



No more Duck commentaries from LA

Saturday started out like any other day in the Henry household. My snooze button was overused, my Eggo waffles were overcooked and my edition of the *Register-Guard* leaned ominously at the base of my front door.

As is normally the case, I disregarded all the other sections of the newspaper and thumbed sloppily toward the sports section. The daily sports fix in hand, I sat down to my waffles, deceptively doused with maple syrup to disguise the charred taste, and a full liter of Dr. Pepper. Then I saw it.

The main Duck story of the morning had an accompanying commentary by *Los Angeles Times* writer Mike Downey. The headline read: **LA would rather not be stuck with Ducks**.

Common courtesy adheres to the idea that if you don't have anything nice to say, then you shouldn't say anything at all. This idea isn't not commonplace in the field of sportswriting.

Downey blasted the notion of the Oregon football team playing in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. His entire commentary was a slap in the face to Oregonians and to those who have rallied around the Quack Attack.

He wrote, "Oregon is to football what Linda McCartney is to rock n' roll. A highlight film of 'Great Moments in Oregon Football' would take about 60 seconds." Downey compared Oregon appearing in the Rose Bowl with Tom Arnold appearing in *Hamlet* and with Michael Jackson marrying Elvis' daughter.



KRIS HENRY

Downey wrote, "Nevertheless, the only reason I can see for inviting Oregon to the Rose Bowl is to accommodate all those thousands of Californians who moved to Oregon after the last quake. Last census taken showed that there were so many of us up there now, the state is about to be renamed Calforegon. Oregon is a wonderful place, if you're a beaver."

Memo to Mike Downey: Kiss my Oregon Duck-supporting ass.

Downey must be one of those types who hate to accept reality and the future. It's either that or he thinks a quarterback is a refund.

Reality is that Oregon is the front-runner to receive the Pacific-10 Conference's bid to the Rose Bowl. If memory serves, I don't remember Downey's name being mentioned every year when the decision is made about which team goes to a bowl game and which team doesn't. Obviously he thinks this must be the year when he should be consulted. The all-knowing has spoken and has declared that Oregon's program is too inept to be invited to Pasadena.

It's true the Ducks don't have a vast history of Rose Bowl experience, but since when has the

bid been determined by what the team has done in the past? The time is now, Mikey, and the resilient Ducks are in control of their own destiny.

Please don't cry, Mikey. The world is an unfair place, and it's about time you realize this. I know you've been coddled by tofu and have had too much exposure to pollution, but the world doesn't always revolve around your views and what the good folks in Los Angeles have to say about Oregon.

Downey has the perfect audience to peddle his whinings in the City of Angels. UCLA is a joke of its former self this year in football, and Stanford has disappointed the staunch Cardinal faithful all season. And, of course, Oregon waltzed all over USC and California earlier this season. All the whining must stem from a deep-down fear that Californian football may not be the finest in the nation. If you can't beat 'em, then tear 'em down.

Obviously, Downey has been overdosing on *Freedom Rock* if he thinks Oregon football relates to Linda McCartney. Since I was born in Memphis and am biased toward all Graceland products, I think the gloved one could have done a lot worse than The King's daughter.

But Tom Arnold doing Shakespeare? C'mon Mikey, you could have done better than that. I hope for better things from you *Los Angeles Times* writers, like maybe O.J. Simpson in *Macbeth* for the dagger scene or Heidi Fleiss in *The Flying Nun Returns*.

You're big-time, Mikey. Hit me with some of that big-time L.A. magic you professionals must have to write a commentary. Calforegon? Admit it, your childhood was spent close to too many open containers of glue.

I'm a relative newcomer to Oregon, but maybe some of the transplanted Californians are here to get away from your sniveling commentaries. Have I hit a nerve, Mikey? Or is that your plan? Maybe if you whine enough, you will be the only person left in Los Angeles. Then you might be able to decide the vaunted match-ups in the Rose Bowl. Let's not stop there, Mikey. I'm sure your powers of discrimination could better be used elsewhere. Louisiana comes to mind. Duke-Downey in '96 has a certain ring to it.

Maybe Oregon isn't nationally known as a football powerhouse, but you can't argue with this season's results. If the Ducks should win their remaining games against Stanford and Oregon State, then that is all that matters in determining who gets the opportunity to play in Pasadena. I don't know how long Oregon's highlight film is, but I do know that the games when Oregon kicked a team from California's ass this year would fulfill Downey's 60-second suggestion.

For the record, Mikey, the Rose Bowl is not an exclusionary event. Those who win the right to play deserve the right to play. Also for the record, Mikey, Oregon is a wonderful place to be a Duck — not a beaver.

