

NOV. 8, 2021

Monday Edition



Emerald Media

Critical Race Theory on campus

Following a controversial CRT speaker in Eugene, UO faculty and community members weigh in on what CRT actually is and what it looks like at the university.



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A&C

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THE DAILY EMERALD

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ON THE COVER

Charise Cheney gestures towards students while teaching her morning class on Nov. 4, 2021, in Lawrence Hall. (Will Geschke/Emerald)

everything you need to know
EVERYTHING UO

FROM YOU

VOICES OF UO

Opinions from community members

On Oct. 25, the Oregonian published a story in which woman athletes described body shaming in the Oregon track and field program, saying they felt devalued and at risk for eating disorders because of the program's data-based approach to weight and body fat percentages. We asked UO students for their opinions.



(Maddie Stellingwerf/Emerald)

"It's disappointing and in a program like that you trust the people who are coaching you and caring for you. And if you focus too much on size it can affect you in school. Student athletes are students first. And help students first."

Ellie Hajduk
UO junior

"I actually really don't like that. It is expected of athletes to maintain certain standards and we give them so much crap about being paid and performing well and it comes down to the mental health of athletes. Women, especially women have unnecessary standards to fulfill and not equate with their quality as an athlete. Overall women athletes should be respected more. That's ridiculous that we're asking the world of them and not giving the world to them."

Cierra Perez
UO fourth year student

Reader Recommends

BY CORVO ROHWER · TWITTER @CORVUSCORAX115



MOVIE RECOMMENDATION: SAVING PRIVATE RYAN

Summary: Taking place soon after the Normandy Landings, a group of soldiers headed by Captain John Miller descend behind enemy lines to rescue a paratrooper. Each member of the team experiences the horrors of war, and overcomes the odds as not only their bodies are challenged, but their minds as well. "Saving Private Ryan" is directed by Steven Spielberg, and features a stand out cast, including Tom Hanks, Matt Damon, Tom Sizemore and Edward Burns.

Genre: Action, war

Recommended by: Brian Regala (He/his), UO junior studying Jazz Studies

"It was one of those movies that was very ahead of its time with after effects, make-up; of realistic effects of the dismemberment and all the realities of World War 2," Regala said.

LOOK ONLINE

Instagram poll:

How do you feel about Eugene's fall weather?

Yay: 57%

Nay: 43%

Related Opinion story:

"Best ways to enjoy the autumn season with a car" by Beatrice Byrd



(Serei Hendrie/Emerald)

Most read story last week:

"Opinion: Eugene Safe Sleep sites cage unsheltered community"

by Emma J Nelson



(Isaac Wasserman/Emerald)

Voices of UO

Scan here or visit the Emerald's social media to participate in our next Voices of UO. **Should UPOD be replaced with community service officers?**



We want to hear from you:

Email editor@dailyemerald.com to submit a tip or a letter to the editor. The ideal length for a letter is 200-500 words, but we publish letters of various lengths online.

GUEST VIEWPOINT

(Maisie Plew/Emerald)

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PPSO 55 YEARS & GROWING STRONGER



Linda Baker, pictured here, is a University of Oregon student who has been a city employee in the AFSCME Local 1724 union for five years. (Will Geschke/Emerald)

Dal Colleek, shown here, is the local president of the AFSCME 1724 union in Eugene. (Will Geschke/Emerald)

Monica Bielski Boris, a member of the AFSCME Local 1724 union, poses for a photo. (Will Geschke/Emerald)

SEEKING A FAIR CONTRACT

A union representing city of Eugene employees is demanding higher cost-of-living adjustments and layoff language that provides more job security.

BY ALEXIS WEISEND

Members from the AFSCME Local 1724 union pose for a photo in Kesey Square on Friday morning, Nov. 5, 2021. AFSCME Local 1724 members are currently fighting for a fair contract from the city of Eugene, seeking higher cost of living adjustments, more equity on benefits and improved job security. (Will Geschke/Emerald)



A union composed of 620 city of Eugene employees is demanding changes to what they believe is an unfair contract with the city.

In an Oct. 25 city council meeting, the union, AFSCME Local 1724, voiced its concerns and emphasized two key issues with the contract: low cost-of-living adjustment – or COLA, which is an increase in salary to account for inflation – and predatory layoff language.

The city is offering Local 1724 members a 2% COLA starting Jan. 1, 2022. However, members argue this equates to a 1% COLA in the first year of the contract since the start and end of the city's fiscal year is July 1.

Non-represented employees, which include supervisors, managers and professional-level non-supervisors in the city, will receive a 2.4% market adjustment pay similar to a COLA, Eugene Community Relations Director Laura Hammond said. However, these employees are also eligible to receive a 3.2% competency adjustment pay when they complete a survey and participate in an aspirational conversation with their supervisor.

"How is this even fair?" Local 1724 president Dal Ollek said at the city council meeting about the wage increase difference. "We live in the same community. We attend the same schools, shop at the same stores. Prices are going up. Our members are feeling the pinch."

Wendy Beck, a member of Local 1724's executive board and contract bargaining team, said the inequity in wage increases is dramatic.

"The city likes to talk about equity, and they at

least give lip service to caring about everybody being treated well and equally and properly," Beck said. "But then, they do something like this."

Hammond said bargaining is still underway, but the city's current financial proposal includes a 2% to 4% COLA in July 2022 and July 2023. AFSCME employees could receive up to an 11% total pay increase in 2022, she said.

Non-represented employees did not receive a cost of living increase after Jan. 1, 2020 because of the financial impacts of the pandemic, while union employees received a 2% COLA in 2020, Hammond said.

Union members also said they are distressed by the city's proposal that would insert language allowing supervisors to reduce employee hours by 25% for up to six months without any of the job protections in the existing union contract.

Monica Bielski Boris, a representative of the wider Oregon AFSCME Council 75, said this could potentially target employees who are close to retirement or who managers would like to see leave. Employees' hours could be cut and replaced with temps who are cheaper, she said.

Boris said the city did not propose this layoff language with the fire or police department, and no jurisdiction is proposing something similar.

"It really comes for the heart of what is at the union contract," Boris said. "One of the things that makes a union job different than a non-union job is that you do have an element of due process. Once you make probation, you're not completely an employee at-will who can be let go for no reason at all. There's a process."

Ollek said AFSCME members will feel a larger effect from reduced hours than non-represented employees. "For our lowest-paid members who are making \$16 an hour, they're barely making ends meet with their full wage," he said. "You take 25% of their hours, and that's a significant impact on those employees."

