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Kill the watts



Emerald photo

Eugene Water and Electric Board officials feared increased power usage and heat loss from structures, shown in this infrared photograph taken from PLC, might stretch

power-generating capabilities beyond capacity. The agency advises power curtailment this morning to beat the threat of outages in the metropolitan area.

Outages feared if use goes unchecked

The Eugene Water and Electric Board is afraid it — and the area's residents — might be in the dark this morning.

With records for energy used set Friday and more cold weather expected through today, the power agency is warning that blackouts might be awaiting its customers today if power usage is not curtailed.

EWEB recommends that its customers turn off their water heaters or not use any hot water this morning from 7 a.m. to 10

p.m. Additionally, the power supplier asks that its customers decrease their use of power in general, including turning down thermostats where possible.

The power supplier looks to face considerable strain this morning as the first full week of classes at the University opens. Additionally, normal work week activity will start again, all putting pressure on EWEB.

Friday, the work week closed in the

area with EWEB supplying record amounts of power to its customers.

EWEB provided 10 million kilowatt hours of electricity for the fourth time in five days Friday, an EWEB official reported. The previous record had been 9.5 million kilowatt hours.

Additionally, the utility was pushed to provide a peak demand of 498,000 kilowatts, another record.

Lows this morning in the 20s combined

with overnight rains to make travel treacherous. Last week, the plunging thermometer and ice-slicked streets took down the service of the Lane Transit District, as well as closing Lane Community College and shutting down some stores and businesses.

The forecast today was for freezing rains to continue through mid-morning with a high in the 30s. Chance of rain was 30 percent today and 50 percent tonight.

Circumstances draw the blame for registration drop

By ERIC BENJAMINSON
Of the Emerald

The number of University students completing registration has declined over last year's figures, the Office of the Registrar says.

Winter term registrants totaled 12,450, compared to 12,829 registrants a year ago.

But University Registrar Wanda Johnson says she is apprehensive about making any conclusions from the 3 percent decrease,

because many variables act upon the number of students registering.

"The fact that Friday was the first class day could very well have something to do with the drop," she says. "Considering the weather, I'm sure many students decided to wait until the first full week," she says.

Late fees for course changes do not begin until Jan. 10 and Johnson says that contributes to the lowered figures, as many students can register during the first week of classes.

There was a drop in registrants from fall term but, according to Johnson, that is a normal occurrence. "Every year, a number of students drop out after their first term, and some, of course, graduate each term."

Johnson says the registration process is nearly the same as it has been for the last few years. "I think we have refined it as far as is possible short of preregistration," she adds.

Johnson says her entire office is "very supportive" of advance registration.

"We are really gearing up to do something now," she says. "We must have preregistration, and we're ready for it. We are still lacking the computer power, however."

In order to cope with this difficulty, the University has hired a new staff member with "considerable experience" in computer-aided registration techniques, she says.

"It is difficult to speculate on when preregistration can be implemented," Johnson says.

today

"Carter is a liar... the shah is a murderer," chanted anti-shah demonstrators in their Friday march, as they hoisted a symbolic coffin to honor the dead and dying in Iran. Story on Page 3.

Long-term, caring friendship is essential for exceptional children, and that's just what the YWCA Exceptional Friendship Program offers disabled children, according to the program director Kristy Bennett. Story on Page 7.

Oklahoma's Sooners dismantled Oregon on Mac Court's wrestling mats Sunday night, but Duck coach Ron Finley could take heart in the showing of freshman Bill Nugent. See Sports, Pages 8 and 9.