Kris Henry is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

TUESDAY

November 8, 1994
Volume 96, Issue 51

DUCK NOTES

Sophomore setter Anna Gomez has been suspended indefinitely for academic reasons from the University volleyball team, head coach Gerry Gregory announced Monday.

Gomez, who started the last half of the 1993 season and shared setting duties this year with freshman Casey Crisler, averaged 5.38 assists and 1.40 digs this season.

Oregon plays its final three home matches this week beginning with Portland Wednesday night in a non-conference contest beginning at 7:05 p.m. at McArthur Court.

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE EAST		NATIONAL CONFERENCE EAST	
Miami	7-2	Dallas	8-1
Buffalo	5-4	Philadelphia	7-2
NY Jets	5-4	NY Giants	3-5
New England	3-6	Arizona	3-6
Indianapolis	4-6	Washington	2-8
CENTRAL		WEST	
Cleveland	7-2	San Francisco	7-2
Pittsburgh	6-3	Atlanta	5-4
Houston	1-8	LA Rams	4-5
Cincinnati	1-8	New Orleans	3-6
WEST		CENTRAL	
San Diego	7-2	Minnesota	7-2
Kansas City	6-3	Chicago	5-4
LA Raiders	4-5	Detroit	5-4
Seattle	3-6	Green Bay	5-0
Denver	3-6	Tampa Bay	2-7

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (AP) — Southern California's Keyshawn Johnson and Sean Harris of Arizona have been named Pacific-10 Conference players of the week for performances that helped keep their team's Rose Bowl hopes alive.

Johnson, a wide receiver, was named offensive player of the week. He caught eight passes for 145 yards in USC's 23-10 victory at Washington State last weekend.

Harris, a linebacker, was named defensive player of the week for his career-high 16 tackles in Arizona's 13-6 victory against California.

USC punter John Stonehouse was given the conference's special teams player of the week award. He punted eight times for a 48.3 average.

Hawks deal disgruntled forward to Heat

NEW YORK (AP) — All-Star forward Kevin Willis was traded Monday from the Atlanta Hawks to the Miami Heat for Steve Smith and Grant Long. The Associated Press learned.

Willis confirmed the trade when he was reached at the Salt Lake City airport, and a source close to both teams confirmed the players involved.

"Something in the back of my mind told me something was brewing," Willis said. "This afternoon it came through. It's a weird feeling. I said I could play ball anywhere. I have no hard feelings. We got an exciting team (in Miami)."

"I'm on the way to Oakland, and I'll strap on a new uniform tomorrow night," he said. "I'm glad (Miami owner) Billy Cunningham and (coach Kevin) Loughery see that I'm a player we can use."

Hawks spokesman Arthur Triche said the deal was made, pending league approval. The Hawks were playing the Jazz at the Delta Center.

The Miami Heat was en route to Oakland for Tuesday's game against the Golden State Warriors and a team spokesman could not immediately be reached.

Willis, 32, has developed into one of the

best power forwards in the NBA. He averaged 19.1 points and 10.8 rebounds last season, helping the Hawks to a 57-25 record and the regular-season Eastern Conference title.

Smith, 25, was a member of the U.S. world championship team — also known as "Dream Team II" — last summer. He was the starting point guard for the Heat last season and averaged 17.3 points, 5.1 assists and 4.5 rebounds.

Long, 28, averaged 11.4 points and 7.2 rebounds as a power forward. He is expected to take Willis' place in Atlanta's starting lineup.

STUDENTS
We ship your stuff home!

- ✓ Furniture, computers, stereos, TV's
- ✓ Insured, custom packing
- ✓ Boxes for sale
- ✓ Student discounts
- ✓ UPS, Ocean Freight, Motor Freight

Packaging Store.
2705 Willamette Street 344-3106

Computer Classes!

Mac & IBM

Open 24 Hours

kinko's
your branch office

1265 Willamette
344-3555 Fax 344-0870



The EMU Cultural Forum presents
Karen Finley
A Certain Level of Denial
a series of declarations and fables throughout which she interweaves recurring characters and themes. Her rolling evangelical cadences rise and fall, creating gripping emotional peaks and valleys. Dark and powerful, yet with moments of humor and heart-tugging tenderness, *A Certain Level of Denial* is as unsettling as it is riveting.

EMU Ballroom, Tuesday,
Nov. 15* at 8 pm
Reserved Seating \$12,
\$10, and \$8

Tickets:
EMU Main Desk, Mother Kali's,
Hungry Head Books

FFI: Cultural Forum, 346-4373
photo: Donna Ann McAdams