Beck, who is also a library assistant, said her colleagues have expressed concerns about the potential layoff language's effect on their financial security. She said the union membership won't accept the proposed language because future bargaining choices are affected by previous contracts. "We don't want these erosions of our rights to be festering in the contract for time immemorial," she said.

Hammond said the proposed additional language is intended to create a way for the city to reduce employee hours on specific teams during emergency circumstances without initiating disruption to multiple teams. Impacted employees would retain full health care benefits.

The city continues to encourage AFSCME to provide feedback through the bargaining process about alternatives to workforce reductions, Hammond said.

The union members also said they want higher equity in benefits relative to other units and market-based wage adjustments.

"The city and AFSCME will go to mediation on Nov. 15, and the city is hopeful that the process will provide an opportunity to come to an agreement," Hammond said.

Local 1724 will hold a bargaining solidarity rally at 10 East Broadway at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 8.

FIRES, THEN FLOODS

Following an intense season of wildfires, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management urges residents to prepare for potential flooding, debris flows and landslides.

BY HANNAROSE MCGUINNESS • TWITTER @SCOHANNAROSE

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management issued a warning Oct. 26 urging residents to prepare for potential flooding, debris flows and landslides that may occur this winter due to intense summer wildfires impacting watersheds and soil. The warning came after a bomb cyclone hit the West Coast the weekend of Oct. 22, causing power outages and floods from Oregon to Southern California. Organizations like OEM and the University of Oregon say community members should be prepared with emergency kits and evacuation plans.

The University of Oregon campus is at a low-level risk for flooding due to the efforts Campus Planning and Facilities Management takes to manage leaf accumulation and maintain the integrity of roofs, gutters and downspouts, according to UO spokesperson Saul Hubbard. He said UO's campus isn't traditionally impacted by flood events, but the university still recommends students be prepared for emergencies of all types.

"Students should take an all-hazards approach when it comes to emergency preparedness versus focusing on one type of disaster or risk type," Hubbard said.

He said the best things for students to do are to prepare an emergency kit that will last for at least a week, create an emergency plan and learn more about potential hazards in Eugene and what they can do to be prepared for them.

Andrew Phelps, director of Oregon OEM, told KVAL that fires have impacted a lot of the state, and, because of that, areas prone to seasonal flooding are at a greater risk due to landscape changes. Phelps said fire affected areas form a water repellent layer of charred soil and vegetation that can increase the risk of flooding.

"These weather systems as they come in from the Pacific can cause pretty significant damage and lead to flooding and landslides," Phelps said. "These all can

lead to road closures and utility outages."

Areas that lost trees in the wildfires may also be hit harder by flooding. A publication from the Arbor Day Foundation found that trees can greatly reduce the amount of water rushing through areas after storms by intercepting the rainfall, sequestering the water within bark, leaves and roots and preventing soil erosion.

The foundation said, "a single tree may store 100 gallons or more, at least until it reaches saturation after about one to two inches of rainfall," and "when trees are combined with other natural landscaping, studies have shown that as much as 65 percent of storm runoff can be reduced in residential developments."

Similar to Hubbard, OEM recommends residents be informed about potential local disaster risks, build an emergency kit, create an emergency evacuation plan and have two weeks worth of supplies ready in case evacuation is necessary.

OEM makes emergency kits less of a hassle to create with resources like its "My Pocket Plan" booklet, which residents can print out and fill in with essential emergency information, such as insurance and medication information, evacuation plans and emergency contact numbers. The American


Red Cross also has checklists for what should be included in a two week emergency bag – with items like food and water, flashlights, medications and first aid kits listed as essential in case of emergency.

Oregon Hazards Lab program director Leland O'Driscoll told KVAL that people now are preparing for multiple hazards at once between continuing to navigate a pandemic and needing to be ready for weather hazards like fires and floods.

"It's hard to keep track of everything and be proactive," O'Driscoll said. "It's kind of having general preparedness for the hazards that are out there and doing what one can to be ready for whichever disaster strikes next."


One of the easiest ways Oregonians can prepare for rainy weather is by signing up for OEM's emergency alerts at oralert.gov to stay informed on potentially hazardous conditions.

What to do BEFORE a flood



**FLOOD
WARNING**

Here are some basic steps
to prepare for the storm:



**STORMY
WEATHER
AHEAD**

- Use Oregon HazVu: Statewide Geohazards Viewers to determine if flooding could impact your home.
- Build an emergency kit and create a family disaster plan.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your household. Have an out-of-state relative or friend be your "family contact" in case you're separated from family or during a flood and make sure everyone knows their contact information.
- Post emergency phone numbers on every phone.
- Be ready to turn off electrical power, gas and water supplies when there is a flood before you evacuate.
- Check out the National Weather Service Turn Around - Don't Drown (TADD) campaign resource for information on safe driving practices during floods.

(Information from oregon.gov, design by Lynette Slape/Emerald)



(Jessica Bolden/Emerald)

CRITICAL RACE THEORY AT UO

Despite its original legal context, critical race theory has resurged in public discourse and become politicized. UO faculty and community members say it's often misunderstood.

