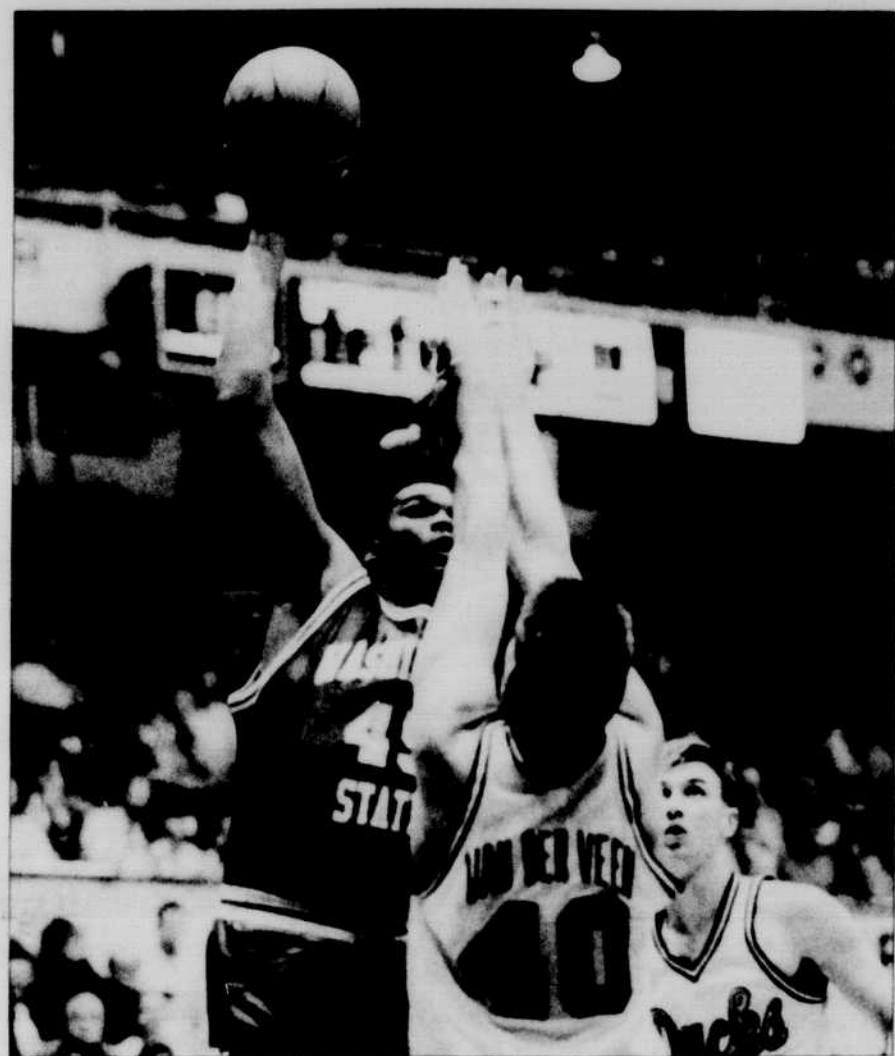


Sitting Ducks



Washington State's Tommie Oatis aims high over Oregon's Eric Van Der Veen in Thursday's game at Mac Court. The Cougars buried the Ducks 90-55. See story, page 8

OCA business supporters suffer losses from violence

Local businesses accuse anti-OCA groups of unlawfully obtaining hit list

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Associate Editor

A rash of violence directed at local businesses supporting the Oregon Citizens Alliance has led the political action committee's county leader, Larry Allwander, to blame anti-OCA groups for the vandalism.

"We're upset," Allwander said. "This is not going to help their cause. We are objecting to violence and the way they have used the open records laws."

Since November, 12 to 15 Eugene businesses supporting the OCA have been vandalized, said Tim Birr, public information officer of the Eugene police department.

Birr said police have not determined that the incidents are connected, but a detective is investigating the case.

Seven Springfield businesses that support the OCA have also been vandalized, Springfield police said.

The OCA currently supports a bill that would amend the constitution to forbid the state government from promoting or facilitating homosexuality, pedophilia and sadism. If the bill passes, the state would recognize those behaviors as "abnormal, wrong and perverse."

The political action committee (PAC) has also sparked controversy in recent years for its stances against abortion rights and affirmative action.

Allwander said he believes the incidents are related to the existence of a list of Eugene, Springfield and Cottage Grove

businesses and business owners that have made financial contributions to the OCA.

Researched by the Eugene-based political action group Oregonians United Together, the list has been distributed privately and was later published in the January issues of *The Lavender Network* and *The Student Insurgent*.

Scott Seibert, treasurer of OUT-PAC, and other anti-OCA groups say they do not condone violence against businesses that support the OCA.

