

## Former coach teaches lesson before leaving

**OUR OPINION:** Charlie Waters puts his family first in moving to Texas

When facing our own mortality, even materialistic Americans don't usually look back and wish they had made more money or owned a nicer car.

We usually wish we had reconciled the relationship with that close relative, had spent more time with the family, or had treated our friends better.

Cody Waters, 17-year-old son of former Oregon defensive coordinator Charlie Waters, might not have had the chance to reflect back on his life for two reasons: He was probably too young to reminisce, and he died sud-

denly and mysteriously in his sleep.

And his family is left with aching hearts and many unanswered questions.

Coach Waters is leaving the University because his family needs him more than our football program does. Of course we would have liked him to stay, but the man has a bigger job and a higher responsibility to tend to right now.

Waters' priorities can be a lesson for all of us.

It's terribly hard to lose a loved one.

The great irony is that death teaches us so much about the things that are really important in life: Friends and family.

## President gears up to battle timber measure

**OUR OPINION:** Clinton will have to fight Congress over logging law

Every now and then, the government surprises us all by actually trying to do something right.

Last Saturday in Seattle, President Clinton hugged a lot of trees by calling for a repeal of the law he signed last year that allowed thousands of acres of old growth timber to be cut in our national forests.

Clinton signed the provision reluctantly, believing that old growth forests would not be harmed by indiscriminate logging.

Wishful thinking?

Thanks to some nasty court decisions that expand-

ed that original and vague provisional law, old growth trees did indeed get chopped. In fact, the law practically gave logging and timber companies across the nation carte blanche to cut anything and everything they wanted to. We've experienced this very phenomenon with the "harvest" of thousands of old growth trees cut from forests along the Oregon and Washington coastline — thanks in part to the efforts of a certain judge right here in Eugene.

After a battle within his own administration, Clinton will undoubtedly get into a fight with Congress over this issue.

For now, the future looks brighter for our ancient forests.



## Northern Ireland defaced by violence

*The fools they have left us our fenian dead and while Ireland holds these graves Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.*

— Wall mural in the Catholic district of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Falls Road is the spine of the most fervently Catholic neighborhood in Belfast. The strict Georgian buildings that line it read like proclamations of war: "Free Ireland! No More Ulster!" Murals exhort passers-by to never forget the Irish who died on the Easter of 1916. The day in 1972 when British troops killed 13 Irish demonstrators in Derry is memorialized on the side of a house: "Bloody Sunday." A mile up the road is Milltown Cemetery, where circular Catholic crosses mark the graves of the Irish Republican Army's fenian dead.

In another culture, these murals would be considered graffiti. In Ireland, they're a public diary. Falls Road, with its dingy streets and chronic unemployment, is the Irish equivalent of an American inner city. Violence is a way of life, and if the IRA's refusal to continue the cease-fire is anything to go by, violence has taken on a life of its own.

Northern Ireland's schism is a remnant of English imperialism, fed by ethnic differences between the native Catholic population and the colonial Protestants, and made explosive by class inequality. It has ripened, through decades of socio-economic friction, into the formula for a gang society.

The residents of Falls Road are mainly working-class Catholics with large families and small incomes. Welfare is a more common source of income than employment. Even though job discrimination has been discouraged since the Fair Employment Acts of '76 and '89, and while conflicts are generally avoided in the workplace, a 1991 statistical analysis makes it clear that the Catholic population still has fewer job opportunities than the Protestants. ("Inequality in Northern Ireland," Smith and Chambers.)

A physical wall, called a "peace line," was erected in 1969 to separate the Catholic and Protestant neighborhoods where the worst of the ethnic attacks occur. Northern Ireland has one of the lowest crime rates in the world, yet residents of these districts are reluctant to leave their houses after dark. Car-jackings are common. Protestants and Catholics have separate pubs, grocery stores and graveyards. Over the past 26 years of the "Troubles," they've devel-

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oped separate paramilitary forces with separate agendas.

In their free time, they shoot, bomb and burn each other's homes, cars and businesses. People on both sides have lost friends and family members in the feud. More than 2,800 people have been killed over the past 26 years, including more than 1,800 civilians.

A look at who's doing the killing is revealing. Catholic nationalists within the IRA are routinely blamed for the violence, especially by the American press. But any time it begins to look as though Britain might let Northern Ireland rule itself, nervous Protestant Loyalists start playing the crying game with just as much zeal.

Last year's statistics from Northern Ireland's constabulary show that the Loyalists account for a majority of the murders in '93. According to the same report, the number of Protestants arrested for terrorist offenses in '93 was 210, versus 122 IRA arrests.

When it comes to killing innocent Catholics, however, no one does a better job of it than the Catholics themselves. Catholic leader John Hume, writing in 1989, observed that during the recent years of the "Troubles," 69 percent of the civilians killed in the name of nationalism were members of the Catholic community. The IRA and its fellow paramilitary Republicans were responsible for 62 percent of Catholic deaths. Terrorism without representation is the norm.

The clearest indication that the violence has gotten out of hand came last Sunday, when tens of thousands of demonstrators turned out all over the Irish isle to urge the IRA to stop its killing. Even in the extremist atmosphere of Falls Road, signs that read "No more IRA" are just as common as those that read "Down with the crown." That sounds hopeful, but sectarian sentiments are more likely to splinter into new factions than to disperse. Violence treats the grievance, but it doesn't solve the problem.

Systemic violence is a symptom of social inequality. Northern Ireland has analogies all over the world. The same war is being fought in Bosnia, Algeria, South Africa and Los Angeles. These things don't go away, and they're never really suppressed. Ask any fool.

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