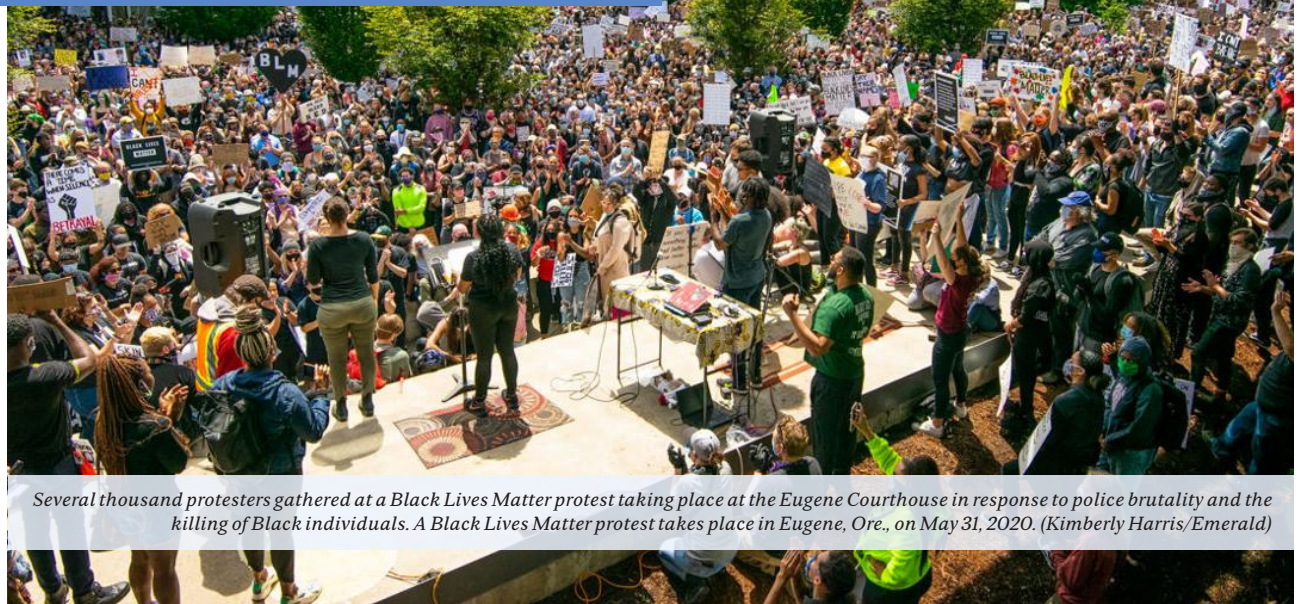
BY DUNCAN BAUMGARTEN • TWITTER @DUNCANBAUMGARTZ

When conservative political commentator Charlie Kirk announced in September that he would be coming to Eugene for his Critical Racism Tour, the event was scheduled at the Graduate Hotel downtown. A few days later, the hotel announced it had decided against hosting the event. It cited messages from the community “indicating that the Event will cause damage or disruption to the Hotel’s premises, operation, guests, or reputation,” according to a statement from Graduate Hotel management to Turning Point USA, Kirk’s organization.

Kirk’s event traded hands between multiple venues, finally ending up at the Emerald Valley Golf Club in Creswell, about 15 minutes away from Eugene.

The Critical Racism Tour aims to speak to college communities about critical race theory, promoting opinions like “critical race theory in schools is systemic racism” and “if you believe in critical race theory, you are a racist,” according to the Turning Point USA website. Kirk’s position is joined by a nationwide movement to ban critical race theory from being taught in schools and universities, including 14 states passing anti-critical race theory legislation.

However, the Eugene chapter of the NAACP and University of Oregon faculty argue that critical race



Several thousand protesters gathered at a Black Lives Matter protest taking place at the Eugene Courthouse in response to police brutality and the killing of Black individuals. A Black Lives Matter protest takes place in Eugene, Ore., on May 31, 2020. (Kimberly Harris/Emerald)

theory is misunderstood by those fighting against it and wrongly used to promote fear and anger in misinformed communities. Both groups work to combat that misinformation, define education on race and equity and emphasize inclusive teaching.

“If you can kind of force that connection, even if that connection doesn’t truly exist,” Miles Rowe Pendleton, the Eugene chapter of the NAACP, said about intentionally mislabeling an inclusive curriculum for political purposes, “then it makes it easier for you to draw up fear, draw up apprehension, draw up reservation amongst people who may not fully understand the differences or nuances of which you’re talking about.”

WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT ISN'T

Critical race theory, or CRT, developed as a legal term in the 1970s and 1980s, according to the American Bar Association. The term grew out of Critical Legal Studies, a field which argued “the law was not objective or apolitical,” the ABA writes, and “the law could be complicit in maintaining an unjust social order.”

As outlined by legal scholar Khiara Bridges, the main tenets of CRT include “recognition that race is not biologically real but is socially constructed and socially significant,” “acknowledgement that racism is a normal feature of society and is embedded within systems and institutions, like the legal system, that replicate racial inequity” and “rejection of popular understandings about racism, such as arguments that confine racism to a few ‘bad apples.’”

CRT has UO ties through one of its originators: legal scholar Derrick Bell. Bell was the first African American dean of UO’s School of Law from 1980 to 1985 and focused on equity and disparity in the legal system.

The use of the term critical race theory by Turning Point USA and other right wing groups is a mislabeling when what’s truly meant is an inclusive curriculum, UO Ethnic Studies professor Charise Cheney said. Cheney said the mislabeling is “part of this movement by the radical right – conservative whites, white nationalists or white supremacists – who are attempting to undermine a larger agenda for racial justice.”

Following the murder of George Floyd in summer 2020, she said many Americans became more undeniably aware of anti-Black racism. What followed was an effort to be more inclusive in history classes and social studies curriculum, and Cheney said the current debate around inclusive curriculum and the misrepresentation of CRT is the backlash to that effort.

Cheney had heard about the curricular movement before, but the push received new life in summer 2021. The debates “started spreading like wildfire in communities across the nation among Whites who felt their privileges were being infringed upon,” she said.

Miles Rowe Pendleton, the president of the Eugene chapter of the NAACP, pointed to the misunderstanding of CRT, as well.

He highlighted the recent legislation from multiple states that ban discussions of racism as a systemic



A few of Charlie Kirk’s Exposing Critical Racism Tour flyers remain on campus. (Ali Watson/Emerald)

issue, often without directly mentioning CRT.

These laws include an Idaho bill which claims that curriculum discussing critical and inclusive race issues are "contrary to the unity of the nation and the well-being of the state of Idaho" and an Iowa bill that banned teaching students about race- and gender-based privilege and oppression.

Pendleton believes the bills aren't really about CRT, though. "If it was truly about critical race theory, these bills we're seeing being passed across the country wouldn't include references of slavery, references of equity, references of diversity, references of all of these other issues and other conversations that have nothing to do with critical race theory," he said.

RACE AND EQUITY EDUCATION AT UO

Cheney has worked for UO in the Ethnic Studies department since 2009, the same year the university established the field of study as a formal department. That departmentalization, she said, grew out of student demand – just like the developments of other initiatives including the Lylle Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center and the Black Studies program, the department of which she's also the director.

"I think what we see is the more things change, the more things stay the same, in some way," she said. "In that the administration tends to be stagnant until pushed into a different space or pushed to make changes." However, she pointed to provost Patrick Philip's initiative to develop a research and policy center focused on racial disparities, which he announced in October 2020, as a sign of a changing in the tides.

The absence of student pressure signals that the university community is in a different time and place, Cheney said. "That was not a movement from the ground up," she said. "That was a movement from the top down."

UO's Critical Race Lab is another initiative working toward equity and inclusion in academia. As a coalition of academics "working at the intersection of geography

and critical race studies," according to the website, the group aims to "better understand the nature of white supremacy, its relationships to the economy, environment and landscape, how it has changed over space and time, and how it can be challenged."



