

## Air quality moves lab from Klamath to Onyx

□ Noxious fumes from organic chemistry prompts need for better ventilated rooms

By Demian McLean  
Emerald Reporter

A combination of noxious chemical vapors and poor ven-

tilation is forcing the University to relocate its organic chemistry lab, University officials said Tuesday.

The new lab will be located on the first floor of Onyx Bridge, which will allow for smaller class size and better ventilation. The move is scheduled to begin Oct. 19.

Since 1968, the organic chemistry lab in the basement

of Klamath has been notorious with students for its cramped, dungeon-like atmosphere and poor ventilation.

But in the last four or five years, significantly more students have complained about odors from experiments than in the past, said Professor David Herrick.

"On days when we were really cranking out the fumes,

some students would leave the lab and sit in the hallways," Herrick said.

Student and faculty concern prompted the University to commission air quality studies in 1991. Researchers set off a smoke bomb in the basement labs, then measured the time it took the air to clear.

Herrick said ideally the ventilation system should have

cleared the air within 10 minutes. Instead, the smoke lingered for about an hour, drifting into halls and open labs.

Herrick said the source of the trouble is Klamath's ventilation system, which is located on the roof. It lacks the power to pull air from the lab, four floors below.

Turn to LAB, Page 11

## Coming Out Day challenges gays

□ Parents have mixed, but generally supportive reactions to their sons' and daughters' homosexuality

By Tammy Batey  
Emerald Associate Editor

University gay, lesbian and bisexual students say coming out of the closet is both tough and wonderful.

University student Julia W., who asked that her last name not be printed, said accepting your sexuality can be a confusing time.

"There are only about 400 emotions that one goes through," Julia said.

Julia said she was a bisexual for seven years and began dating exclusively women about a year ago.

Julia's mom guessed her daughter was a lesbian because all her friends were lesbians. But she said it didn't make their first conversation about Julia's sexual preference any easier.

"She said all the right things and she said all the wrong things," Julia said. "She said she'll always love me and she wants me to be happy, but she also said to be discreet."

"If it means not having sex in the street, I'm discreet. But straight people do all kinds of things that are overt, like having pictures of their partners and getting married."

University student Troy Shields, 21, said he agrees with Julia that parents are some of the toughest people to confront. Shields said he knows his parents are ashamed of him and want him to be ashamed of being gay.

"They don't like to accept the fact I'm gay," Shields said. "They like to think their kid is going to get married, have 2.5 children and a dog called Spot. It's hard for them to let go of that."

University student Sean Sloane, 28, said his mom was very supportive when she learned he was gay. In fact, she is joining Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. But Sloane said he can understand being scared to come out.

"It takes a lot of processing to get to that point, where you're comfortable enough with your sexuality that you're willing to let other people know," he said.

The students said people can choose to come out privately, such as to family and friends, or publicly, by wearing pink triangle buttons — or both.

Mark Evans, a staff psychologist at the University Counseling Center, said the students he counsels who

Turn to OUT, Page 4

## Ramblin' rose



Photo by Jeff Paisley

An unknown person brought out the Pioneer's softer side Wednesday by placing a rose in his hand. The Pioneer, donated by Joseph Teal in 1919, honors those who journeyed across the prairies, said University Archivist Keith Richard.

## Homosexuals share their experiences

□ The process of coming out demands preparation and good judgment

By Mandy Baucum  
Emerald Reporter

Andrew Shaffer, 24, is a post-baccalaureate in Russian and was 19 when he told his parents he was gay. He said he "feel(s) real anger about that whole (coming out) experience."

Eighteen-year-old Molly Thompson is an undergraduate studying romance languages. She was 16 when she told her parents she was bisexual. Thompson said being a bisexual is "more socially acceptable" than being either gay or lesbian.

Sarah Ross, 28, is co-director of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance at the University. In high school, her mother asked her if she was gay, and "yes" was her reply. Ross said coming out is "not like losing your virginity, it's a long process."

All three admit that there are many difficulties involved with coming out and that there are many questions one should ask before deciding to do it.

...

Shaffer said he grew up in a family that shied away from sexual issues.

"My parents didn't talk about sex. No one was naked. There was no affection, no touching."

Shaffer said he tried to pass himself off as a bisexual before he faced his true feelings.

"Once in high school I thought I could have it both ways. When I was in college I decided to tell my parents."

Shaffer was initially surprised by his parents' strong reactions.

"I never thought saying I was gay would be bad because I had never heard

Turn to PROFILES, Page 6



## WEATHER

It will be mostly cloudy today with possible sprinkles in the morning. There should be a partial clearing in the afternoon and highs in the upper 60s. Tonight will be partly cloudy and chilly, with lows in the lower 40s.

Friday will bring sunshine after morning fog. Highs near 70.

Wednesday morning reached a low of 36 degrees. Stay warm.

## POPE IN PIECES

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations has put a \$10 bounty on Sinead O'Connor albums.

The coalition, upset that the Irish singer ripped up a picture of Pope John Paul during an appearance on *Saturday Night Live*, will donate \$10 to charity on behalf of anyone who sends in one of her records, cassettes or compact disks.

The group already has begun asking radio and television stations not to play O'Connor's music, said its chairman, Bill Fugazy.

"We think she went too far," Fugazy said. "She may not approve of the church, but she shouldn't desecrate the picture of a world religious leader."

## SPORTS

SEATTLE, Wash. (AP) — For the No. 1 quarterback of the No. 1 college team in the nation, winning is the most important thing in the world. But the margin of victory by his Washington Huskies is a close second.

In the two seasons, Billy Joe Hobert is 16-0 as a Huskies' starter, including 4-0 this year. Still, he's unsatisfied.

"We're getting sick and tired of winning by small margins," the 6-foot-3, 225-pound junior said. "Everybody expects us to win big. We expect us to win bigger."

This Saturday, the Huskies are two-touchdown favorites against No. 24 California in an important Pacific-10 Conference game. The Huskies will play Oregon on Oct. 17.