**Forecasting Contest Information:**

1. We begin on Monday April 8 – forecasts will be made every Monday through Friday for the next nine weeks.

2. You will be given instructions on how to download the forecast work sheet soon.

3. Forecasts for the following day are due by 5 pm of the previous day. Hence, for Monday April 8, the forecast needs to be submitted by 5 pm Sunday April 7. Note that <http://zebu.uoregon.edu/weather.html> contains many satellite maps.

4. You are forecasting max temperature as recorded at http://supercow.uoregon.edu/~uoweather (i.e. not at the airport, the Eugene airport lies) and precipitation – not the amount, just the probability that there will be measurable precipitation within the 24 hours period that corresponds to say, the date April 8 (i.e. the precipitation window is midnight to midnight)

4. **Lowest Score Wins – that is you want to avoid accumulating points.**

Submissions are scored as follows:

1. Temperature: 5 points per degree error: (Actual Temperature - Forecast Temperature) X 5, up to a maximum of 100 points per forecast
2. Precipitation:
   1. If measurable precipitation was recorded, (10 - Forecast Probability/10)\*\*2
   2. If not, (Forecast Probability/10)\*\*2

Example: FizzicksRus forecasts a maximum temperature of 56oF.  She also predicts that there will be 20% chance rain.  Observations the following day yield a maximum temperature of 54oF and indicate no rain.

She then scores as follows:

    10 points for maximum temperature: (56 - 54) X 5 = 10  
    4 points for precipitation. (note: had it rained that would have been 64 points)

5. If you miss a date, your prediction will default to **persistence**. Persistence means that tomorrow’s weather will be exactly like today’s weather.

6. When you first download the worksheet you will be asked for a name. This doesn’t have to be your real name. But if you select BothunSucks as your screen name for this contest, then you need to always use that screen name so that you can retrieve your own worksheet forecast calendar from the data base.

The 500 MB map is an excellent forecasting tool. We will cover this sometime next week. The current map looks like the following and based on that, I would predict 100% chance of rain tomorrow (Saturday April 6):