I think there needs to be a more sustained effort to unearth the things in the multiple ways the BIPOC faculty and students feel alienated on campus."

CHARISE CHENEY, UO Ethnic Studies professor

The group focuses on topics like environmental justice, immigration, feminist geography and food studies, according to its website. "Besides our scholarship, we are also committed to creating a supportive intellectual community that not only acknowledges our multiple identities, including as activists and parents, but also imagines an academic culture in which women, people of color, and queer people can flourish," it reads.

Cheney said the university still needs to confront the structural changes necessary to create a campus climate that is not isolating, alienating or hostile to students and faculty of color. "That's a little more difficult to do," she said. "I think there needs to be a more sustained effort to unearth the things in the multiple ways the BIPOC faculty and students feel alienated on campus."

PASSING THE MIC

Pendleton said he hadn't heard CRT discussed in

Eugene until national discourse began on the issue – around the time Kirk announced his tour would stop in Eugene. His initial reaction was, "We'll see if the community wants to have this be here. Let's see if the venue wants to follow through with this," he said.

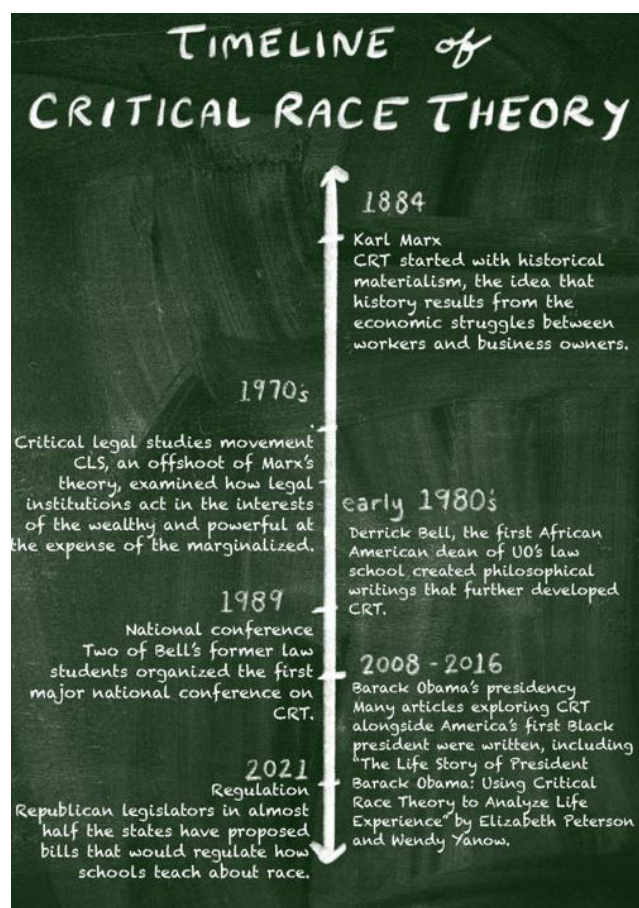
Community members had mixed reactions to Kirk speaking in Eugene. "I do believe in the First Amendment," UO graduate student Duane Soubirous told KEZI. "If someone wants to listen to him, they should be able to hear them speak. I personally don't want to listen to him and won't be there."

On the Eugene subreddit, people encouraged others to write to the Graduate with their concerns and left comments ranging from "let it be our responsibility to show racists that they are not welcome here" to "engage those with whom you disagree civilly and discover common ground while ferreting out bad ideas."

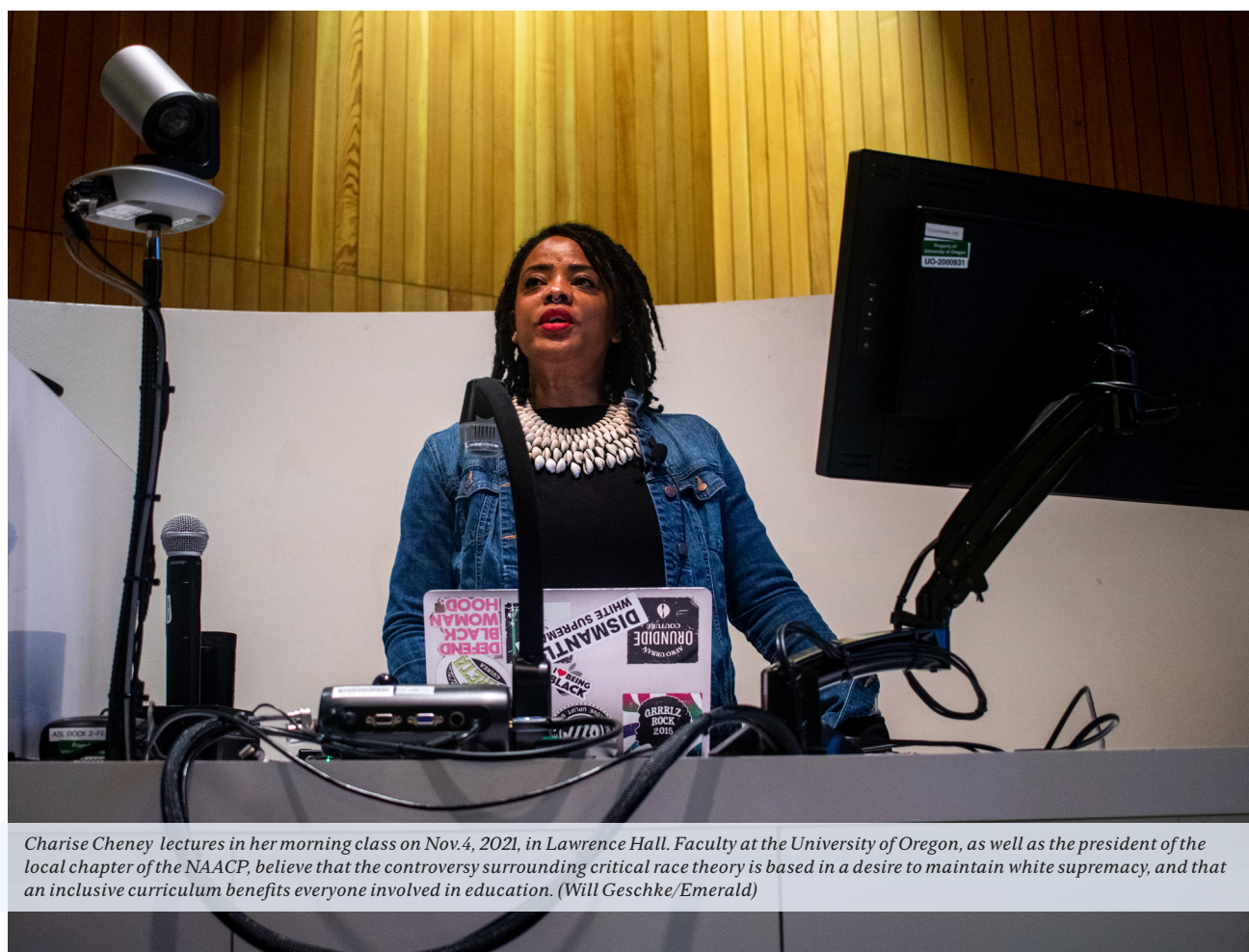
When the Graduate Hotel decided to pull out, Pendleton made note of how the venue pointed to the possibility of hosting Kirk's rhetoric as disparaging to their image. He said it's important for communities to be careful about who they're giving platforms to. "Is this genuinely political discourse that is rooted in good faith, truth, but just a difference of opinions?" he said. "Or is this something that is built upon falsehoods, misinformation, things that are just not accurate, not authentic?"

