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# Perspectives

Oregon Daily  
**Emerald**

## When rumors rage

Oregon isn't just a Nike school in terms of athletics. The special relationship the University has had with alumnus and company CEO Phil Knight has benefited both parties, especially the school, which has received about \$30 million in donations throughout the last few years. But now the University could be facing the possibility of a retraction of Knight's more recent pledge of \$30 million to aid in the renovation of Autzen Stadium.

The root of the rumored retraction, of course, is based upon broadcast news reports citing anonymous sources who claim Knight was angered at the University's decision to join the Worker Rights Consortium without joining any other labor practice monitoring group the company found more palatable.

However, the unconfirmed reports have led to an air of uncertainty throughout the campus community and left stadium construction planners in a precarious position of wondering whether their project will indeed commence. As a matter of grace, Knight should speak publicly and clearly on his intentions, whatever those may be.

The proposed expansion of Autzen, estimated around \$80 million in total costs to produce about 12,000 extra seats and 32 luxury boxes, would obviously be a boost

to the University. The extra funds would boost resources to school athletics and, presumably, trickle into the general University coffers that would lead to higher professorial wages and better facilities.

But with construction to begin in a matter of months, should a major contribution like Knight's fall through, the sooner that is known, the sooner plans can be altered or scrapped altogether. Though it's possible, it's highly unlikely a matching \$30 million replacement donation could be found on such short notice.

Not only is the timing particularly bad for any such pledge withdrawal, but it's a

frustration for many not to have any answer at all. Waiting up in the air with no definitive word from Knight is a valid concern about the future relationship between the University and one of its most important alumni. There is little argument from most mainstream observers that Knight's contributions to the campus through the law school, library and athletics are of considerable benefit to the school. Any sort of answer by the Nike businessman to clear up this entire unfortunate situation would be a

positive move.

While a Knight clarification would be a gentlemanly act, the reporting of the unsubstantiated pledge withdrawal rumor, including the use of anonymous sources, was in poor taste by the state's broadcast media. Unnamed sources spreading suspect rumors is not only shoddy reporting but puts strains on the ties of very important relationships. Right now Knight and University President Dave Frohnmayer should be talking to each other trying to resolve the sit-

uation, not having to worry about the validity of media reports.

Of course, all of the unnamed sources, possible loss of construction at Autzen and possible rift between the University are all just speculation at this point. And that's the problem. Knight should be gracious and publicly state his intentions so that the campus can start planning its future and get past this ugly incident.

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



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

### THUMBS



#### To the dinosaur with a heart of rock

A fossilized *Thescelosaurus* contains an object that could turn out to be a heart with four chambers. That could be evidence that the extinct species were actually warm-blooded animals like mammals and birds.

#### To a wise critic

Wednesday and Thursday of last week, social critic extraordinaire Tim Wise lectured on campus and around town about the need for people of all races and backgrounds to work together to battle discrimination.



#### To a tacky parody

The "Do you agree with Ryan?" signs around campus have been vandalized and turned into highly inappropriate and low-brow vulgarities, an unnecessary act beneath college students.

#### To an officer's budget abuse

Investigators say Sgt. Richard Barton, a 24-year veteran of the Portland Police Department, was fired for "unsatisfactory performance" after being identified as a ringleader in an overtime abuse case at Central Precinct.

## And never turn your back on a monkey with a gun

There's really nothing more entertaining than a barrel of monkeys. Unless it's an epidemic of man-hating, thirst-riddled simians warring their way through the Sudanese countryside. That's precisely what's happening, and its consequences warrant serious consideration about the primates that are terrorizing the lands of afar — and near.

The Oregonian publishes a science section every Wednesday, which includes a round-up of interesting story capsules from the world around us, distributed by media conglomerate Los Angeles Times Syndicate. And

not once, but twice, did they list stories involving the murderous activities of monkeys of unspecified species, though the paper did point out that orangutans are notorious for their antisocial behavior.

In both instances, the usually friendly fellows apparently were motivated by a severe drought, pitting man against monkey. In the first instance, a farmer watering his crops was stoned to death by a group of the thirsty creatures. The second case was a literal war for wa-

ter with the monkeys taking charge in the beginning before being overmatched and turned back by the heroic, if not industrialized, Sudanese people.

What does this say about us as people? It says that while we all believe we're impervious to the dormant, war-like nature of lower species, we can all be the subject of gruesome monkey hate at any time.

With all of this primate violence in foreign lands it makes one wonder just what American monkeys

are like. If not kept in dingy isolation in our finest zoos, they would probably run rampant and try to take over our country through bloody revolution. Anyone who's attended a circus knows that a monkey war would be devastating because three or four of them can fit on a child's tricycle, and there's just no stopping them. And never turn your back on a monkey with a gun. When they say it's so simple a trained monkey could do it, believe them.

With all this heightened awareness of the gorillas in our midst, it's only a matter of time before Fox Television airs its serious look at "When Monkeys Attack." There will

be plenty of violent scenes of innocent children poking a sleeping simian with a stick and receiving an undeserved bite from the vicious creature.

As the conscientious producers of the television show will tell you, don't think that you are immune from monkey attacks. But should you ever be approached by a shady primate, just remember to utter the immortal words of Charlton Heston. "Take your stinkin' paws off me, you damn dirty ape."

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COMMENTARY  
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