"If I find anyone who is perpetrating these acts, I will turn them in," said Alan Brown, media spokesman for No on Hate. "The bottom line is a hate crime is a hate crime."

Allwander, who is corporate officer of Chuck's Truck Repair, W. 7th Place and Wilson Street in Eugene, has been vandalized three times and has sustained more than \$600 worth of damage. In the most recent incident on Jan. 6, Hiron's, 185 E. 18th, and Johnny Ocean Great American Hamburgers, 1950 Echo Hollow Road, joined Allwander's store by suffering damages.

Since mid-December, Allwander has had to replace a window, front door and sign at his business.

Allwander said he believes OUT-PAC may have violated the intent of the open records law when compiling the OCA business list and he intends to complain to the secretary of state and the FBI.

However, Seibert said he obtained the information for the list legally. The names of contributors to political action groups are public records and can be obtained from the secretary of state's office.

Turn to OCA, Page 4

Student obtains close-up study of heated Togo situation

University student spends fall term experiencing political upheaval in West Africa

By Josh Englander
Emerald Contributor

Heat blasted University student Christine O'Guinn as soon as she stepped off the plane in the small West African country of Togo.

"I got there in the middle of the night," O'Guinn said. "The heat and humidity were a shock."

Then a small mishap greeted O'Guinn. "I accidentally gave the guy helping me with my bags a \$25 tip," she said.

But O'Guinn forgot that incident as soon as she was swept into the sea of disorder drenching the country. The steaming temperatures were an indication of the revolution that boiled within the nation's borders.

While most students spent Thanksgiving in the comforting presence of their families, O'Guinn waited anxiously in

the volatile atmosphere of a country joining the massive movement toward democracy.

O'Guinn traveled to Togo through the University's study-abroad program. She planned on earning enough credits to graduate during her four-month stay in the capital of Lome, but the university there closed during the heated uprisings of mostly students and professors.

"It was frustrating not being able to go to school," O'Guinn said.

The demonstrations succeeded in severing Gnassingbe Eyadema's 24-year dictatorship in October, but troops loyal to the ousted president retaliated violently against the protesters in the following months.

By the time O'Guinn arrived in the explosive setting, troops had killed dozens of pro-democracy demonstrators in the streets. In late November, the rebel troops threatened to destroy the city if the president was not returned to power.

The troops backed the warning by imposing a dusk-to-dawn curfew, closing the airport and borders, and controlling

communications.

O'Guinn knew there were problems in the country before she arrived, but the conflict's intensity surprised her.

"I thought the worst was over," she said. "That's why I decided to go."

O'Guinn witnessed beatings and the torching of schools, but said she never felt endangered herself.

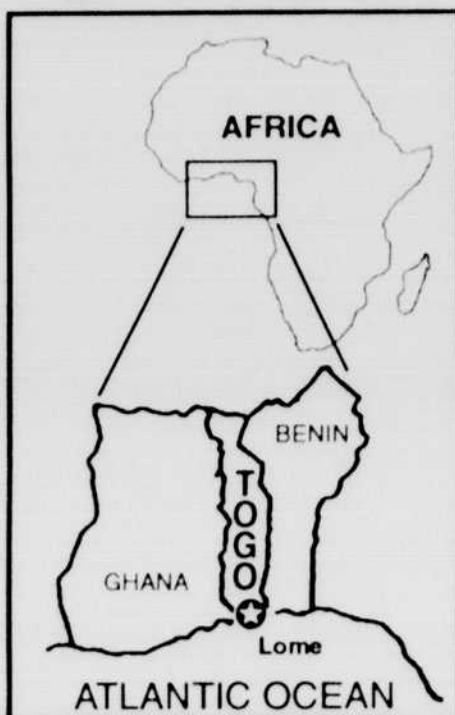
"I was not involved in the protests and violence," she said. "The Togolese and the French were the ones in danger."

There were some close calls, however. One night, O'Guinn left a group of friends minutes before they were harassed and robbed by troops, while one Togolese friend in the group was beaten.

The danger for O'Guinn was being mistaken for a French citizen. The renegade military loathed France because the country threatened to use force to protect the democratic process and the 3,000 French nationals in Togo.

O'Guinn said she remembers being

Turn to TOGO, Page 4



HIGHER ED AGENDA

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education is meeting today at Portland State, with an agenda that includes a report on the status of women, pay raises, and a school reform act.

See STATE BOARD, Page 3

COUNTRY ROCK

Forget the antiquated notion of country music being twangy lullabies of hillbillies. The five-piece band, Sawyer Brown, is on the cutting edge of refined country music.

See ENTERTAINMENT, Page 5



WIN, WIN, WIN

Oregon Women whizzed past the Wildcats in a 91-67 blowout.

See SPORTS, Page 9