Cheney believes we are living in a moment of "radical possibility" for inclusive curriculum following the 2020 protests. So many students, regardless of race, were radicalized by the events that took place and now come into classes like Intro to Ethnic Studies "hungry for the material, engaging with the material," she said.

"I love my job because of the potential I have to shift," she said. "I used to say, 'I just want to create a crack in the foundation of students.' And once that crack happens, there's a place that change can happen."



(Eleanor Klock/Emerald)



Charise Cheney lectures in her morning class on Nov. 4, 2021, in Lawrence Hall. Faculty at the University of Oregon, as well as the president of the local chapter of the NAACP, believe that the controversy surrounding critical race theory is based in a desire to maintain white supremacy, and that an inclusive curriculum benefits everyone involved in education. (Will Geschke/Emerald)

'A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING' ON VINYL

Record collectors are graced with three record stores right here in Eugene: Epic Seconds, Moon Rock Records and House of Records.

BY KRISTA KROISS · TWITTER @KRISTAKROISS



House of Records is located on East 13th Ave and has a large variety of records and CDs from every genre. Eugene offers a great selection of local record stores to shop at with a wide array of vinyls, CDs, posters and more. (Mary Grosswendt/Emerald)

If the sizable DIY music scene in Eugene indicates anything, it's this: The people who live here love music. This includes people who love the warm sounds of vinyl that capture more grit from the bands that recorded them, and for older bands, the authentic sounds of songs on their intended medium. For music nerds who already have a record collection three shelves strong, Eugene is a good place to be. Here we are lucky to be home to three record stores: the two story entertainment media center Epic Seconds, the intimate brick and window-faced shop named Moon Rock Records and a small colorful house-like store called House of Records.

Epic Seconds

Walking into Epic Seconds, a two-story building nestled in the heart of Eugene, isn't just walking into a record store – it is stepping into a world of entertainment media.

"Movies, music and video games," general manager David VanPelt said. These are the primary products Epic Seconds carries, but they have started an art gallery as well.

Opening under the name The Record Exchange in the mid-1990s, the store became The CD Exchange and, as of four or five years ago, Epic Seconds, VanPelt said.

The store's record selection began as "four crates of records in a small little corner," VanPelt said, and has grown to be an entire floor. The store carries a bit of everything, and has a "pretty extensive jazz collection right now." VanPelt said they also try to keep new hip-hop and rock records in stock.

"We do considerable record trades every week now," VanPelt said. "To see records booming again is really exciting."

Moon Rock Records

This small record store celebrated four years in business last July and is now getting an upgrade – it will move from the current address on West 8th Ave to a bigger space on West 11th Ave this Wednesday.

Callie Dean, co-owner of Moon Rock Records, said the store began when she and a friend decided to open their own record store after working together at

Mississippi Records in Portland.

"[We carry] a little bit of everything," Dean said. "We have a lot of punk and underground stuff, but we also have a Taylor Swift section, and we try to keep the MF Doom section stocked."

In its current location, Moon Rock Records is small in size with shelves lined with records and a small stage for performances.

The store also has a big international section with records from Brazil, Japan, Turkey and more. Dean said the store is unique for "our specific curation," with lots of selections in the store consisting of records personally enjoyed by the owners, such as punk and old soul music.

Dean also said there are regulars that come in often and "definitely" a community at the store.

"That's the cool thing about records," Dean said. "It brings people together. We're all there for the records."

House of Records

House of Records is possibly the most well-known record store among music-loving UO students. It is an intimate, homey space just a 15 minute walk from campus down East 13th Ave.

"We opened in 1971, so we're on our 50th year now," Dora Taylor, an employee, said. This makes House of Records the oldest record store in Eugene, yet you wouldn't know that from the well-kept building.

Like the other Eugene record stores, it sells "pretty much anything you can think of," Taylor said. "New and used, a lot of rock/pop. [That's] definitely our biggest section."

Amanda Buchanan, a local that comes to House of Records around once a month, enjoys the environment there.

"It's always really calming here, and the people that work here are really nice," Buchanan said. "They always have a lot of different records and are always getting new stuff in here."

There is also a group that comes in every Monday for the "new arrivals" section, Taylor said.

There are four bins that consist of around 120 used records that the store just got in for that week and are released on Mondays. "We get a lot of people that come in right at Monday opening just to get their

hands on new arrivals," Taylor said.

One thing that makes House of Records special is the community it holds.

"I feel like we're very community focused," Taylor said. "A lot of people have been coming here since the 1970s and 1980s."

With the close location to campus and community of the store, House of Records is a must-see for the UO community.

Although some may feel that streaming services like Spotify are more appealing than records, those who love vinyl can't give up the warm tones and satisfying aesthetic. With records gaining popularity among both older and younger people, now is a great time to begin a collection of your own.

RECORD COLLECTION STARTERS BY GENRE:

CLASSIC ROCK:

Purple Haze - Jimi Hendrix

HIP-HOP:

Straight Outta Compton - N.W.A.

