

# COMMENTARY

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## Too much attention surrounds football

Guest editorial

This Sunday, millions of Americans will be enjoying the festivities that go along with Super Bowl XXXVII.

Over the years, the Super Bowl has become one of the most watched events in television history. For many, the game itself is just an afterthought.

There are people who watch the Super Bowl just for the commercials. Others watch it for the halftime show. There are even those who will tune in to other channels to see what kind of crazy halftime spectacle will be on display. The birth of "Celebrity Death Match" on MTV occurred during a Super Bowl halftime.

The Super Bowl has become a major cultural event in America, so much so that it has developed into something of an unofficial holiday. On Monday morning, discussions around the office water cooler focus on the game, the commercials and the halftime show.

A recent study conducted by the University of Toronto in Canada dealt with the increase in traffic accidents after the game is over. According to the study, the surge in traffic accidents is most pronounced in the losing team's area.

Both fatal and non-fatal crashes rise after the game, causing an average of seven additional deaths and 600 extra injuries, according to the study.

The researchers theorized that drivers become distracted because of the disappointment of their team losing.

With so much frantic energy applied to the Super Bowl, it would be nice to see that same degree of attention paid to less trivial matters. The State of the Union address is only two days after the Super Bowl. This is an important event in the lives of Americans, especially in light of the numerous domestic and foreign political issues dominating the news every night.

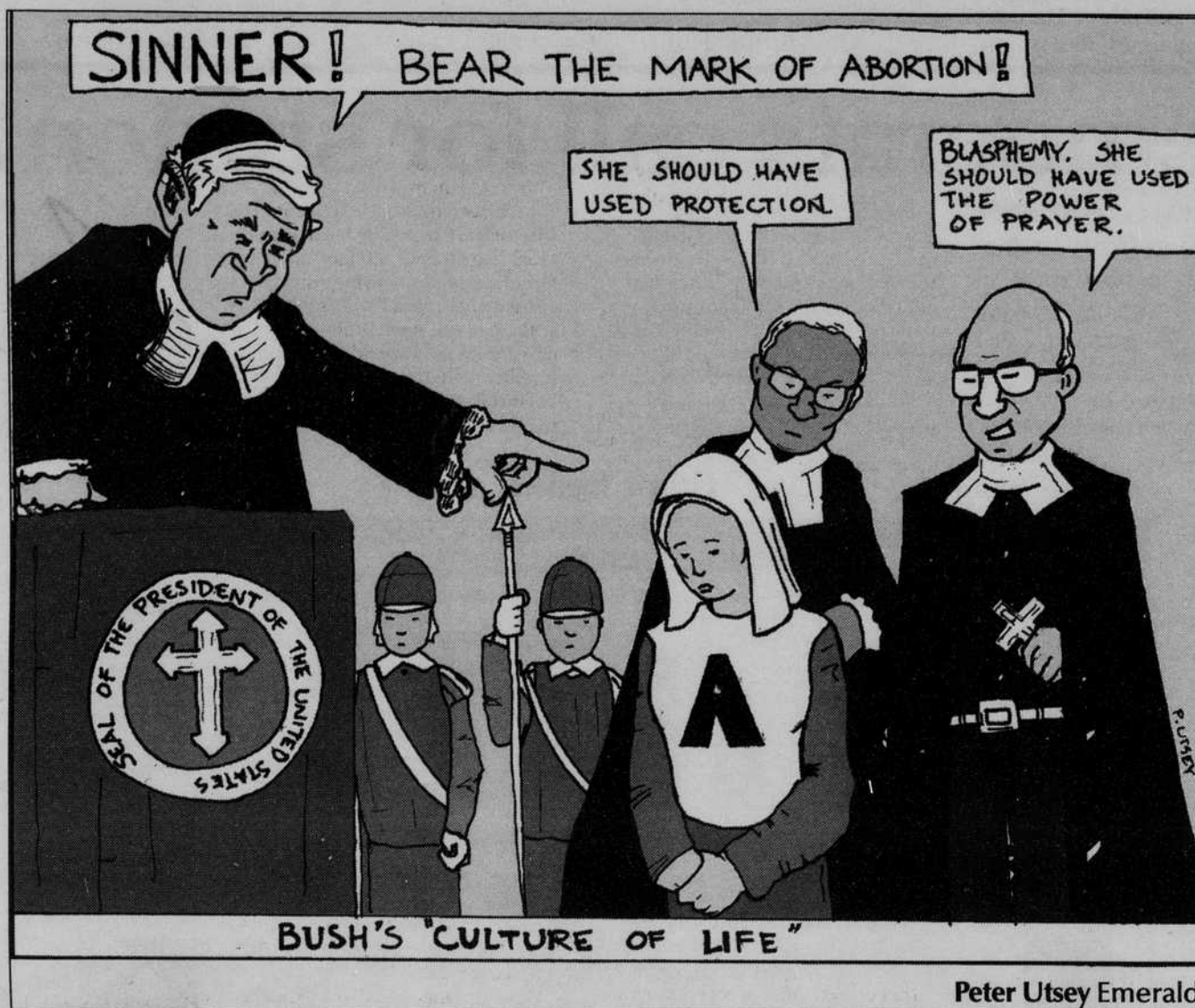
The crisis with North Korea, a possible war in Iraq, affirmative action, the economy and health care are issues that have been in the news almost daily. The country is going through a crucial time in its history.

