

PERSPECTIVES

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The Stupor Bowl

A satirical look at an American obsession

And so the sun rises on yet another in life's long series of morning after's. This time, the morning after football's grand pageant, the Super Bowl. Of course, this year's event was nearly swallowed whole by no fewer than seven hours of pregame interviews, highlights and analysis.

Where did this country go wrong? When did we ever get the idea that people want to see bloated ex-players and coaches reminiscing about their glory days? This editorial is our small note of protest. You see, the Super Bowl isn't about pregame hype. It's about the mighty struggle of two sets of warriors. And kick-ass commercials. And beer. Even better: kick

ass commercials for beer. With tongues planted firmly in cheek, this is how the Emerald editorial board could have whiled away the pregame hours.

1. The Traditional Super Bowl Barbecue

Nothing says Super Bowl Sunday like the warm aroma of charred animal flesh. One Emerald staffer spent the afternoon in front of the grill. And to wash down all that meat? A nice cold beer.

2. Looked forward to next year's Oregon men's basketball season -

and wondered what the hell happened this year

Even in center of the football maelstrom, we can't help but wonder what happened to our beloved Ducks. Though our hopes for the season grew dimmer with each game, the team still has next year to redeem itself. To ease the pain, we had a beer.

3. Clipped those pesky nose hairs

One of us found the pre-bowl coverage so stultifying that they preferred to spend their time removing errant hairs from their nose. This probably didn't take seven hours, though. At least we hope it didn't. After that, they deserved a beer.

4. Read the Ken Starr report

The Super Bowl took valuable hype away from this year's spectacle of choice, the Clinton Impeachment Trial. After several hours of scanning channels

and finding nothing but pregame shows, one political junkie was forced to turn to the Internet and lost herself in the intimate details. Obviously, a post-scandal beer was required.

5. Bet student loans on the Super Bowl

Yeah, yeah we know what you're thinking. But if the Falcons covered the spread then it's goodbye to Taco Bell and ramen. Make sure to pop a beer for good luck.

6. Acted out own version of the Bud Bowl

We didn't ask too many questions about this one, and the staff member wasn't forthcoming with the details. We'll leave it to your imagination to come up with a visual.

7. Had a beer at every bar in town

In the spirit of camaraderie and excess that characterizes the Super Bowl, one board member made the rounds of Eugene's fine watering holes and chatted with the regulars. She made it home just in time for kickoff - and the opening beer.

8. Made Valentines

One kind-hearted staffer spent his time lovingly crafting handmade Valentine's Day Cards. He made sure to make an extra special one for men's basketball coach Ernie Kent because he needs a friend. And after all that loving, what could he do but curl up with a warm heart and a cold beer?

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.



Giovanni Saltmena/Emerald

Thumbs



THUMBS UP

To the Racism Free Zone: The program, which was advocated on campus by activist Bahati Ansari last week, is a good step toward helping students feel safe and valued at school.

Thurston High School:

The upcoming school play, "Bang, Bang You're Dead," shows that the school and the community are healing.



THUMBS DOWN

To Eugene Robinson: The Atlanta Falcon's player, known for his strong religious beliefs, was arrested for soliciting an undercover cop for oral sex the night before the Super Bowl.

To the end of the streak:

The Oregon men's basketball team lost to the Beavers for the first time in 10 games in Saturday's Civil War.

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 29 article, "Minority women focus of forum," it should have said the book Cherrie Morega and Gloria Anzaldua collaborated to create was "This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color."

Letters to the Editor

IACUC removal unfair

Thank you for printing the editorial stating the obvious: that Sarah Brown was kicked off of the IACUC because of her affiliation with SETA (ODE, Jan. 25). Clearly, Tom Dyke and Sarah Brown have opposing views on vivisection, but why would this matter? She would be out-voted by about 8 to 1 if she rejected a proposal simply because it involves animals. What Brown would be able to do is go into Streisinger Hall, see the animals, and actually improve their environment. Who better to do this than someone dedicated to the ethical treatment of animals? Plus, who would be more willing to give the information she found to the public? If Tom Dyke is afraid of the public having information, I think it's even more urgent that we have it. Dyke said he would compromise by having meetings to discuss vivisection and animal rights issues.

First of all, it's no compromise to speak with your employer (the students) about the job you're doing with their money. Secondly, if talking about animal rights is a compromise he's implying that (re)appointing an animal rights advocate is something he's not willing to do. This is clearly a case of discrimination based on Brown's morality God forbid! Please call Tom Dyke at 346-2045 and urge him to allow fair student representation by reappointing Sarah Brown to the IACUC. Students' voices must be heard!

Lucas Spiegel
Eugene

The right to not boycott

The campus left's insistence that the University administration must enforce a boycott of Gardenburgers shows how little patience they have for political freedom. While they have an undeniable right to boycott Gardenburger, they do not have the right to force others to join their boycott.

Amy Casso complains that it is "unfair" for the administration to make the boycott backers do the job of trying to convince other students to support them (ODE, Jan. 26). No Amy, if you believe we all ought to boycott Gardenburgers it is your responsibility to convince me to join - not the administration's. It is the administration's responsibility to ensure that students are not denied their rights to make their own political choices. What would be unfair is for the administration to tell students that they are required to support a boycott, whether they are in political agreement with it or not.

All the university administration has demanded is that the boycotters show evidence that a majority of students are supportive. But Casso, MEChA, and their collaborators would be happy to force a majority to support a minority's political stance because they are unwilling to let democracy and freedom stand in the way of a moral good? It's a small tyranny, but a tyranny nonetheless.

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Fans should get best seats

Rob Moseley's article (ODE, Jan. 12) couldn't

have been more on the mark. Finally someone says what many of the students who consistently attend Duck basketball games feel about the seating arrangements - especially at the UCLA game where the football team had seats roped off for them. To add to Moseley's point, I have two things to question about this decision made by the athletic department. One, why rope off prime seats (that many tuition-paying students wait for hours in line to get) for a group of students who generally do not come to many games, let alone do what it takes to get those seats? I am not saying that none of the football players come - many do, by their own choice. The athletic department placed this large group of guys who by and large wouldn't have necessarily even attended the game into seats from which maniacal enthusiasm is an expectation. Question two: Why not seat them somewhere else in the arena (say, upstairs) so that when they were on the floor being "honored," there would be students and community fans filling up all of the visible seats cheering on and honoring this football team that accomplished so much this season? Instead, what we had was a quieter-than-usual student section which was not even full when the team was honored and a large group of angry student fans who wanted to cheer their asses off in those good seats in hopes that the Ducks might beat UCLA. But these diehard fans ended up in the nose-bleeds, barely able to see the game.

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