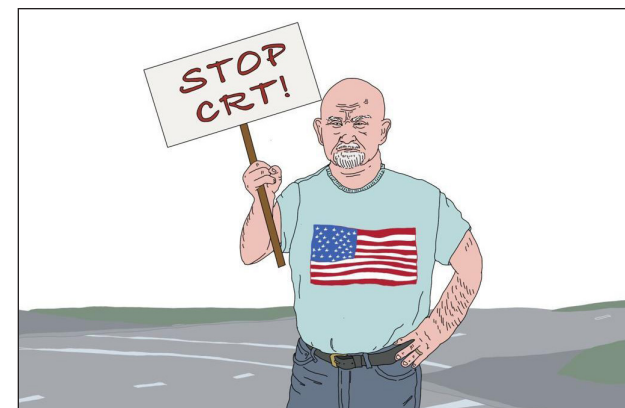
SOUL/R&B:

I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You - Aretha Franklin

INDIE/ALTERNATIVE:

Melophobia - Cage the Elephant

IDENTITY INFLUENCES CRITICAL RACE THEORY



(Eleanor Klock/Emerald)

Opinion: Due to the overwhelming nationalism within the country, the lack of identity separation from the system fuels the false narrative that critical race theory personally targets White individuals as racists.

BY CAITLIN TAPIA

There are a few universal experiences that all children who go through the American public school system share: Pizza day was the best day in the cafeteria, field trips meant no homework and you pledged your allegiance to the flag every morning.

While ritually reciting the pledge of allegiance may seem like a harmless practice, it symbolizes the United States' overwhelming national pride. This is not to say national pride is inherently a bad thing; however, when it reaches a point where people are not able to separate their individual identities as Americans from the American system and its institutions, issues arise.

The deep rooted nationalism that plagues the country has led to extreme tunnel vision and the inability to recognize the nation's wrongdoings in the past – so much so that history curriculums around the country have been altered in order to teach U.S. history in a positive light, regardless of whether or not the information is inaccurate.

In Texas, efforts were made by state lawmakers to refer to the slave trade as the “Atlantic Triangular Trade” within its U.S. history curriculum. This change would have prioritized the economic market and eliminated slavery altogether, “[downplaying] the treatment by white Americans of those people whom they subsequently purchased,” according to reporting by The Hill.

Additionally, acts of extremism can be attributed to nationalism – particularly extremist acts committed by white nationalists. In an interview with The World, professor Monica Duffy Toft of Tufts University said that when a country's core national identity no longer matches its demographic breakdown, those who were formerly in the majority will react. This is because they worry about the potential political and/or economic losses that may negatively affect them.

“They have an ideal in their head what they think the country is supposed to look like,” Toft said. “In the case of the United States, it's largely White, Christian... and also with males in charge.”

The reactions, as referred to by Toft, can lead to physical violence. Statista reported there were 128 white nationalist hate groups in the U.S. during 2020. And, of the 17 domestic extremist-related killings that year, 53% of them were associated with white nationalism. The best example of white nationalistic extremism took place on Jan. 6 this year, when rioters stormed and overtook the U.S. Capitol. In reports from the impeachment trial of former President Trump following the insurrection, rioters injured nearly 140 law enforcement officers, killed one officer, two other officers took their own lives afterward and there are likely to be dozens, if not hundreds, of officers who will struggle with PTSD in the time to come.

The capitol riots, in addition to the flawed US history curriculum, have been glaring examples of the prevalence of white nationalism within the country. Another way that this nationalist viewpoint is manifesting itself is in the ongoing debate around critical race theory.

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw developed critical race theory nearly four decades ago. In an interview with The New York Times, she described critical race theory as “a method that takes the lived experience of racism seriously, using history and social reality to explain how racism operates in American law and culture, toward the end of eliminating the harmful effects of racism and bringing about a just and healthy world for all.”

But, despite critical race theory's four-decade tenure, a majority of the country

had yet to hear the phrase “critical race theory” until roughly a year ago when it was popularized by Tucker Carlson and Fox News, as found by The New Yorker.

The debate surrounding critical race theory has produced many different arguments. Ultimately, the majority of people against it argue it pits People of Color against White people by portraying all People of Color as victims of all White people, who are oppressors.

This is where the influence of nationalism on personal identity comes into play. Racial identity has become so intertwined and integral with national identity that people are no longer able to make a distinction between the two. As a result, the opponents of critical race theory interpret calling social institutions -- like the criminal justice or healthcare system -- racist as calling them racist personally.

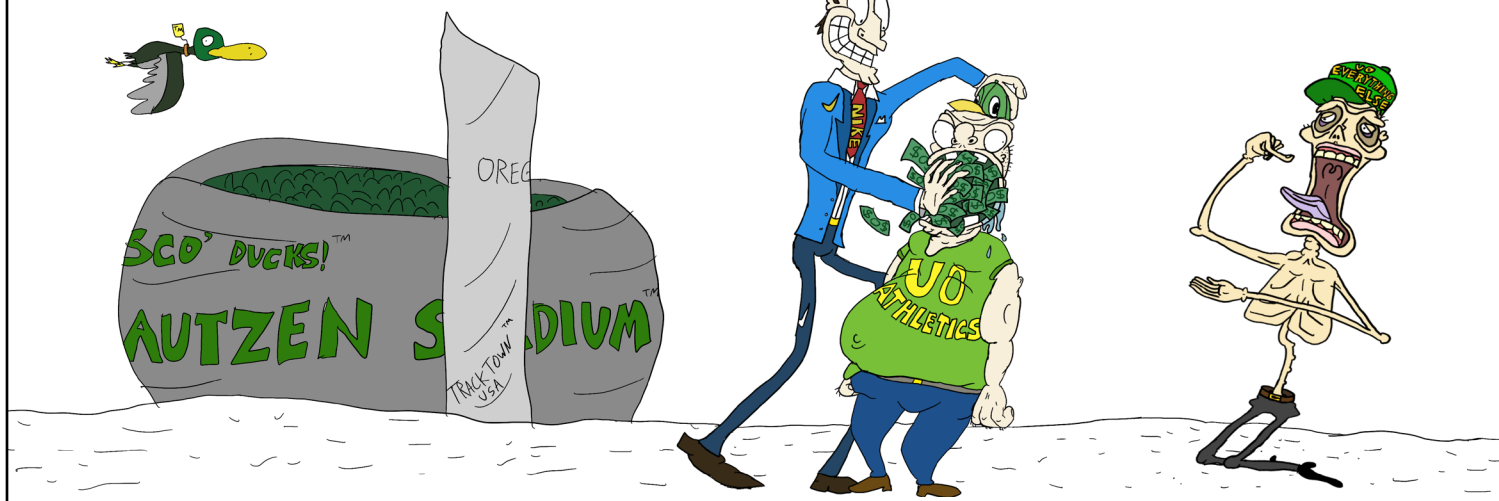
It's time to settle the debate once and for all. Critical race theory does not call individuals, or even groups of people, inherently racist. Rather, it examines how the system of social institutions in America has perpetuated racism through its laws and practices. For many, a perceived connection to the system has provided a blind spot that conceals the many ways that America does not treat everyone in a moral way. But, until people address those blind spots and detach their sense of self from the system at large, critical race theory will not be widely accepted into practice, despite its clear necessity.



