — or rationalize that they aren't when they really are — they're going to continue treating you poorly. This does not mean what they're doing is okay — or that you deserve it — just that people do as they please.

Despite that, I do believe that there are many good people out there — and probably a person in search of someone just like you.

If you're falling for the wrong guy again and again, you're not learning from your mistakes. The "wrong guy" — if you think about it — actually tends to be a lot of different people who don't see or appreciate you. Think about how often people go through love and relationships and learn about themselves before figuring out what they need and how to handle a relationship. While these are people that you can learn from, be careful you don't make the same mistakes and end up dealing with too many "wrong guys."

Look at your past mistakes — er, past loves — and be honest about

what's working and not working for you. Sometimes this means identifying a trait or characteristic that you find absolutely delectable as something that actually isn't healthy for you.

It might be time to question whether you're allowing yourself to see the people who really do deserve a chance. Sometimes we don't allow the right person in our lives because they're too nice or perhaps feel "too right." At that point, you should ask yourself, "What happened to me that was so bad that it has led me to believe someone is too nice for me?"

Sometimes we overlook the things we deserve because we don't feel like we deserve them. In this same strain of behaviors, sometimes we romanticize the people or things that are bad for us — but that's not romantic.

What is romantic is taking care of yourself.

Demand respect. Cultivate loving relationships. Celebrate each other. Don't compromise for the wrong guy. Don't lose yourself looking for the right guy.

Yours truly,
Dana

WHERE OREGON MEETS SNEAKERHEAD GLORY

BY JAKE WILLARD • TWITTER @RUNJWILL



Ducks cornerback Thomas Graham Jr. wears the special edition Jordan Brand jersey during the homecoming game against UCLA. (Devin Roux)



The Jordan 14 Oregon Duck PE features a plush suede shoe upper covered in embossed Fighting Duck logos. Given to members of the football team in 2015, these sneakers have sold for up to \$2,200 on sneaker resale site StockX. (Jake Willard)

In 1988, former University of Oregon pole-vaulter Tinker Hatfield was tasked by Nike with designing the Air Jordan 3. His design was well received by Michael Jordan and Nike ran with the shoe. Today Hatfield's design is widely considered by many to be one of his best of all time. Tinker would go on to design every Jordan model from the Jordan 3 to the Jordan 15. While Jordan Brand, a Nike-owned company, did not begin to work with UO until the 2000s, Hatfield's Duck ties never faded.

Fast forward to the present day: Oregon is a little over 13 months into its 11-year, \$88 million apparel sponsorship deal with Nike. And due in part to Hatfield's generosity, the Ducks have become one of the only Nike-sponsored schools to receive exclusive gear from Jordan Brand, such as the homecoming jerseys they wore against UCLA last season. But the gear doesn't end there.

The University of Oregon holds a special place in the world of sneakers. Since 2011, the Ducks have received limited edition Oregon-themed Jordan shoes designed exclusively for the student athletes by Hatfield. These player exclusive (PE) Jordans have not only caught the attention of Oregon fans, but are highly sought-after by celebrities and collectors alike. As a result, these sneakers can fetch an impressive price tag on the resale market. With all the excitement that surrounds these shoes, they have reached a significant place in sneaker culture.

OPEN THE BOX

As part of the Ducks' homecoming uniform collaboration with Jordan Brand, Oregon also unveiled an Air Jordan 3 Tinker PE shoe that was only given to members of the football team and friends and family of UO. The Oregon-themed shoe features a plush green suede with the Jordan 3's signature elephant print detailing. The shoe pays homage to Hatfield's early Jordan 3 sketches with its interchangeable

velcro swooshes.

On Dec. 22, Oregon football also received an Air Jordan 6 PE ahead of the Redbox Bowl, complete with the Ducks' signature wings and an Oregon "O" stitched over black suede.

While it may seem normal for student athletes to receive free shoes with all of their equipment, receiving these PE Jordans from Jordan Brand has proven to be a special event for both the athletes and sneaker collectors alike.

