

## Weirdness follows hapless Beavers

**Gang Green** (noun) Death and decay of body tissue, often occurring in a limb, usually following traumatic injury on the gridiron.

**Giardia** (noun) Cumbersome intestinal infection resulting from drinking water tainted by diseased Beaver droppings (protozoan *Pettibonitis*).

By mere definition, the Beavers have nothing to offer this state but a perennial losing record and a bad case of the runs. On the other hand, the Ducks bring a fearsome defense and the ability to consistently post winning seasons, not to mention the fact that Duck football players can spell their own names.

And don't forget that Oregon State University is the only institution in the nation to offer a dual major in biology and agriculture — so its students can graduate knowing their asses from a hole in the ground. We won't even go into that nasty business of that professor in the Animal Husbandry College getting arrested for taking part in those immoral breeding experiments.

How can you tell an Oregon State student has an above-average IQ?

She transfers to University of Oregon.

But such tidbits ignore the very nature of Corvallis and the people who live there. We must acknowledge that Corvallis is unlike anywhere else in America, save for the Ozarks and the bayou country of Southern Louisiana. Where else in Oregon can a man walk into a room and introduce his wife and sister — with those people being the same person? Without Corvallis, we wouldn't have an overpass to go under 30 minutes into the drive to Portland.

How do you know you are in Corvallis?

- When people refer to the sixth grade "as my senior year."
- When only half the cars on the university president's lawn will start.
- When drunken driving is considered a sport.
- When the locals believe Blitz is really a micro-brewery.
- Two words: Possum Casserole.

We must question the intelligence of any team that would name itself after a small, water-loving rodent with an overbite.

Have you heard the one about the Duck and the Beaver walking through the woods? It seems both simultaneously stepped into a hunter's trap. The Duck says, "My daddy told that if I ever got caught in a trap to chew my leg off." The Beaver, terrified of pain, tells the Duck he is insane to maim himself. The Duck shrugs, chews off his leg and hops away. When the Duck returned three days later, the Beaver is still in the trap. "Your daddy is crazy," says the Beaver, "I done chewed off three of my legs and I'm still stuck."

Remember, when in Corvallis, the home of the Beavers, don't drink the water. We recommend bringing your own in the form of multiple 12-ounce bottles.

**GO DUCKS!**



### ■ OPINION

## Majority favors school prayer



**BRIAN WOMACK**

Clinton has really done it this time. He's gone beyond all bounds of rationality and pulled the plug on his slick brain.

What, you may ask, did he do? Say the Paula Jones thing is true? Start a war with North Korea? Replace Al Gore with Marion Barry?

No, he said he might be open to the idea of a constitutional amendment to allow school prayer.

Never mind that he's proposed a government takeover of one-seventh of the economy. Never mind that he's fumbled foreign policy all over the globe.

Those things pale in comparison to an issue the Republicans espoused in their recent steam roll.

I've seen liberals jumping ship to anywhere else besides with the man in the White House. They may end up running Mario Cuomo in 1996 if Clinton keeps this up.

But they shouldn't panic so much. This smells of nothing more than a trial balloon.

For those of you who don't know, a trial balloon is when politicians "float" an idea into the media to see what the response is. If it doesn't play well, they'll back-pedal on what they "previously indicated." If it plays well, they'll float some more.

It's classic Slick Willie — trying to appear to agree with everyone, even if he hasn't indicated he held this view before.

I can see why he would want to support this side of the issue.

A survey released in 1993 indicated he'd be agreeing with a vast majority of Americans. Of

1,500 whites, blacks and Hispanics questioned, over 80 percent said they would be in favor of allowing voluntary school prayer. That's a big number.

Once again, I have to agree with the majority of Americans.

Newt Gingrich's push for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing a right to prayer in public school is on target.

This generation hasn't exactly flourished since the early 1960s when God was shown the exit door in schools.

Since 1960, there has been an approximately 400 percent jump in births to unwed women. In 1990, a whopping 28 percent of all births were out of wedlock. Compare that to a mere 5.3 percent of births in 1960.

