

DUCK LIFE VS. THUG LIFE

Florida State carries
baggage to playoffs

A good friend of mine in Seattle — an Eritrean immigrant who helped pen that country's as yet unratified constitution — once pointed out that, should I really want to understand the collision of race and politics in the U.S., read the sports pages. I figured he was being coy, but the more I think about it, the more I comprehend sports as a microcosm of society, where all sorts of racial and social tensions play out, often in the subterranean codes of privilege, ability and competition.

It's tempting to view the Jan. 1, 2015, playoff game featuring the UO Ducks and the Florida State Seminoles as a gladiatorial pitting of Good Guys vs. Bad Guys. Certainly, Florida State's program is embroiled in some ugly controversy, due in large part to an Oct. 10 front-page piece in *The New York Times* detailing repeated instances among players of alleged domestic abuse, rape, vandalism and theft — instances mostly brushed aside or ignored by fawning cops who often are paid directly by Seminole boosters for the game-day shifts they work.

The Ducks, on the other hand, are enjoying a squeaky-clean image right now thanks to golden-boy quarterback Marcus Mariota, a phenomenal athlete and All-American nice guy whose direst infraction is a speeding ticket that, according to reports, he received very politely. At the barbershop this morning, I got into a conversation with a fan who suggested that the upcoming Rose Bowl game was a chance for the Ducks to humble Florida State's Heisman-winning quarterback Jameis Winston, an accused rapist who is perceived by many to be an unrepentant "thug" — the new code word for "uppity Negro."

I know less than nothing about what it really feels like to be a young black man in this society, but from where I stand it looks to be a pretty hellish double bind. On the one side, we celebrate the vitality and abilities of the black athlete, creating an environment of hero-worship and vicarious expectations that leads to a culture of hypocritical entitlement that only gets shut down when the abuses go public.

Make no mistake: If the allegations against Winston are true, his actions were reprehensible and should be dealt with to the full extent of the law. But, in a very devious way, he is also a victim of a system created by wealthy white men whose bottom line is money and victory. Don't miss the forest for the trees.

And on the other side of this bind, then, is the undeniable evidence that young black men are endangered by a racist system in which law enforcement often acts with impunity. When NBA superstar LeBron James wore an "I Can't Breathe" warm-up T-shirt before a game — a reference to the death in July of an unarmed black man who was put in a chokehold by a Staten Island cop — he perfectly embodied the grotesque Catch-22 of our racial politics.



Tiny Tavern in the Whiteaker was shut down by Lane County health inspectors Dec. 5 for health code violations, according to the Eugene Brewery District website. The bar at 394 Blair Blvd. scored 67 points out of 100 and "according to regulations, any score of 70 or less will require the business to close its doors until corrections and a re-inspection can be made," says the website. Jeff Malos owns the building and is rumored to be looking to sell it. Back in our Sept. 25 Biz Beat, we wrote about the bar closing when manager Jeff Peck left to open Old Nick's Pub. Sounds like Malos took over Tiny's and it has not gone well — the county found a moldy cutting board, warm butter, bad plumbing, floor problems, etc. A link to the health inspection report can be found on the Brewery District website or see wkly.ws/1us.

The **Antique Clock Shop** at 888 Pearl St. downtown has been closed since Nov. 1 for remodeling and reopened this week with a new name, the Anderson-Jagels Antique Company. Owners Patricia and Nick Anderson-Jagels say they opened their original clock stop on Coburg Road in 1983, specializing in clock restoration and hand engraving. They have also grown their inventory of antique clocks, estate jewelry, sterling silver and small antiques. "We want to let folks know that we are still here, haven't closed up, just spiffed up the old place," says Patricia Anderson-Jagels. Phone number is 683-1349.

Claim 52 Brewing will host a **Winter Ale Festival** showcasing 11 specialty winter ales from local breweries from 3 to 10 pm Saturday, Dec. 13, at 1030 Tjinn St. in west Eugene. Participating breweries include Agrarian, Falling Sky, Hop Valley, McMenamins, Ninkasi, Oakshire, Plank Town, Sam Bond's Brewing and Viking Braggot Company. Taster tickets will be sold at the door for \$1 each. The event features two ugly sweater contests, a pop-up *Nutcracker* ballet performance, live music and food carts.

Earth Bookkeeping & Payroll has moved to a new office, still downtown Eugene. The new location is at 98 E. 13th Ave., Suite C, on the corner of Oak, with off-street parking and more space. The service caters to small business and nonprofits and offers free initial consultations. Call 359-4988 or email earth.central@live.com.

A **new board game** by Chris Pender is now available at Holiday Market, weekends at the Lane County Fairgrounds. Pender, creator of *The Game of REAL LIFE*, now has *OCCUPY!* vs. 1%, inspired by Donald Trump, who suggested we could pay off our national debt if we sold our national parks. In the game, the richest 1 percent try to buy up Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone, The Statue of Liberty and the Smithsonian. The Occupy players try to stop the sale by occupying the parks or petitioning Congress. Contact chris@gameofreallife.com.

