

- Has Mac Court at UO really outlived its usefulness? UO President Dave Frohnmayer tells us we can build a new \$100 million-plus basketball stadium to replace The Pit without spending tax dollars or diverting money from academic programs. Nice trick, but beware of unexpected and hidden costs that the UO might get stuck covering. Donors such as Phil Knight will supposedly pick up the tab, but how much would those same donors give if they were instead persuaded to fund academic programs and facilities, or scholarships – as they have in the past? Duck sports are great, but Duck academics are even more exciting, and in these times of financial chaos and uncertainty, students and teachers should be our highest priority.
- *New York Times* sports columnist William C. Rhoden used his Sunday space to go after Myles Brand, former UO president now president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. His closing: "Mostly, as the public wrings its hands over the so-called evils of college sports, Brand must help the public understand that the old Joe College enterprise it mourns has been dead for decades. Questions at Ohio State, trouble at Baylor and segregation in the football coaching ranks of the SEC are related to the complex, rapidly evolving mission of intercollegiate athletics. The old ideal is a mirage. I hope that Brand isn't." We're reminded that some irreverent UO faculty members always called him Myles Bland when he was their president.
- Former state Rep. Cedric Hayden has offered to accept an appointment to the Lane County Commission to serve out Tom Lininger's remaining term, promising not to run for re-election when the term ends in 15 months. Hayden figures the four remaining board members, often split 2-2 in their voting, will have trouble agreeing on Lininger's replacement, but let's give the commissioners some credit, and a chance to come up with a moderate replacement. Hayden (who didn't make the short list of candidates) would be a predictable conservative vote on the commission, continuing his lackluster, lock-step legislative legacy. And who knows what sort of "grass-roots" campaign would surface in 15 months to "persuade" him to seek re-election after all.
- Meanwhile, Anna "Bulldozer" Morrison remains the only ideologue on the County Commission. Republicans in the Legislature are trying to push through an outrageous bill, HB3013, that would allow destruction of prime farm land for even marginal-value gravel mining. The commissioners voted 4-1 last week to send a letter of protest to Salem. Morrison, predictably, cast the lone dissenting vote.
- President Bush, when asked about his views on homosexuality last week, said, "I believe in the sanctity of marriage. I believe a marriage is between a man and a woman. And I think we ought to codify that one way or the other. And we've got lawyers looking at the best way to do that." Looks like the White House wants to impose its narrow moral code on the American people once again. Meanwhile, Republicans keep telling us they want to get government off our backs.

fine with this level of funding, was nonsense."

Farr says he voted for HB5077 "because we needed to pass a bill along to the Senate and start the process of adopting the budget. It establishes \$5.05 [billion] as the *minimum* number we are willing to consider and will allow for a carefully deliberated adjustment as the process moves forward. If we had not started the process by the passage of the bill we might be negotiating for weeks with no promise of a conclusion."

Corcoran wrote that Farr's vote was "a real disappointment" and if "just two more [House] Republicans had the cajones to take on their leadership," the Senate wouldn't have to try to "fix" the inadequate budget.

— Ted Taylor

WYDEN CO-SPONSORS BILL TO TAME PATRIOT ACT

On July 31, Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and co-sponsor Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced Senate Bill 1552, "Protecting the Rights of Individuals Act," which virtually dismantles many of the most troublesome provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

SB1552 would provide more judicial and congressional oversight for searches; require evidence of criminal activity before warrants are issued; modify the definition of domestic terrorism; require more evidence of criminal activity before allowing searches of library, video store, bookstore, or financial records; and require more regular reporting from the Attorney General's Office.

The ACLU has done an analysis of the bill and lauded both Murkowski and Wyden for introducing the legislation. The Center for Democracy and Technology has also filed a report on the legislation.

Hope Marston of the Lane County Bill of Rights Defense Committee writes, "If there was any doubt that the tide is turning, the fact that Ron Wyden is supportive of extensive changes to the UPA is a definite indication that opposition to the UPA has gone mainstream. Our work is not finished. Besides the UPA, there are still executive orders and Department of Justice orders that violate our constitutional guarantees. Time to call every Senator and ask them to co-sponsor this important legislation!" For more information and updates, visit www.lanerights.org

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