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Inside

- Relieving boredom, Page 4
- HIV testing questions, Page 6
- House dumps Bush veto, Page 7
- Teams play LA clubs, Pages 9-10



Photo by Martin Thiel

Because it says it can't predict when busy times will occur, the University post office relies on a staff of three to handle the traffic.

Long postal lines frustrate students

By Pam Miller
Emerald Contributor

"Could you open up another window?" he asked the clerk. "There's about 40 people in line."

While most University post office customers don't actually ask, this is their most frequent question. Is the post office understaffed, has it failed to analyze needs for busy periods, or are students' expectations unrealistic?

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, lines snaked through the crowded lobby. At 9:25 a.m. the clerk told customers his line was closing, and the 16 people waiting in two lines stood in disbelief.

Most of the day, between six and 23 people waited in line before just one window. While it was an unusually busy day, it was typical of the campus branch to have only one window open during peak periods.

Many customers think the University post office

should have more windows open.

"The people are friendly," said Joe Edwinsen, senior, "but there's not enough of them as evidenced by the line."

"I'll try another post office today," said graduate teaching fellow Kathleen Tryhorn as she dropped out of line last week. She said the post office hasn't figured out when the high times are.

Recognizing low use early in the morning, the three clerks have staggered starting times, said Boyd Wilson, director of city operations for the U.S. Postal Service. Therefore, clerks take their breaks and lunch at different times.

Replacements from the downtown post office may be sent over when a clerk is sick, he said, but otherwise there are no back-ups like other offices have.

Wilson said one clerk works only in the mornings, on tasks such as putting mail in boxes, but is not

Turn to Lines, Page 8

Governor's plan to fund salaries may draw fire

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's plan to ask the 1991 state Legislature for an additional \$60 million to fund faculty salaries is likely to spark a furious battle over breaking the spending limit.

Goldschmidt made his intention to request the money public during the third of four state-of-the-state addresses held earlier this month in Eugene. The \$60 million will be "above and beyond" what the Legislature allocates for the higher education budget.

About \$50 million will go toward boosting salary levels, which are among the lowest in the country. Three other programs, including a fighting fund to recruit and retain faculty and an endowment matching fund, will divide the rest.

Goldschmidt expects higher education officials to help sell the proposal by lobbying both legislators and the public over the next seven months.

"They feel they've got the commitment now to use the next six, seven months to go into the university communities, work through what the choices are, go out to the statewide community and talk about it... and then go out and sell it," Goldschmidt said after his speech.

"The key here is they needed the lead time to do it," he said.

That lead time, however, may prove useless if legislators again divide along traditional lines when it comes to breaking the spending limit.

Even though most legislators agree the state's higher education system has reached a crisis point, not everyone is in agreement on what to do about it.

State Democrats, who persistently want the spending limit broken, say the state should use its surplus revenue to raise salaries for the state's eight colleges and universities.

Republicans, on the other hand, argue that the state must assess its other needs, which include health care for the elderly and building new prison space.

Last session the Legislature had \$240 million in excess revenue to deal with, most of which will be returned in the form of tax relief.

For the 1991 session, legislators will battle over how to spend as much as \$500 million in excess revenue.

In all this talk about excess revenue, the education issue might be replaced by the spending limit issue and

Turn to Spending, Page 8

Panel claims HIV support services are available

By Dan Eisler
Emerald Reporter

For a community of its size, the Eugene area has a good network of support services for people undergoing or who have undergone HIV testing, panel discussion members agreed Wednesday night.

The discussion on "HIV Testing and Treatment" was held as part of AIDS Information Month and held in the EMU Fir Room.

The panelists included Dr. David Flemming, deputy state epidemiologist; Dr. Mark Heerema, medical intern; Dr. William Disher, from the University Student Health Center; Jim Shoemaker and Tadd Tobias from the Whitebird Clinic; William Warren, executive director of Shanti in Oregon; Emily Heilbrun, client services coordinator of Shanti; attorney Gretchen Miller; Richard Rodri-

gues, a member of the Community AIDS Consortium; and Carmene Pew, from Lane County Public Health.

Anonymous and free HIV testing is provided by the Whitebird Clinic as well as by private physicians, Pew said.

The Student Health Center also does both confidential and "modified anonymous" testing for University students with student I.D. cards and who have paid their fees, Disher said.

"Modified anonymous" means confidential components of a student's health record, such as psychiatric history or substance abuse, remain separate from the main record, Disher said.

Records are not identified by name when sent along with the blood samples to the health lab in Portland, Disher said.

The Whitebird Clinic, at 484-4800, provides anonymous

and free testing on Tuesdays during sessions from 9-11 a.m. and 6-8 p.m., Shoemaker said.

At Whitebird the same person does pre- and post-test counseling for each individual, Shoemaker said.

The County Health Division at 687-4041, offers testing by appointment on Tuesdays.

A two-week waiting period is required between the testing period and when the results are sent back, and it is a state requirement that tested people come back in for results.

Last year 33,000 people in Oregon, or one for every 82 people, were tested for HIV, Flemming said. "It's an amazingly common procedure."

About 2/3 of HIV tests are conducted by private physicians, and 1/3 conducted by government health or other public institutions, Flemming said.

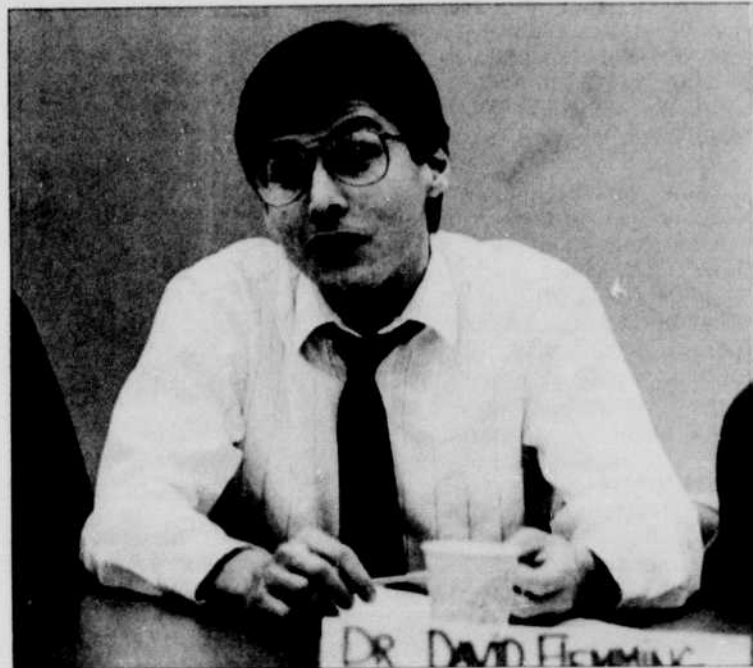


Photo by Mark Ylen

Panelist Dr. David Flemming explains HIV testing is a very common procedure in Oregon.