Americans should be paying as much — if not more — attention to the aforementioned issues as they do the Super Bowl.

Professional sports is an escape for many individuals who don't want to always focus on the harsh realities of the real world. But when does obsession over a sporting event become too much?

That same energy should be geared more towards finding solutions to the problems that plague the American landscape.

This is written by the editorial staff of the Daily Vidette at Illinois State University (U-WIRE). Their opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Emerald.



## Lack of education undermines U.S. history

Guest commentary

I am writing in response to "The Communist disguise" (ODE, Dec. 9). While I was not surprised to hear the "There are several other countries that already have a Communist government" argument, I feel that M. Reilly Cosgrove's reasoning behind such a statement is based on half-truths and misinformation. Not only does such a statement misrepresent American history, it also relies on the schoolyard "Take your ball and go home" tactic that is so often used when people argue against such things as socialism and communism.

Cosgrove writes that if the American people wanted communism, they would have voted it into office long ago. I find it amusing that this

statement comes only three months after the United Nations officially stated that capitalistic democracy, because of such things as corporate donations and so on, does not work.

Cosgrove also writes that Marxists "utterly fail(ed) to recruit Americans, too." This statement is often used when arguing against the non-patriotic ideas of communism and socialism. However, it does not in any way represent the actual history of the United States. Does Cosgrove not enjoy the weekend, the eight-hour day, or the abolition of child labor? Corporate owners did not give the above realities to the American people. They were fought for by the workers — the "proletariat" of this very nation. Many of these workers carried the red card,

the majority at times, and yet such realities remain unmentioned.

Blind patriotism, such as that exhibited in Cosgrove's comments, is an example of the lack of education many Americans have today. Had the columnist done research prior to bashing "radical" professors on campus, he would have found that communism has a rich and tragic history in the United States. He would have found that it was not "voting" that stopped communism, but rather it was oppression in the name of Truman/McCarthy. Harassment, torture, murder and imprisonment all played a crucial role in dealing with and stopping the rise in communist thought. Voting, however, played no role at all.

I find Cosgrove's lack of accurate information to be an insult to the

ancestors and history of the nation he is so eager to defend. If we, as a university, are to critically analyze the structure of society, we must first understand its history. Blind faith in our founding fathers has caused great harm to our nation, primarily because it does not encourage debate. Rather, this faith stops discussion with schoolyard statements, such as "just move to another country."

It encourages us to sit passively, with our hands extended to the sky, waiting for gifts of justice and freedom that will never be handed out. The weekend was not a gift from a benevolent CEO. Rather, it was fought for by the people, the "proletariat," many of whom were Marxists.

Dylan McManus is majoring in fine arts.

## Government circumvents true measure issues

Guest commentary

Why are we being deceived by our elected officials? When I received my Voters' Pamphlet, I read every pro-and-con argument about Measure 28. In a nutshell, nearly every pro-tax increase argument was based on two factors: "It will only cost the average taxpayer a small amount each month" and the scare tactic of "how devastating and severe the cuts in services will be."

Why are we not being told the truth? Why are we not being told that the cuts to services and the increases in costs will be implemented whether Measure 28 passes or not? In fact, in regards to the Oregon Health Plan, the cuts in services and the increases in fees have already been made.

Because of recent catastrophic health problems, I have not been able to work and have been forced to rely on the Oregon Health Plan. I received a new medical card on Jan. 9 and am now required to make a co-pay of "two to three dollars for drugs not covered by my plan." This makes no

sense to me. If the medications are not covered, I pay full retail for them. I am now also required to make a co-pay of "three dollars for outpatient services not covered by my plan."

The mental health portion of my benefits package has also already been eliminated. On Jan. 10, I received another medical card. In addition to the co-pays and cuts in services mentioned above, the dental portion of my benefits package was eliminated. I was informed by OMAP that on Feb. 1, my co-pay for drugs will increase to "two to fifteen dollars for every prescription."

Are these co-pays illegal? According to an AP article out of Portland, "Pharmacies sue to block drug co-payment," published in the World on Jan. 9:

"Pharmacies are upset that under Medicaid rules, they cannot require payment of the co-pay. If a patient refuses to pay it, the pharmacist must still fill the prescription without being reimbursed by Medicaid ... failure of Health Plan customers to pay the co-pays would cost pharmacies \$1.4 million ... drive some pharmacies out of business ... and deprive patients of care."

Does this also apply to outpatient services?

If Oregon is anything like California, and I cannot believe it isn't, priorities must be re-arranged. This year California faces a \$3.3 billion budget deficit. Fraud in California's Medi-Cal health care system alone is estimated to cost its taxpayers \$2.6 billion a year. This figure doesn't include waste and the cost of providing benefits to criminals who have broken our laws by entering our country illegally. If state officials spent our tax dollars eliminating fraud and waste and denied benefits to non-citizens, we wouldn't be where we are today.

It is imperative that we demand honesty and accountability from our government. It's way past time for our elected officials to accept the responsibilities, both fiscal and otherwise, we citizens must live with every day.

We don't have to wait for Measure 28 to fail. The cuts in services and the increases in fees have already been made. If Measure 28 passes, where will our increased taxes go?

W.O. McGuire lives in Coos Bay.