The Ducks started receiving these custom PE sneakers for travel in 2011, beginning with a Jordan 9 Oregon PE Hatfield designed for the football team. Hatfield said he hoped the Jordan shoes would get people talking about the Ducks' travel gear.

"I felt like there was something missing. It wasn't really that exciting and no one was talking about it," Hatfield told Nike in an interview about his Oregon-themed sneakers.

One person Hatfield got talking was Oregon alumnus Brendan Dunne. After graduating from UO, Dunne went on to become a professional at talking about sneakers. He is now a deputy editor at Complex and the co-host of the YouTube sneaker talk show Full Size Run. Dunne believes that Hatfield had created something special. "There were University of Oregon-branded shoes before, but this was something else," he said.

Since Tinker created the Jordan 9 for the Ducks, Oregon PE Jordans have become some of the most sought-after shoes for sneakerheads across the globe. Celebrities such as Macklemore, Victor Cruz, Lil Yachty and LeBron James are known to have one, if not several, pairs of these Oregon-themed Jordan shoes in their collections, even though they have no direct ties to the university.

Houston Rockets small forward P.J. Tucker, widely considered to have one of the best sneaker collections in the NBA, wore a pair of Oregon Jordan 5 PEs in a playoff game against

IS THE PRICE RIGHT?

Oregon player exclusive Jordans are among some of the most exclusive sneakers created, and the demand for them among sneakerheads is remarkable. With that being said, how much do some of the best pairs resell for?

Resale prices from StockX, Index PDX and Stadium Goods. (Infographic by Kelly Kondo)

JORDAN 3

RELEASED
2012

RESALE
\$4,450 - \$5,800

JORDAN 4

RELEASED
2014

RESALE
\$2,500 - \$10,500

the Utah Jazz in May of 2018. And just last week he rocked a pair of Jordan 13 Oregon PEs against the Trail Blazers. Even DJ Khaled has already obtained a pair of the recently unveiled Jordan 3 Tinker PEs and flexed on his Instagram.

While the Jordan 9 Oregon PE was the first, it was the Pit Crew Air Jordan 3 PE that had the biggest impact on sneaker culture, Dunne said. “I was a senior at the University of Oregon when [they] first surfaced in the fall of 2011. It felt like a windfall for Oregon-based footwear obsessives,” he said.

The Pit Crew 3s were raffled off to students who attended select home basketball games that year. It was the first time a PE was made available to people outside the athletic department. That’s how Dunne picked up his pair.

“I brought \$200 cash with me in hopes of buying a winning ticket off someone who didn’t realize how special the shoes were. I caught an old couple in the hallway after seeing them get up from their seats when their number was called and essentially paid retail price for one of the most coveted Air Jordans of all time,” he recalled.

Since 2011, Hatfield and Jordan Brand have gifted 19 different pairs of these custom shoes to Oregon athletics. And Hatfield has always been willing to go the extra mile to design something befitting of UO’s style. From the Duck re-enacting the famous Jumpman pose, large use of the Duck wing pattern and bright Oregon colors, or covering a whole shoe in embossed Fighting Duck logos, Hatfield’s Oregon Jordan designs stand out in the sneaker community.

And it’s not just because of how much they can sell for – or how many fakes are made and sold. (You can already buy a fake pair of the new Oregon Jordan 3 Tinker PEs in your size on Instagram for \$150.)

BUY THE HYPE?

With all the hype that surrounds these shoes and the small number of each pair created, the cash value of Jordan PEs can often reach four-to-five-figure price tags, regardless of whether they are Oregon themed. With the opportunity to sell their shoes, some college athletes choose to let their PEs go, but the NCAA doesn’t allow it.

According to Sports Illustrated, 13 University of North Carolina football players sold their team-issued UNC Jordan PEs for up to \$2,500: a solid chunk of change for a college student. However, in doing so, they violated an NCAA bylaw that prohibits selling “an item received for participation in intercollegiate athletics.” The players were suspended anywhere from one to four games this past season.

