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Duck Tales

■ The man behind the mascot tells of life inside the Duck suit

By Anne Le Chevallier
Oregon Daily Emerald

The head University mascot might be the most photographed person in Eugene, but the public doesn't know his name.

Although this 27-year-old junior is an essential part of family photos and college memorabilia,

Mascot Mania
Part one of two in a series on the University mascot.

University fans don't know that the man inside the suit is a political science major, owns an eight-week-old golden retriever and played semi-professional baseball abroad. They don't know that the 6-foot Portlander served in the army for four years and graduated from Wilson High School.

"That's the way it's supposed to be," said Mascot (whose identity must remain a secret). "The unwritten mascot rule is to be anonymous."

However, Mascot, who said he naturally thinks like a cartoon character, said making the transition from an individual to a symbol of the school is easy.

"Once I'm in the suit," he said, "I'm in the whole Donald Duck persona: I'm cocky and mad. If I trip, I'm steaming out the ears."

Mascot, who began his job in fall 1999, said he believes a certain amount of natural craziness is required to be the Duck. Dur-

ing games, Mascot will spontaneously play with the band, pour water on male cheerleaders and surf the "Pit Crew" at McArthur Court. The Duck's most noticed stunt is doing push-ups for the number of total points on the scoreboard every time the football team scores.

But the Duck's most amusing activity is walking. Standing outside Starbucks on 13th Avenue on Monday, Mascot demonstrated his high-step. While his movements were entertaining, Mascot said he practices this awkward locomotion out of necessity: With feet measuring 15 inches long by 12 inches wide, it is the only — albeit ugly — way to move.

While playing a cartoon character can be fun, Mascot said the costume itself is challenging. Mascot must see through the Duck's giant bill and keep the nine-pound head on at all times. Additionally, in already warm gyms and stadiums, Mascot's 15-pound costume turns up the heat. During the Wisconsin football game on Sept. 9, 2000, the temperature in-

side his costume was 134 degrees Fahrenheit. While the Duck costume is usually not hot, Mascot sweats off an average of nine pounds per game. After each performance, Mascot said, he is fatigued and smelly.

Although he does not touch the game ball, Mascot has an important position on the court and field: He

represents the University at the highest level. Mascot said anytime someone wants University representation, they call the Duck.

This reputation as a quasi-hero keeps Mascot active. His two years of experience as a mascot have placed him as the head Mas-

Turn to Mascot, page 4



Teach-in speakers give preview of presentations

■ David Frank and Shaul Cohen will speak today about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

By John Liebhardt
Oregon Daily Emerald

Editor's note: David Frank is the director of the University's Robert D. Clark Honors College and will be one of the speakers at today's "After September 11" teach-in, which is sponsored by the political science department and ASUO. Frank is completing a book on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which will be published in December. He spoke to the Emerald in a Q & A session about his presentation. His words have been edited for brevity and clarity.

You say that to fully understand issues in Palestinian-Israeli relations, you must look back to 1948. Why is that?

The Zionists were responding to the holocaust in Europe between 1933 and 1945, where Jews experienced a loss of more than a third of their people in Europe. Some Jews decided to go to Palestine, and many Jews had no choice but to go to Palestine, because they were not welcome anywhere in the world. The Palestinians who lived in Palestine did not welcome the attempt by Jewish nationalists to establish a Jewish state in that area. So, in 1948, the Zionists were able to establish a Jewish state, and Palestinians were

unable to prevent them from doing so. As a result, 800,000 Palestinians were dispersed, lost their lands, lost their homes, many of them became refugees, living in horrible refugee camps. The Palestinians like to portray themselves as victims — which they have been. Israelis portray themselves as victims — which they are. Both play a role in the current situation.

Shaul Cohen, a geography professor at the University, will be one of the speakers at today's "After September 11" teach-in. Cohen has conducted research on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, concentrating on land, territory and environment. He spoke to the Emerald in a Q & A session about his presentation. His words have been edited for brevity and clarity.

What is life like for Palestinians living on the West Bank?

In general terms, life is fairly grim: raging unemployment, difficulty traveling from place to place. People are concerned about the threat of violence erupting, whether the violence is being initiated by Palestinians or by the Israeli army or by Israeli settlers. Many Palestinians are intimidated by their own security forces. They have been cheated out of the aid that has been promised to them from the United States and Europe and by Arab nations.

Explain life in Israel over the past 10 years.

'After September 11'

Who: David Frank and Shaul Cohen

What: They will speak on the history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and how peace in the Middle East is necessary for stabilizing the region.

Where: 110 Fenton

When: 3:30-5 p.m. today

Israelis have been riding some real peaks and valleys in the last decade, and I think they are weary. There are periods in the last 10 years when things were fairly euphoric, when the peace process was going well, the Palestinians were partners and the tension was diminished. But that is no longer the case. Today, many people are focused on the cycle of violence, on the downturn in the economy, on the hostility and suspicion between the two communities. In Israel there is broad perception that an awful lot was done to promote peace with the Palestinians — that the Israelis extended themselves in reasonable way beyond what many Israelis considered reasonable — and the Palestinians turned them down.

John Liebhardt is the higher education editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at johnliebhardt@dailyemerald.com

Anthrax decision questioned

■ Doubts arise about why postal station initially stayed open

By Steven Thomma
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON (KRT) — Fear of bioterrorism by mail spread Tuesday as traces of anthrax were found at a mail-sorting site for the White House, three more postal workers were hospitalized under suspicion that they have the disease and officials confirmed two dead postal workers were killed by the bacteria.

The letter carrying the anthrax has not been found. Tests found no sign of anthrax spores inside the White House. All mail sent there was first processed at the Brentwood postal station, itself the linchpin in a growing chain of anthrax-related illness and death. Anthrax spores have been discovered in 14 different parts of the Brentwood site, officials revealed Tuesday.

Federal health officials defended their initial failure to close the Brentwood station or to order testing of the roughly 2,000 workers there. Health officials said they had not thought that anthrax spores could leak out of sealed envelopes.

The government plans to create four new packs of emergency medical supplies that can be rushed to any part of the country within 12 hours. It also intends to stockpile enough drugs over the next year to treat 10 million persons for inhalation anthrax.

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Legal experts want slavery reparations

■ The three lawyers heading the reparations lawsuit say it is time for a discussion of slavery issues

By Marty Toohy
for the Emerald

A standing-room-only crowd listened attentively Tuesday night at the University Law School as three legal experts called for slavery reparations — compensation for descendants of black slaves.

Charles Ogletree Jr., a Harvard Law Professor and this year's Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics, said there is a "blistering racial divide" in the United States because slavery and racism has never been properly discussed. His keynote address to a crowd of nearly 250 was part of a forum on slavery reparations sponsored by the School of Law.

Ogletree is part of a team preparing a massive reparations lawsuit, and he said the other lawyers, each of whom has ca-

Turn to Forum, page 3