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Punk programming



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Photo by Elisabeth Podesta

There has been a rumour running amok, that maybe, eventually, the sun will shine across the Oregon skies. If the mercury does climb, we recommend a nice dip in the closest pool of water; so does fine arts major, Robin Dustan.

Cool spots to beat the heat

By Randy Malat
Of the Emerald

In ancient Peru every June the Incas faithfully held a festival to celebrate Inti, their sun god.

Unlike the Incas, today's Oregonians greet their sun god with much skepticism when it appears in the spring. They doubt its staying power.

But come summer, their skepticism burned away by a sun that rises before 5:30 a.m. and sets at about 9 p.m., Oregonians at last welcome the sun wholeheartedly. Like the Incas, they rejoice.

For awhile. Gasps of delight soon give way to grumbles about heat spells, the humidity and sweat.

"It's an inalienable right of an Oregonian to bitch about the weather," says Stanley Anderson, a University graduate. The local temples of academe — like Deady, Lawrence and PLC — get stuffy.

Students start looking for ways to cool off. Faculty members and administrators, like physical plant director Harold Babcock, have to sweat it out in un-air conditioned offices. Stoically accepting the heat as a fact of life, Babcock suggests that overheated students "wear less clothes."

University Pres. Paul Olum, who occasionally steps out of his office for a walk to cool off, says to those in search of cooler surroundings: "Go to Texas and walk around there for a couple of weeks. You'll be a lot cooler when you return here."

The comfort of perspective is nice in theory. But when you're hot, comparisons won't cool you off like the real thing: the shade of a tree, a cool breeze, a swim. Here's a list of cool places that'll help you soothe body and soul when the heat's beating you

down.

UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Open to the public 12-5, Tuesday thru Sunday. A cool breeze usually blows through open doors. The cloisters in the courtyard provide a chilly monastic retreat from the sultry rigors of the contemporary world. The Oriental Art rooms upstairs are warmer.

LAWRENCE BREEZEWAY

Coolseekers can relax under the horse chestnut and maple trees here, while art and architecture students draw inspiration from the play of light and shadow around the pool in this wind-cooled courtyard.

QUAD EAST OF DEADY & VILLARD HALLS

In 1876, according to "Trees of the Oregon Campus," Deady Hall "stood on a barren knoll in a treeless pasture." But now Deady ages amid a veritable arboretum that's a mecca for shade-seekers. The statue of the pioneer father has guarded this quad since 1919.

LAIGHTON POOL

The best place on campus to cool off quickly and thoroughly, but not always available. Recreational swimming hours are 7-8:30, 12-1:30, and 5-6:30 Monday thru Friday, and 2-4 Saturday and Sunday.

The most-mentioned coolspots in an informal poll of students were: the EMU Fishbowl, the library, "under a tree," Room 180 PLC, and the Beer Garden (Wednesdays, 3:30-6:30 in the EMU's main dining room and patio). One expert at finding quick relief suggested: "They need an outdoor pool by the EMU, but since they don't have one I go puddle-jumping and run through sprinklers."

Third college president resigns

Rodney Briggs has become the third president of an Oregon college to resign because of the financial plight of higher education in Oregon.

Briggs, the 59-year-old president of Eastern Oregon State College, announced his resignation at a faculty meeting Monday in La Grande. The resignation takes effect in September.

Western Oregon State College Pres. Gerald Leinwand announced in March that he was resigning in September, and Oregon Institute of Technology Pres. Kenneth Light announced he would resign effective August 18.

Leinwand, the first of the three to resign, became upset by both the budget situation and reports that WOSC had been earmarked for closure.

Light also cited the funding drought for higher education in Oregon.

Briggs credited many of the same reasons Leinwand and Light did in his resignation letter to Robert Ingalls, State Board of Higher Education chair.

"Oregon's inability to recognize that the entire spectrum of education must be maintained in balance has led to discrepancies in support between higher education and the elementary-secondary-community colleges, at what might be considered at the expense of baccalaureate and graduate institutions of the state," Briggs said.

Briggs has been president of EOOSC, the smallest of the state system's eight schools, since 1973.

Economy, indecision reasons for big drop in admissions for fall

By Debbie Howlett
Of the Emerald

Admission applications to state colleges and universities have declined an average of 17 percent, according to a report from the State System of Higher Education.

Representatives from the eight state schools say that while some reports are exaggerated, new admissions for fall term are down — markedly at some institutions.

According to the report, the University is feeling the bite of a 22.6 percent drop in new admissions, second only to Southern Oregon State College's 23.5 percent decline.

If the decline continues it will mean about 1,200 fewer students will be enrolled at the University this fall, a loss of nearly \$450,000 in tuition alone.

But Susan Weeks, the author of the report, says "the report can be a little misleading. . . . You have to understand it."

Admissions officials at some schools claim their more recent statistics show smaller enrollment declines. Others, including Jim Buch, University admissions director, use different methods of measuring admissions.

"We usually look worse off than the other schools," Buch says. "We have a different way of doing (the admissions figures). The appropriate time to compare is in the fall."

Bob Davidson, SOSC registrar, says there's no mistaking the drop in admissions at the Ashland campus, but that the decline is less than 23.5 percent. Somewhere near 18 percent is more accurate, Davidson says.

The accepted reasoning among institution officials seems to be that students are delaying decisions about attending school. Admissions officials also point at the economy and delayed notification of financial aid as prime reasons for the decline.

"Students do not know quite what to do. I think it will turn around. Within the next month, we'll see the upswing," Davidson says.

Buch agrees. "People are waiting longer, that's why this year is so hard to predict," he says.

The decline at the other six institutions range from a low of 8.2 percent at Oregon State University to the third highest drop — 17 percent — at Portland State University.

"It's hard to tell if it will improve," says Don Gardner, director of institutional research at PSU. "We've only seen half of the number of people applying that ultimately did last year." Gardner adds that it isn't unusual for PSU to get a late surge of applications.

If everyone else seems unsure about enrollments, Wallace Gibbs doesn't.

"As of this week, there is a 6 percent decline," says Gibbs, director of admissions at OSU. "But I'd be surprised if we met last year's new admissions," he says. "The last couple of years we've been in an extraordinarily healthy enrollment situation."

Gibbs said he isn't certain why the decline at OSU is so low.

Paul Schmidt, registrar at Oregon Institute of Technology, says that the Klamath Falls school is experiencing no decline and has even imposed enrollment limits. Week's report says OIT is down 16 percent.

Schmidt says the lack of decline is due to the vocational-technical nature of OIT's curriculum, and adds that it looks as if they will meet their enrollment limit "pretty rapidly."

Eastern Oregon State College is down 14.7 percent, according to the state system report.

At Western Oregon State College, the admissions picture is similar to the other institutions.

"We're in the same situation as everyone else," says admissions director Barbara Ginneschi. Ginneschi says that the state systems figure of a 15.7 percent decline is "a pretty good reflection of our count."

"I think we're seeing the beginning of a trend," Ginneschi says. "It isn't that easy, these aren't normal times."