

Bounce is hoping that the Duck footballers can bounce back to beat Stanford down there, which won't be easy. Watching USC reel off 45 straight points could shake any team's confidence, and it can't help to read *The New York Times* about the Ducks' luxurious locker rooms.

An article titled "The Slap of Luxury" in last Saturday's *Times* chronicled the excesses of the Duck locker room, pointed out that the team won more games before constructing the "college football wonderland," and asked whether the luxury might be contributing to Duck complacency. Ouch.

Of course, people would stop slamming Oregon's locker rooms, billboards, and fancy uniforms if the Ducks would run the table and win a big bowl game. Is that going to happen? So far, the Ducks have shown us good, bad and ugly.

Good: The record, 3-1: Winning games is the bottom line and the Ducks deserve credit for taking three of the first four. This 3-1 looks especially good because it could be 1-3. The Ducks trailed in two of the games they won. Kellen Clemens is playing great football. He has thrown for nine touchdowns and no interceptions, which is about as good as it gets. Demetrius Williams is catching passes as well as anyone in the nation. He plays fast, strong, and focused. Haloti Ngata: a force. Paul Martinez: He's setting records and leading the nation.

Bad: Oregon's lack of a consistent running game: Oregon has not proven that it can knock people off the line of scrimmage and run the ball. Bounce could overlook Oregon's inability to run against the Trojans, but the Ducks also managed less than 100 yards rushing against Montana! Defenses are going to start ignoring the run and shutting down Oregon's passing game, so the Ducks better focus on running the ball. Stanford's defense looks suspect, so the Ducks ought to think about running the ball over and over again. And, Bounce admires Kellen's guts, but he should not be running the ball so much. He's taking too many hits and Oregon's got several backs who run better than Kellen. The pass defense: Oregon has given up a ton of points and too many big plays. Bounce wants to see a better pass rush from the Ducks. Devan Long can get to the quarterback, but he has been injured. Can Oregon find some more speed rushers who can disrupt opposing quarterbacks? Special teams: Just about every aspect of Oregon's special teams play has been suspect, except for Paul Martinez's kicking.

Ugly: Oregon's image problem: The football team is known more for fancy locker rooms than winning games.

Bounce is guessing that the locker rooms are not going to change, so the only way to solve this problem is to win more games. Palo Alto is a great place to start. — *The gang in the barbershop*



news Briefs



FOOD GROUP TAKES LEAD ON SCHOOL LUNCH

In a recent cover story ("Rethinking Lunch," 9/1), *EW* reported that Eugene School District 4J is serving its students meat- and cheese-heavy meals, processed and shipped from factories across the nation. Now, a local nonprofit is stepping up its efforts to do something about it.

The Lane County Food Coalition recently hired Meredith Whitten to lead its Food-On Farm to Cafeteria initiative to bring local, organic foods to public schools and other institutions.

In the year since its launch, Food-On has hosted parent nights to discuss healthy food choices, showed the documentary *Super Size Me* at César Chávez Elementary School and worked with the district's food services manager, Sodexho, to pilot an organic salad bar at Sheldon High School. Whitten's hire signals an expansion of the project to involve more members of the community.

Whitten says that she hopes to work with the district on its federally mandated Wellness Policy, a student health and nutrition plan that all schools must implement by fall 2006. She sees the policy as an opportunity to connect school gardens and nutrition education with locally-produced meals to give kids the tools they need to make healthy choices. Whitten notes that healthier cafeteria offerings can help combat childhood obesity and diabetes while improving student performance and behavior.

Julie Daniel of BRING Recycling perches on Congressman Peter DeFazio's trademark red '63 Dodge Dart GT. DeFazio drove around in the old hunk of metal from the time he ran for county commissioner in the early '80s until the engine started to "peter" out about two years ago. When he donated it to BRING, the car's interior was appalling. "Think rust holes that allowed a clear view of the road, and enough dog hair to stuff a large pillow," Daniel says. But the engine still turned over, so BRING spruced it up and made it a company car, naming it "ReFazio." DeFazio, for his part, upgraded ... to a 1964 Dodge Dart convertible.



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Finances and other details are tricky, Whitten says, but other school districts have proven that farm-to-cafeteria plans can work. "Luckily, we don't have to reinvent the wheel," she says. "There are so many pieces to this puzzle, but it is being done successfully in so many places across the country that there's no reason we couldn't do it here. Eugene is the right town for this project."

The LCFC is a community-based nonprofit that supports local food production. For more information on the Farm to Cafeteria Initiative, contact Whitten: meredith@lanefood.org or 913-5576.

— Kera Abraham

NORTHWEST OF NORMALITY

The Eugene-based nonprofit MindFreedom Support Coalition International will be screening people at the Eugene Celebration for "normality." The street theater this weekend is inspired by President Bush's announced plans for nationwide mental health screenings for all adults and children.

"More than 1,000 people were screened at this year's Oregon Country Fair with no normality detected," says MindFreedom Director David Oaks. "Every rumor of normality has thankfully always been a false alarm."

Watch for clowns in white coats and red noses screening the public with rubber chicken wands to try to spot any normality, says Oaks, "which has still not been discovered."

Regarding the White House screening plan, Oaks says, "Watching for troubled people sounds good. But the public should know these plans are heavily influenced and promoted by the psychiatric drug industry. We want better advocacy and alternatives first, before mental health corporations use schools to recruit more customers for psychiatric drugs."

MindFreedom is a U.N.-recognized NGO promoting human rights for mental health consumers and psychiatric survivors. For more information or to help, stop by booth #55 at the Celebration, call 345-9106, visit www.MindFreedom.org or e-mail oaks@MindFreedom.org

HURRICANE RELIEF DRIVE

Jefferson Middle School students are holding a money and clothing drive for Hurricane Katrina victims from Sept. 23 through Oct. 11. Community members can drop off almost-new clothing, new hygiene items including sealed toothbrushes, and monetary donations from 9 am to 3 pm weekdays at the school's office at 1650 W 22nd Ave. For more information, call Assistant Principal Tasha Katsuda at 687-3221.

TISSERAND TALE GOES ON

For those following "Submerged," the adventures and travails of Michael Tisserand and his family in Louisiana, the series continues online at www.AltWeeklies.com and includes earlier dispatches.

EW started off printing the series with a cover story Sept. 8 following Hurricane Katrina. Tisserand is the displaced editor of *Gambit Weekly*, New Orleans' alternative