

Oregon Daily Emerald

It's 10 in a row
See Page 8

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Warming up

Ty Young, a contestant in the 11th annual Ruth Lorraine Close Scholarship competition and a sophomore in the music school, warms up on the cello Saturday before his turn to perform. The competition gives awards ranging from \$1,000 to full tuition. Winners will be determined today.

Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

Student questions validity of appointment procedure

By Carolyn Lamberson

Of the Emerald

A University student is questioning the mechanics of the ASUO's committee appointment process.

The reaction of Gary Bray, an accounting and finance major, comes as a result of last week's Student Senate confirmation of several appointments to fill vacant spots on ASUO committees.

Bray, 32, applied for a position on the ASUO Student Health Insurance Committee a month ago and was surprised to hear he wasn't appointed, he said.

Bray, who has worked as an agent for Mutual of Omaha Insurance Co. for the last five years, said he was upset that he was rejected without consideration.

"I really expected to be interviewed. I figured I could help the student body," he said, adding in light of all the problems the ASUO has had with its insurance program, he thought they might want somebody from the industry on the committee.

When the ASUO notified Bray that he did not receive the appointment, he said he requested an explanation but didn't

get one. He has since gone to the ASUO office twice and is still waiting for an answer, he said.

ASUO President Steve Nelson admitted there is some confusion in the ASUO appointment process, simply because there is no established process.

"With appointment selection, it's like any other political appointment," he said. "We don't have to advertise, we don't have to do anything. I could appoint my best friend to anything I wanted to. We don't do that. Usually we do a lot more. Usually we advertise for three days and keep the job open for a long time."

Nelson's policy is not to interview candidates for committee vacancies, he said, adding that if he were to interview one candidate, he would interview all of them.

However, for appointed positions, he usually doesn't interview anyone, he said.

ASUO Vice President Caitlin Cameron concurred.

Turn to Appointments, Page 4

Bill would require testing for moped, scooter riders

By Paul Coughlin

Of the Emerald

Moped and scooter riders in Oregon will be required to pass the same riding tests as motorcycle riders if a bill introduced in the state Legislature is adopted.

The bill is being sponsored by Rep. Tom Hanlon, D-Cannon Beach. If passed, moped and scooter riders will have to satisfy a riding skills test and pay an extra fee to receive a driver's license endorsement. Motorcycle riders in Oregon already are required to pass the skills test and obtain the license endorsement.

A \$100 fine will be issued to riders who fail to comply with the new law.

John Bue, who owns a scooter rental business in Seaside, says the bill would



put moped rental agencies out of business because people without motorcycle endorsements would no longer be able to rent scooters.

Turn to Mopeds, Page 5

Controversial eye surgery divides specialists

By Douglas Mott

Of the Emerald

A procedure to correct nearsightedness doesn't have specialists seeing eye to eye.

"We think... in 20 years (it) will help more people than any surgery ever developed," says Charles O'Dell, an ophthalmic technician and marketer of the Northwest Eye Center.

"I think the procedure has to be viewed with a certain amount of caution, and it is not to be done lightly," says Dr. Robert Davis, a Eugene ophthalmologist.

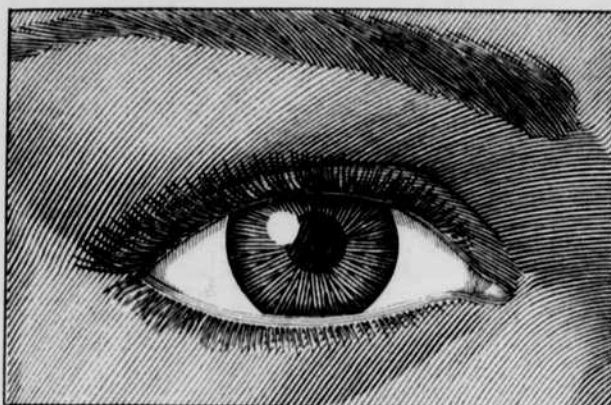
The procedure O'Dell and Davis can't seem to agree on is a relatively new and controversial surgery called radial keratotomy (RK).

The procedure was first performed 13 years ago in the Soviet Union by Dr. Syvatoslav Fyodorov. It has been performed in the United States for the past six years with some modifications.

A person is nearsighted (myopic) because light rays fall short of the eye's retina. Radial keratotomy involves making incisions, usually eight, on the cornea to cause light rays to focus on the retina.

The actual surgery takes between three and 30 minutes and usually is done on an outpatient basis.

The national average cost of the surgery is about \$1,500 per eye. In Eugene, ophthalmologist Howard Fine charges \$975 per eye, while the Northwest Eye



Center charges \$1,200. A Phoenix ophthalmologist advertises a low rate of \$500 per eye.

Local and national eye experts agree that RK does work, but that is where agreement stops.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology has declined to take a definitive stand on the procedure until further studies are completed.

The academy's last statement, made in August 1985, said that while the initial result of the surgery is promising, "this benefit must be weighed against

possibilities of immediate or future impairment of sight or other complications."

Other points of disagreement include: Who should get the operation? What are the possible dangers of the operation? How major or minor is the surgery?

The question of who should be considered for the operation is one that divides many ophthalmologists.

Lawrence O'Dell, who has performed more than 5,000 RKs and who is the director of the Northwest Eye Center, sees the procedure as a natural alternative for those who are active, self-conscious or who have occupations that demand it.

Fine agrees the procedure is a viable alternative to glasses or contact lenses. A critic of RK six years ago, Fine now believes there is enough data to warrant performing the procedure.

"Six years ago we did not know who was a good candidate, we did not know how to do it, how long for the incisions to be, how deep they should be, how many," Fine said, adding that these questions have since been answered.

Both Fine and O'Dell agree a good candidate is someone who is not extremely nearsighted, not prone to infections and not suffering from a degenerative eye disease.

Turn to Eyes, Page 7