Caitlin Tapia is an opinion columnist for the Daily Emerald. She is a second-year student from Colorado majoring in journalism and political science. She is most passionate about social justice and politics but loves to debate about anything.

EDITORIAL CARTOON: UO: SCHOOL OR SPORTS

BY IAN PROCTOR



"Hel-LOOO there, Nike here to offer Oregon Athletics ANOTHER wonderful million-dollar grant! Of course, half the students are still missing toilet paper but HEY! New different-colored football helmets, am I right, or am I RIGHT?"



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SPORTS

Duck Sports: Review and preview

THE WEEK IN UO SPORTS

- Nov. 4 Women's volleyball**
Stanford 3
Oregon 2
- Nov. 5 Women's soccer**
Oregon 2
Oregon State 2
- Nov. 6 Football**
Oregon 26
Washington 16
- Nov. 6 Women's basketball**
Oregon 95
Westmont 65

What's next:
 Oregon men's basketball preps for home opener

BY SHANE HOFFMAN
 TWITTER @SHANE_HOFFMANN_

No. 13 Oregon men's basketball will face Texas Southern on Nov. 9 at 4:00 p.m. in Matthew Knight Arena in its home opener. The 2021 Ducks will look far different than their 2020 counterpart. Oregon returns just four players from last year's team in Will Richardson, Eric Williams Jr., N'Faly Dante and Lok Wur. While head coach Dana Altman will undoubtedly toy with lineups throughout the season, look for a potential starting lineup of Richardson, De'vion Harmon, Williams Jr., Quincy Guerrier and Franck Kepnang in the season opener.

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After forcing a safety from a snap, Ducks cornerback DJ James (0) goes to celebrate with a teammate. The Oregon Ducks take on the Washington Huskies at Husky Stadium in Seattle, Washington, on Nov. 6, 2021. (Serei Hendrie/Emerald)



A MUCH NEEDED JOLT

No. 4 Oregon defense leaves no doubt, snuffs out Washington in Husky Stadium.

BY SHANE HOFFMANN · [TWITTER @SHANE_HOFFMANN](#)

SEATTLE – No. 4 Oregon almost got stuck in the mud Saturday.

It needed a jolt to claw its way out of the downpour in Husky Stadium and the proverbial spider web of the college football landscape – which entangled and delivered losses to multiple top-25 teams, and a pair of top-10 teams Saturday.

Looking to build on a 9-3 lead with eight minutes until the half, Washington ran up the gut on fourth-and-1. Oregon's Brandon Dorlus and Jeffrey Bassa sniffed it out, brought down Huskies running back Sean McGrew for a loss and ran down the field pointing to the opposite end zone in celebration.

There it was: the jolt. The kick in the ass the Ducks' offense needed desperately.

"Completely changed the momentum of the game," Oregon head coach Mario Cristobal said of the play. "Never looked back after that."

Final: Oregon 26, Washington 16.

Oregon's only successful drive of the first half followed the fourth-down stop in quick succession. Three minutes later, a 31-yard touchdown toss to Devon Williams saw the Ducks take the lead and escape a putrid offensive half of football – one of the Ducks' worst stretches this year – with a 10-9 lead.

It was the defense that carried the Ducks and uplifted their offensive counterpart on Saturday against the rival Huskies. That's what great teams do, and what great teams have to do in hostile

environments. One unit feeding off the other.

"You're seeing this scheme, these players, it's all galvanizing itself," Cristobal said. "It's getting in sync. Guys are starting to gel and get more comfortable playing next to each other."

There's been times this season that the Oregon defense has stranded its offense. Saturday was the opposite.

On an inauspicious night from Anthony Brown (10-of-20, 98 yards), the Ducks' defensive stands allowed the offense to pound the ball for 329 yards, with a career-high 211 coming from Travis Dye.

Washington nabbed a gift-wrapped Brown interception on the game's opening possession; led 9-3 before it converted a first down; and got one final shot after a clock-chewing Oregon drive fizzled out after back-to-back Ducks penalties.

The Ducks' defense left no doubt. Three-and-out. "The physicality, you could hear it," Cristobal said. "It sounded different from the sideline."

Linebacker Noah Sewell had 10 tackles and two leaping pass breakups at the line of scrimmage. His running mate in the middle, the firecracker Bassa, terrorized the Washington offensive line on blitzes. Bassa, the only true freshman starter on the Ducks, finished with six tackles, 1.5 for loss, a sack and a pass break-up. He's got a special motor and a bright future.

"It was really everyone coming together as a defense and shutting them down," he said.

Safety Jordan Happle, his left hand engulfed in

a hard cast, picked off a ball, and his teammates in the defensive backfield smothered Washington's receivers all evening.

Six of Washington's drives ended in three or four plays. The Huskies amassed a mere 166 yards on 3.3 yards per play and converted 3-of-12 third downs.

Washington's 16 points is the lowest total the Ducks have allowed in conference play. What's more impressive is the Huskies sustained only one drive longer than 27 yards – their 11-play 75-yard touchdown drive. The other 9 points came off a two-play drive that began on the Oregon six-yard line and an Oregon safety.

The Husky offense is no world beater. It's bottom three in the conference in yards per game. But so are the Stanford and Colorado offenses, and both hung 29-plus points on Oregon.

The Oregon defense has playmakers in spades. The talent's unquestionable, the potential stifling.

The Ducks have won multiple games at the hands of their defense, but they've just lacked a killer instinct at times, and timely forced turnovers have covered up miscues. Oregon's defense showed its teeth and snarled in the face of the Huskies Saturday.

The display was promising. It's something to build on, the type of performance the Ducks need more of with both Oregon State and Utah looming on the schedule – the conference's third and fourth best offenses in yards per game.

The Ducks snuffed Washington out.

TAKE THE GAS OUT OF LEAF BLOWING

Oronsky: Oregon must ban the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers

BY ISAAC ORONSKY · TWITTER @ISAAC_ORONSKY



(Lynette Slape/Emerald)

The United Nations Climate Summit began Oct. 31 in Glasgow, Scotland, with leaders from across the globe meeting to discuss climate change. The yearly summit comes after yet another U.N. climate report warning about climate change. Once again world leaders come together to likely make lackluster progress and vague claims of plans for emission reductions.

