

# Fretting over Friday finals?

By Diana Elliott  
Of the Emerald

It's certainly not a new story. The last plane going to Palm Springs leaves Wednesday morning, and you have a biology final Friday afternoon. You know telling the truth and hoping for sympathy will prove futile, so you lie and say your sister is getting married and moving to Peoria, Ill. You'll never see her again, you say. But it doesn't work. You end up taking the Friday final and spend the week in Springfield.

Although it is not an original scenario, it has become more common this past year — a result of a different scheduling policy for final exams.

Before the change in policy, which occurred about 1 1/2 years ago, final exams were scheduled on the basis of popularity of class times, registrar Herb Chereck says. Classes held during priority times (between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.) had finals scheduled at the beginning of the week.

And because large classes are usually held during prime times, professors with the most students had their exams earlier in the week, giving them more time to grade exams, scheduling coordinator Kathy Heinrich says.

But that system was unfair to many people, so a new, more equitable pro-

cedure was developed, Chereck says.

One problem was that faculty members began requesting classes during the 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. time-frame, Chereck says. "It got to be such a problem that professors even requested to be put on a waiting list," he says.

So the new procedure encourages professors to schedule classes during less desirable times, Chereck says.

The University is always looking for ways to encourage students and faculty to schedule classes during off times, Chereck says.

"It's traditional to go to school between 9:30 and 1:30," he says. "But when the rooms are filled, we have no other option than to offer classes earlier and later than the regular times. It allows us to increase course options for students."

Another problem with the old system is that it caused many students to have all their finals at the beginning of the week, Chereck says.

"Most students don't want their exams bunched into a three-day schedule," he says. "They were concerned about having their tests adequately spaced."

With the new finals schedule, all class times rotate equally so no particular class time will consistently get the best exam time.

"Everyone will eventually get a Monday morning exam," Heinrich says.

Although students who prefer early finals may just want a jump on spring break, many faculty members seem to be concerned for a different reason.

Having a late final on Friday afternoon allows little time to adequately review essay exams and have grades turned in by noon Monday, says history Professor Daniel Pope.

But Chereck thinks the best solution would be to allow professors an extra day to turn in grades.

"If we can arrange it so they can turn in their grades on Tuesday, that might alleviate the problem," he says.

Some professors have devised their own solutions to the problem, however. English Professor Clark Griffith is giving his students the option of taking an in-class final Friday or taking a take-home test and turning it in Wednesday.

"I think it's a legitimate option," Griffith said. "If it is, in fact, only an option, and students have the choice to take the in-class final."

Griffith isn't too worried about having a Friday final, however. "Somebody has to be last," he said. "And I won't complain if it has to be me."

## Smithsonian exhibit showing free tonight

Willamette Science and Technology Center will be giving a free showing of the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, "Yesterday's Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future" tonight from 7 to 10.

In addition, at 7:30, 8:20 and 9:10 p.m., Peter Caddy, the founder of Findhorn Community in Scotland, will speak on "Foundations of the Past and Visions of the Future."

The Common Foundation, a Eugene-based charitable organization, is sponsoring the evening's events.

Caddy is "a major teacher in the new-wave human-potential type movement," says Patricia Frishkoff, Common Foundation member.

Frishkoff says about 120 people at a time, the number of people that the WISTEC planetarium can hold, will be allowed during each Caddy lecture and each viewing of the show.

The Smithsonian exhibit will be displayed in Eugene through April 14. Regular admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children during normal viewing hours, from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays and from noon to 9 p.m. on Fridays.

Eugene is the only location in the Northwest where the exhibit will be shown.

## et al.

### MEETINGS

**SUAB MEETING** tonight at 7 in Century Room F, EMU.

**GALA BUSINESS MEETING** today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 109 EMU.

**LESBIAN DISCUSSION GROUP** meets tonight from 8-10. Call Gala for location at 686-3360.

**ALCOHOL AWARENESS GROUP** meets today at 2:30 p.m. in Room 42 Gilbert. All students interested in starting a group please come.

**MADCAAPS MEETING** today at 6:30 p.m. in Century Room B, EMU.

**CIRCLE K SERVICE CLUB** is having weekly meeting tonight at 6:30. Meeting

are held at 1653 Agate St. Will hold election of new officers followed by ice cream. All interested welcome.

### LECTURES

**LUNCHBAGGER SEMINAR:** Professor Jane Gray of the biology department will speak on "The earliest life on land" today

at 12:30 p.m. in Room 307 Volcanology.

**GREG RETALLACK** will speak on changing prehistoric environments of the John Day region, north-central Oregon.

**SOFIA PAINIQUEO** will discuss "The Struggle for Survival of the mapuche Indian in Chile" tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Forum Room.

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