

# COMMENTARY

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Wednesday, October 24, 2001

## Editorial

### We still say no to Party Patrol

Many students groan at the thought of the Eugene Police Department bringing back the notorious Party Patrol. The possibility of a reinstatement made the editorial board groan, too, but for more reasons than the threat of getting "caught" partying. A newly instated Party Patrol would divert already scarce resources.

According to EPD, the new system would be different from the old Party Patrol, which paid overtime for extra officers to respond to parties. The program ended last March because the city could no longer afford it. The new system would merely provide what EPD calls a "more balanced work schedule," which means that more police officers would be assigned to patrolling parties at certain times, rather than EPD hiring more officers or paying overtime.

While underage drinking is an important issue, a Party Patrol system designed specifically to "discover" parties that might be a problem in the future and punish those involved isn't the most effective response. Underage drinking and loud partying can be controlled by EPD responding to individual incidents, as they have since March.

Here's our major concern: If EPD isn't planning to hire new officers or pay overtime, it means officers previously assigned to responding to crimes may have to shift their focus to patrolling for parties. Under this system, underage drinking and partying in general could take precedence over more serious crimes occurring in Eugene.

We imagine one reason EPD used the Party Patrol in the first place was in an effort to cut down on drunk driving. However, that concern should be addressed with the DUII grant they recently received, allowing officers 24 more hours a month dedicated to catching drivers under the influence. Many of these hours can be used during peak party times.

And students should do their part and have fun responsibly, which means keeping party noise at a reasonable level and not supplying alcohol to those under 21.

Students who do violate laws should expect to pay the consequences, but the police shouldn't be hunting for parties. There are better ways for law enforcement to achieve its goals.

#### Letters to the Editor and Guest Commentaries Policy

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries are encouraged. Letters are limited to 250 words and guest commentaries to 550 words. Please include contact information. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and style.

## There's more to college than just football

Walking out of Autzen Stadium on Saturday, you would have thought the existence of Duck Football as we know it was over. The faces of true shock were met with an eerie silence that swooped over the crowd. Every now and then you would hear the voices of couples who were canceling plans to go up and watch the Ducks play in Pullman next weekend. Students were already talking about next season. Then there was the young boy who was crying into his pint-sized Joey Harrington jersey.

Some will blame the offensive line for the blocked punts; others may place it on the defense for not coming up with the big play. There might even be those who place blame on play calls that seemed to move the ball more across the field than down it. A dancing-tree conspiracy may be sought by a few, and criticism will be put on the call to pass the ball on 3rd and 1. But there should be no blame.

The only reason Oregon Football fans feel disappointed is because Oregon Football has gotten too good too fast. If you told an Oregon fan during the years of perennial losing seasons that the 2001 edition of Oregon Football would be undefeated and ranked fifth in the nation by the Associated Press heading into its seventh game of the year, you would have been considered a probable patient for the state mental hospital. It wasn't too long ago when Oregon Football had moral victories, but now even those are unacceptable.

Sure, the Ducks have enjoyed tremendous success over the past few years. The Rose Bowl after the 1994 season, another nine-win season in 1995 with a trip to the Cotton Bowl and the Holiday Bowl win last year over Texas. Oregon's football resumé, though, still remains relatively short. It is short enough that even a loss that ends a 23-game home winning streak should be taken in stride. We should be grateful for what Oregon Football has brought us and not be disappointed in what could have been.

To the delight of several members of the media, many who just happen to live on the East Coast, many people will be jumping off the Oregon bandwagon after the loss. This is fine though, because as a friend once told me, the biggest cause of death along the Oregon Trail was from people jumping on and off wagons. The true Oregon Football fan cheers for the Ducks when they win, and also when they lose. Sports torment the soul because somebody always has to lose. If you're a front-runner, be prepared to be run over by reality.

Mistakes will be learned and lessons will be learned, but Saturday's seven-point loss to Stanford should do much more. There is more to life than the Bowl Championship Series, polls and a na-

tional championship trophy. If these come, great, but if they don't, it is not the end of the world.

The University of Oregon is about more than just college football. It is about meeting new people, having some fun and finding yourself. So if after Saturday's game you find yourself blaming the referees, the coaches or the players, maybe you should be somewhere else. After all, the Ducks will be back on the field next week. I'll be watching with the same enthusiasm and pride, and I hope you will, too.

Jeff Oliver is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald. He can be reached at jeffoliver@dailyemerald.com.



Jeff Oliver  
 Columnist



Steve Baggs Emerald

## Letters to the editor

### Service-dogs-in-training have rights, too

While I truly applaud the feature article on puppy-raising and placement of assistance dogs, "Getting help from human's best friend" (ODE, 10/05), you have presented an unfortunate misunderstanding with regards to public access in Oregon and any service-dog-in-training. I am referring to: "The Americans with Disabilities Act ensures that working teams have access everywhere the public is allowed. However, puppies in training do not have these privileges because they are not yet assisting a disabled person. Even though Castle and other puppies in training wear green jackets to alert the public about their careers, not all businesses are accommodating."

While it is quite true that the ADA does not address service-dogs-in-training, (their special-

ists advise that the ADA itself does not cover a service dog until it is fully trained) many states have far more comprehensive and just as legally binding laws with regards to service dogs and service-dogs-in-training.

We always encourage our clients, puppy-raisers and puppy-trainers to become fully familiar with the statutes and to carry copies of the appropriate Oregon Statute (along with their official ID) to present to restaurants and other establishments when the question of access rights arises. We also offer sessions for businesses, organizations, etc. in order to educate them on the laws regarding service and access rights.

Rand Stamm  
 Canine Assistance Partners, Inc.

### Humanitarian aid feeds enemies

Providing "humanitarian" aid to our enemies is a moral outrage. The cowards in Washington, D.C. need to take a lesson from the heroes of Flight 93. These men did not altruistically serve in-flight snacks to their hi-

jackers. They did something much more humane: They selfishly fought 100 percent — for the lives of innocent Americans.

Jennifer Kral  
 Mayfield Heights, Ohio

### Boo reminds us of joys in life

The meaning of contemporary life goes beyond the WTC bombing and the war in Afghanistan. Your article "A room with a Boo" (ODE, 10/11) brings to mind the little joys in life that we often overlook.

I pay homage to Boo the cat each time I attend a movie at the Bijou. Several weeks ago, before "The Closet" (an excellent French language film), I dutifully petted Boo as she relaxed, seated on her lobby throne. Like a familiar friend, Boo is a metaphor for the good things in life during these troubled times.

Thank you.

Mike E. Walsh  
 Eugene

### Full page ad was shocking

About the full-page advertisement titled, "End states who sponsor terrorism" (ODE, 10/15): I don't know what anybody else thinks about this incredibly offensive and shocking ad, but here's an interesting question that I have, and maybe someone can answer it for me.

If "a proper war in self-defense is one fought without crippling restrictions. ... And it must be fought in a manner that secures victory as quickly as possible ... regardless of the countless innocents caught in the line of fire," then what does that make us?

To me, that makes us terrorists *ourselves* (ironically, the very thing that we're trying to destroy) because that description seems fits the very act of terrorism itself, which is something that I, one of those intellectual "friends of peace," don't want to have any part in.

Sarah Hatstat  
 junior  
 English