I, for one, am fed up. It's been obvious that relying on largely elderly and wealthy world leaders is no longer an option, and I think I have a solution to all of our problems -- ban gas-powered leaf blowers. I know what you're thinking: Oh handsome opinion columnist, how does banning gas-powered leaf blowers help when 71% of carbon emissions are produced by the top 100 emission companies?

Well... it doesn't -- not directly at least. But here's my logic: 67% of Americans believe the federal government is not doing enough to reduce the effects of climate change, according to a 2018 PEW survey. So what's the holdup? Why don't our leaders make changes? There can be only one explanation: the awful noise of leaf blowers.

President Joe Biden is 78 years old, and the average age for senators is 63. Their hearing is definitely not what it used to be. News segments and briefings that contain dire warnings about the coming years echo through the White House and Capitol Building, likely on a daily basis. The only way they're not hearing our pleas must be from leaf blowers outside, drowning them out.

I mean, how else do you explain the continued inaction? The U.N. climate report said we must cut greenhouse gas emissions in half over the next eight years. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change warned that the world is at "code red" for temperature rise. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports, despite a slight drop in emissions due to the pandemic, "the concentration of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere still hit its highest level ever recorded last year."

But we cannot blame this solely on our leaders; these leaf blowers are smart. Not only are they loud and (apparently) block old people from hearing, but they are secretly one of the biggest ways that the average American can pollute.

"Operating the best-selling commercial lawn mower for one hour of operation emits smog-forming pollution comparable to driving a 2017 Toyota Camry about 1,100 miles," according to the California Air Resources Board.

When you really think about it, there aren't a ton of benefits to using leaf blowers. They're loud, smell bad and disrupt the natural system of leaves fertilizing the ground beneath them. Not to mention the early-morning wake-up call they give many. If one is really so inclined to move leaves, they can use a rake like the rest of us or at least invest in an electric blower.

Leaf blower bans are gaining popularity. Numerous cities in California, including Berkeley, Malibu and West Hollywood have already either banned gasoline-powered leaf blower use or restricted their noise level. Furthermore, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1346, which prohibits the sale of "new small off-road engines," on Oct. 9. This ban will include many gas-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers and golf carts, and will take effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

Oregon had a similar bill proposed in 2019, House Bill 3350. This bill would have banned the use of two-cycle gasoline powered leaf blowers in the state, but it was shot down in the Oregon House. This was a mistake. Oregon must follow California's lead and also ban the sale of these leaf blowers -- if not for the environment's sake, then for all of our ears.



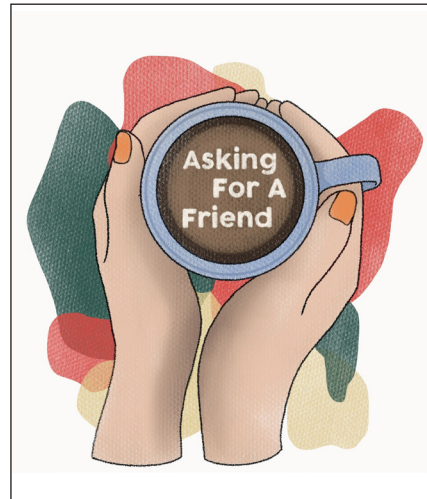
Isaac Oronsky is a first-year opinion columnist for the Daily Emerald. A political science major from the Bay Area, he enjoys soccer, duck games, and writing.

ASKING FOR A FRIEND: CONDOMS AND COMMITMENT

Asking for a Friend is the Daily Emerald's sex and relationship column. Every other week, Aisha Ghorashian answers anonymous questions about anything from how to date, to sex, to how to heal a broken heart. Submit a question here:



BY AISHA GHORASHIAN · TWITTER @AGHORASHIAN19



(Alexis Barrett/Emerald)

Should you still be using condoms with your love partner during sex when you both are committed to each other and are in an exclusive relationship? Asking for a gay couple.
-Condoms and Commitment

Dear Condoms and Commitment, Navigating the world of sex, condoms and relationships can be difficult. Sex education (if you even received it) teaches us that condoms are the only way to have safe sex. Well, that is true some of the time, but it can get more complicated than that. If you are in a committed relationship, the conversation around unprotected sex is one that should be taken seriously.

A great way to start figuring this out is by having an open and honest conversation about unprotected sex and STI testing with your partner(s). This may be uncomfortable, and you will have to be vulnerable, but it is important because it will establish a sense of trust.

There are a few starter sentences you can use. For example, you could say, "Hey, I have been thinking about maybe us not using condoms," or you could ask "How do you feel about us using/not using condoms?" These are casual and will hopefully get the conversation started.

Once you get the ball rolling, you both can express your opinions about the subject in a safe and open way. It is important to listen to your partner(s) and be open to accepting their side. They might have a different opinion from you, and that is okay. After having that conversation, you can come to a mutual conclusion

that works best for you. This may be deciding to not use condoms or continuing to use them. There is no wrong or right decision when it comes to this topic.

Also, if you are in a queer/gay relationship, if you and your partner are monogamous or polyamorous and you both feel comfortable, then there is nothing wrong with not using condoms. There is a misconception that you always have to use external protection. This is true if you are hooking up with various people, but if you are with a partner consistently, you feel comfortable and they feel comfortable, foregoing a condom is a viable option.

Another precaution that can be taken before not using condoms or any external birth control is getting STI tested. STI testing allows for you and your partner(s) to engage in safe sex that does not include external safer sex supplies. The easiest way to set this up is calling the UO Health Center or calling the local Planned Parenthood. Also, if you are someone who can be on hormonal birth control, seeing a doctor to hear about those options is another way to make your partner feel comfortable.

This may seem scary because in most sexual health classes we are told funny sayings like "wrap it before you tap it." However, it is important to remember sex is more complicated than that. Not using a condom is a choice between partners, and it can be very intimate. So just remember that to take that next step with your partner(s), there needs to be mutual trust and a dynamic conversation. Also, it is okay to decide to continue using condoms. Again, there is not a right or wrong answer; it is about what is best for you as a couple.

Overall, the key to this decision is talking to your partner(s), listening to both sides and coming to an agreement you both feel comfortable with. There is no "correct" way to handle this topic. There is only what feels right to both of you in a decision that you make together.



Aisha Ghorashian is a sex and relationships reporter at the Daily Emerald. Outside of the Emerald, she studies political science and psychology. In the future, she hopes to work in public health programming and policy.