To prevent these shoes from causing eligibility issues at UO, the equipment staff oversees the distribution of player shoes when Jordan Brand gifts them to a team.

“We work with the coaching staff and Nike on setting a date the players wear the shoes,” said Aaron Wasson, Assistant Athletic Director of Equipment Operations. After the game, the players return their

Jordans along with all their game equipment to be cleaned and stored.

“We’ll take the Jordans and lock them up,” Wasson said. “Once the athlete’s eligibility is completely used up, they can return to their team equipment manager to get their shoes.”

Wasson also noted that other schools will reach out to the Oregon equipment staff to ask about their process in handling Jordan PEs. “We heard from Oklahoma and Florida, but UNC didn’t reach out until after their issue,” he chuckled.

Once an athlete graduates, they can – if they choose – sell their Jordans without facing suspension. As a result, the shoes may not start to hit the sneaker market until two or three years after they were first released. This ultimately causes the demand from sneakerheads to further grow and the price to increase even more.

Even if some athletes decide not to sell, PE Jordans can still find their way into the market by way of friends and family.

Between the unique colors and design elements,

the high demand among sneaker collectors and the limited number of shoes created, Oregon PE Jordans are the perfect storm. Several of these shoes are what many sneakerheads would consider a holy grail. People will go to great lengths to own a pair, regardless of if they are even their shoe size.

“A big part of collecting these things is trying to track down what others can’t,” Dunne said. “In this regard, few things are more elusive than something that was never made available to the public, something that players can now be penalized for actually selling off.”

The collaboration between UO and Jordan Brand has proved to be beneficial to both parties. The university gets to use its unique connection with Jordan along with its plethora of gear options to draw top recruits, and Jordan Brand gets to create some of the rarest sneakers and generate buzz around their shoes.

With the overall success of Jordan PEs since 2011 and no signs of slowing down, student athletes and sneakerheads have a bright future to look forward to.



The Jordan 13 Oregon Ducks PE is a hot-ticket shoe among the top sneakerheads. Rapper Lil Yachty proudly displayed a pair in his collection and Houston Rockets small forward P.J. Tucker rocked a pair in a game this season. (Jake Willard)



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DOES ANYONE STILL CARE ABOUT LIVE MUSIC?

BY JOSEPH CAPPELLETTI • TWITTER @CAPPELLETTI7

Walking the streets of Eugene on a weekend night, you can hear music blasting through the walls of frat and house parties all around you. If you walk through campus on a weekday, the majority of people passing by will have headphones in as they listen to music on their way to class.

Music's popularity continues to grow every year. In a report by Nielsen Music, it was revealed that in 2017, Americans listened to 32 hours of music a week on average. Compared to 26.6 hours in 2016 and 23.5 in 2015.

Music consumption continues to increase in large part because of online streaming. Technology has greatly benefited the accessibility of music for consumers; however, it has not positively impacted live music in the same way.

To start, the concert experience has vastly changed with the emergence of smartphones. It often seems like concertgoers care more about recording and sharing concerts on their phones than actually engaging with the artist and fellow fans. When you go to concerts, the unique energy and intimacy that you share with other people is crucial. If those around you are more

concerned with documenting an experience than actually living it, this connection is diminished.

Phone use has gotten so excessive that former White Stripes' singer Jack White recently banned all phones from his concert. Edmonton Journal reviewer Ryan Garner wrote about a recent concert, "Free of distraction (or even the temptation of it), the crowd was fully drawn into the action, returning to a time when we focused on the proceedings rather than vainly attempting to preserve them."

If you were to look up a video of an AC/DC concert 30 years ago and compare it to a Coachella concert this past year, the crowds are extraordinarily different. The main difference is that one displays thousands witnessing authentic and pure emotion, while technology interrupts and impedes this experience in the other.

Social media isn't the only influence that technology has had on live music. With live and recorded concert streaming online, fans can watch concerts without even going. For the past eight years, YouTube has live streamed many of the concerts at Coachella. Fans are now questioning if they should spend hundreds of dollars when they can watch the same show for

free at home. According to Livestream's website, live music streaming viewership is increasing at a rate of 28.6 percent per year.

