

# SLANT

• If the **East Grandstand of Historic Hayward Field is so hazardous**, why were so many track fans allowed to sit on it during the Prefontaine Classic May 25 and 26? We were waiting for it to “collapse” with every cheer.

• Something about the scale of the **University of Oregon’s women’s softball program** is so much fun. Here we are, ranked first in the country, playing in the world series in Oklahoma City, and President Michael Schill gives the players what the *Register-Guard* calls a “group hug” after they win the super regionals in Eugene on May 26. Hard to imagine a “group hug” for the football team.

• If you are a **strategic thinker, someone who loves public policy, and a fighter for economic justice**, here’s a good job for you. It’s the next executive director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy, the progressive think tank in Portland founded



and headed by Chuck Sheketoff for the last 20 years. He will be a hard act to follow, but the importance of OCPP to this state and country right now is apparent in the slogan, “Because facts matter.”

• Nationally, **stories are swirling about Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** losing children and

purposely separating parents from children as a way to deter families from crossing the border into the U.S. While the issue of ICE losing 1,475 immigrant children is more complex than it might first appear — experts have pointed out that the unaccompanied minors can be sent to relatives who may not want to be found because of the risk of deportation

— separating children from their parents in order to attack immigrants is simply inhumane and cruel.

• What we’re reading: **Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now** by tech skeptic Jaron Lanier. The book, published May 29, was written before the news of Cambridge Analytica, Russia and Facebook. A virtual reality pioneer whose writing includes 2010’s *You Are Not a Gadget*, Lanier argues forcefully that Facebook and similar platforms poison social discourse in their endless quest for clicks and money.



SLANT INCLUDES SHORT OPINION PIECES, OBSERVATIONS AND RUMOR-CHASING NOTES COMPILED BY THE EW EDITORIAL BOARD. HEARD ANY GOOD RUMORS LATELY? CONTACT EDITOR@EUGENEWEEKLY.COM

## HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

### BETSY WHEELER

On Friday, June 8, at 8 pm, and 2 pm Sunday, June 10, the University of Oregon Disability Studies Minor and the Shenanigans Theater Company will present an original musical play, *Heroes From Another Earth*, free and open to the public, at 123 Global Scholars Hall, 1710 E 15th Avenue in Eugene. Street parking is free on Sunday and after 8 pm on Friday. The play was written and will be performed in a collaboration between UO students in Professor Betsy Wheeler’s Living Theater class and adults with disabilities from the local community. “The play is a hybrid of life stories from the group plus superhero and sci-fi stories, with five original songs,” Wheeler says. “A realistic tale, about life with disabilities in a world that doesn’t understand, rockets off into stories about a world where people would like to live, then into not one, but two superhero universes.” After graduating in 1981 from Bowdoin College in Maine,

Wheeler worked in publishing at St. Martin’s Press in New York, then studied for masters and Ph.D. degrees in comparative literature at the City University of New York and UC Berkeley. “I ran after-school programs for homeless and low-income kids in Manhattan and in Oakland,” she says. “I’m always interested in kids.” When she finished her doctorate in 1996, Wheeler was hired by the UO. “My colleagues have encouraged me to be creative,” she says. “I’ve always done a combination of standard fare and my own inventions.” She launched a service learning curriculum, teaching young adult and children’s literature, then sending her students out to serve internships in local schools. Her book on representations of disability in young adult and children’s literature, titled *Handiland: The Crippest Place on Earth*, will be published by the University of Michigan Press in 2019.



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