Despite the fact that the U.S. population has increased 41 percent since 1960, the rate of violent crime has skyrocketed by 500 percent.

Calm down. Before you implode, I'm not saying that the absence of school prayer in schools has done all of this. Everything from sentencing relaxations to the media could be blamed as well.

When principles are kicked out of education, things are bound to crumble in some fashion. With no principles to go by, society will slide into the depths of relativism. Standards will become lower as our country disintegrates into a moral wasteland.

Yet many will say that the problem with a school prayer amendment is that it may not line up with all the religions students may have.

This will discriminate, they contend, against other religions.

The problem is they forget schools discriminate every day against other religions.

Some religions hold that certain races are better than others.

Are we, as the majority, not going to offend these people's religions and change the curriculum? Of course not. And they shouldn't.

The same idea should be held when we approach the issue of school prayer.

A vast majority think it's fine, so it should be fine to approve a school prayer amendment.

Also, most Americans still hold to Judeo-Christian beliefs. Surveys show that 9 out of 10 people believe in God, but because God is not as politically correct as tolerance, we're inclined to forsake the idea.

Let's remember a few things.

The House and Senate open each session with a prayer.

If the most important legislative branches in the country can pray, why can't schools pray?

Acknowledging a higher power is something our Declaration of Independence felt was important when it said that all men have a Creator.

Why shouldn't our schools pray as well? There's no good reason to stop schools from praying.

So, for all who are jumping ship because Clinton floated this balloon on school prayer, don't panic.

Clinton will be back in the fray as soon as he realizes he's offending the only people still willing to vote for him.

*Brian Womack is a columnist for the Emerald.*

## Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 3155 EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

**Managing Editor:** David Thom  
**Editorial Editor:** Joe Harwood  
**News Art Editor:** Jeff Paslay  
**Freelance Editor:** Lori Bettineski

**Editor-in-Chief:** Kaly Soto

**News Editor:** Rebecca Merritt

**Sports Editor:** Chris Metz

**In-Depth Editor:** Ed Klopfenstein

**Supplements Editor:** Trista Noel

**Night Editor:** Kaly Soto

**Associate Editors:** Friederich von Carp, Student Government/Activities; Marcelene Edwards, Community; Tiffany Smith, Higher Education/Administration

**News Staff:** Amy Columbo, Amy L. Devenport, Tasha Eichenseher, Abe Estimada, Primo Fontana, Gayle Forman, Christopher Fox, Matt Garton, Gary Grass, Sarah Henderson, Kris Henry, Trevor Kearney, Adam Kincher, Suzanne Marta, Mark McTyre, Ben Moebius, Anne Moser-Kornfeld, Sherry Rainey, Robbie Reeves, Kate Sabourin, Paul Van Sickle, Michele Thompson, Hideki Tomeoka, Kim Weiss, Daniel West, Brian Womack

**General Manager:** Judy Riedl

**Advertising Director:** Mark Walter

**Production Manager:** Michele Ross

**Advertising:** Marco Ching, Tony Fox, Erin Hersher, Nicole Herzmark, Jeremy Mason, Michael Millette, Sarah Mitchell, Tom Mittelstaedt, Kelsey Wokell

**Classified:** Becky Merchant, Manager; Joli Selton, Jodi Wall

**Distribution:** John Long, Ferenc Rakoczi, Regina Zsupnik

**Business:** Kathy Carbone, Supervisor; Judy Connolly

**Production:** Dehila McCobb, Production Coordinator; Shawna Abele, Tara Gaultney, Brad Joas, Jennifer Roland, Natt Thangvijit, Clayton Yee

**Newsroom:** 346-5511      **Display Advertising:** 346-3712

**Business Office:** 346-5512      **Classified Advertising:** 346-4343

### ■ COMMENTARY POLICY

The Oregon Daily Emerald welcomes commentaries from the public concerning topics of interest to the University community.

Commentaries should be between 600 and 800 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.