Additionally, live streaming is changing how artists perform. During Beyonce's legendary set this year at Coachella, her set seemed to be targeted more at the audience at home than in attendance. Why would people go to concerts if artists are going to play more for the fans streaming online than the ones in person?

What makes live music so special isn't something that can be felt watching a computer screen or listening to a song on Spotify. Concerts give bands the control to play music the way they want it to be heard and understood. Going to concerts inspires, energizes and connects us in a way that nothing else can.

One of the main draws of Eugene is that it is one of the best places in Oregon to find live music. The Willamette Valley Music Festival, Lorax, WOW Hall and McDonald all give unique experiences to see some of the best up-and-coming musicians in the world. Get out there and experience the live music scene that can be found on every corner of Eugene for yourself – without your phone.



Outside of music festivals and superstar concerts, the live music concert experience has vastly changed. (Sarah Northrop)

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Ducks center Kenny Wooten (14) continues to sit out with a broken jaw. (Ben Green)

IN THE ABSENCE OF 2 STAR PLAYERS, OREGON MUST CONTROL THE PACE TO BEAT UCLA

BY JACK BUTLER • TWITTER @BUTLER917

Oregon men's basketball comes into games against USC and UCLA riding a wave of bad news. Last week, star center Bol Bol announced he is out for the season with a foot injury. Sophomore winger Abu Kigab announced he intended to transfer, while center Kenny Wooten continues to sit with a broken jaw, leaving Oregon with eight scholarship players available.

The departures' impact was evident in the Ducks' 77-72 loss to Oregon State. And while Oregon overcame an 18-point deficit to almost win the game, the problems that got them down are tough to overcome.

Bol and Wooten were some of the best shot blockers and interior defenders in the country, but now Oregon has a defensive problem. The Ducks allowed Oregon State to shoot 62 percent from the field, recording only two blocks during the game. Oregon State got too many easy baskets at the rim, something both UCLA and USC have the athleticism to attack.

"We've got to play with what we've got, and then hopefully we do get [Wooten] back some time," Oregon coach Dana Altman said. "But our

team early had a defensive identity; right now we don't."

Freshmen Francis Okoro and Miles Norris, who Oregon planned on redshirting this year, are Oregon's answers to the holes in the lineup left by Bol and Wooten.

But even if Oregon plays well to start the game, its short rotation might make it tough to end that way. The Ducks were already one of the slower teams in the country in terms of pace. With eight players in the rotation, it will be advantageous to go even slower to preserve energy. The loss of Wooten and Bol is also more than just missing bodies, they were two of Oregon's most talented players, and now the Ducks will face a talent deficit when playing some Pac-12 teams. The more possessions in a game the more likely two teams will fall somewhere near their mean, which may not be what the Ducks need right now.

So Oregon's second challenge in Pac-12 play will be UCLA, a team that is 21st in the country in pace. However, UCLA has many of its own issues. The Bruins have lost to Belmont and Liberty, and they were crushed by North

Carolina, Michigan State, Cincinnati and Ohio State. After the embarrassing loss to Liberty, head coach Steve Alford was fired.

The reeling Bruins found level in two victories over Stanford and Cal, but they come to Eugene not far from a four game losing streak. If Oregon can slow the game down, it might be able to exploit a porous UCLA defense allowing 76 points per game.

Oregon's challenge will be stopping Jaylen Hands and Kris Wilkes from dictating the offensive end. Together they shoot 40 percent of UCLA's shots and lead the Pac-12's second highest scoring offense.

USC is also an athletic team that could be trouble for Oregon's defense. While they too have underperformed this season, including a bad loss to Santa Clara, they beat Stanford and Cal as well. The Trojan defense has allowed opponents to shoot 44 percent from the field and it can be foul-heavy.

The Ducks could use a similar formula against both Southern California teams. Oregon will probably be the underdog in both games, but UCLA and USC are no strangers to getting upset.

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