The nonprofit **Civil Liberties Defense Center** in Eugene is looking for two part-time staff positions starting right away, a membership director and an administrative associate. Find the job descriptions at cldc.org or wkly.ws/1ur.

The **Lane Economic Committee** (LEC) is the economic advisory panel to the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) and three LEC positions are up for appointment in 2015. Deadline to apply is Dec. 12. The LEC represents the principle economic interests of Lane County, including business, labor, education and government. The panel meets at 11:30 am on the third Monday of the month in Eugene. To apply, see lcog.org or call Steve Dignam at 682-7450.

Daisy's Place is a new public location for Daisy C.H.A.I.N. (Creating Healthy Alliances in New-Mothering) and an open house and fundraiser will be from 4 to 6 pm Thursday, Dec. 11, at 1244 Lawrence St., the former location of the Eugene Yoga Center. Email daisychainmothering@gmail.com.

The **Eugene/Springfield Relief Nursery** will benefit from a book drive by the UO Duck Store which is taking donations of new and gently used children's books through Dec. 21 at all of its locations. The books are for children, ideally ages 0 to 6, and a particular need is for Spanish or bilingual books. Each book donated will earn a raffle ticket for a gift basket of goods and gift certificates valued at \$450.

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- Congrats to all players for **ending the GTFF strike** on the UO campus. We're even pleased that we can stop honking our horns in solidarity with the picketing graduate teaching fellows marching for hours on end. Hopefully, this conflict will not be a forerunner for broader labor disputes at the university, now that the faculty is unionized. It should not be. The UO has a long history of working peacefully with unions, the SEIU, for instance, and the GTFF until this fall. Our flagship university and its students should not have to go through another painful episode like this one.

- Gov. John Kitzhaber appointed the **new UO Board of Trustees**. Phil Knight wanted an independent board. David Frohnmyer has advocated for it for years. The Oregon Legislature approved it. It's time for somebody to lead in telling the board, under Chairman Chuck Lillis, to slow down. Functioning for only six months, the trustees are proposing to essentially wipe out the faculty's valued shared governance of the UO, a research university faculty role which for many years has helped to bring fine professors to Eugene. The board also has had problems operating with the Oregon open meeting law, as pointed out in a *Register-Guard* editorial. Time for a time-out. Who will call it?

- **Civic Stadium supporters** are well on their way to securing the financing to purchase the prime 10.2-acre site as a much-needed grandstands, soccer field and indoor Kidsports fieldhouse that would serve our community and region in multiple ways for generations to come. Parking questions, of course, bubbled up around the tables at the City Club of Eugene Dec. 5. What was not shown in the plans were about 180 surface parking spaces, nearly the same parking that was provided for baseball fans in the past. Parking will also be available across the street at South Eugene High School, with a pedestrian overpass already in place, and improved bus service and bike lanes are planned. The site's central location is highly accessible. Friendly Area Neighbors have endorsed the project. Speakers Bev Smith, Dave Galas, Greg Ausland and Derek Johnson noted that Hayward Field and Matthew Knight Arena have almost no parking and the always sold-out soccer stadium in Portland has only three parking spaces for 20,000 fans.

- **Reforming Oregon's tax structure** is on the agenda as lawmakers return to Salem this week for pre-session work. Some interesting bills are brewing in the Democrat-led House Revenue Committee for the Legislature to deal with in February. They won't all make it, of course, but we're happy to see a bill that would eliminate the individual income-tax kicker. Another bill, inspired by Eugene and other cities, would mandate paid sick leave statewide. The Oregon Senate Republican Office is freaking out, saying any reform of the status quo is bad for families and business. Actually, wealth disparity is worse for families and business.

- **The film *Wild***, subtitled *From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail*, opens this week in Portland, so we haven't yet seen Reese Witherspoon playing Cheryl Strayed, but we'll be looking for the portrayal of a former Eugenean in the hot film. Strayed writes in her book about Josh O'Brien and two other hikers who were considerate and kind to her late in her adventure, unlike some of the oafs she met along the way. Josh grew up in Eugene and went to South Eugene High School. He's the son of Mary and Bob O'Brien, and he knew how to wear the right boots in the mountains. Last we heard, he hadn't read the book.

- **Rolling Stone** magazine's **journalistic lapse in its story** about rape on the University of Virginia campus shouldn't deter the rest of America's journalists from chasing that story, both on college campuses and in the military. It does point out the need for carefully researched studies on the problem and the need to protect the rights of both accused and accuser. The UO is lucky to have right here on its faculty one of the leading experts and researchers in the country on this topic. Professor Jennifer Freyd, twice invited to the White House to work with the president's task force, is leading a campus climate survey, which the timid UO administration should put out there as a solid national model.

- Eugene **blogger Dan Carlin** was honored Dec. 8 for Best Classic Podcast by Apple in its Best of 2014 awards. Find his *Hardcore History* posts on iTunes. Carlin's award is right up there with *Fargo* as Best TV Show of the Year, *Guardians of the Galaxy* as Best Blockbuster Movie and Beyonce as Best Artist. Impressive company for a small-town guy quietly working out of his house.