



Senior Kurt Heimbach presents a prospectus for his Honors College thesis topic on the European Community. Photo by Kim Nguyen

## The pressure is on in Honors College

□ Students say Honors College offers education — and stress — of elite schools

By Chester Allen  
Emerald Reporter

Miriam Grossman admits she was going a little crazy. Grossman seriously considered hiding in Knight Library just before closing so she could spend the entire night researching a new topic for her Honors College senior thesis.

Her topic choice was due the next day. Grossman is one of about 50 Honors College seniors who are preparing their senior thesis, which is required of all Honors College graduates.

An Honors College senior thesis often requires the same amount of research and writing skills as a master's degree thesis, said Honors College Professor David Frank.

"The thesis is an opportunity for the student to explore a topic they haven't had the opportunity to pursue in other courses," Frank said. "I have seen eight or nine theses on par with a doctoral dissertation."

Most thesis projects require at least 50 primary and secondary sources of information and are about 40-50 pages long, Frank said.

Students must also defend their written thesis before a three-member thesis committee, and the committee then decides whether the thesis passes, Frank said.

"It's a terrifying thought to walk into your senior year and realize that you have to do your thesis," Grossman said, "especially because it's bound and put in the library for other people to use for their research."

Other Honors College students described the thesis process as "stressful," "lots of work," "challenging" and "frightening."

Why do Honors College students go through this hell? Many students said writing their senior thesis was a small price to pay for attending the Honors College.

Honors College student Morgan Cooper said the college offers University students an education comparable to elite universities or Ivy League schools at a fraction of the cost.

"You get a higher quality education at the Honors College,"

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## Skating on thin ice



Petras Hstrauskces teaches his daughter Giedre how to skate at Lane County Ice. Photo by Kim Nguyen

## Diver explores fathoms below

□ Scuba trip finds adventure in diving haven of Hoodspport, Wash.

By Jason F. Jensen  
Emerald Contributor



Reporters Notebook

HOODSPORT, Wash. — It wasn't as if Marty was trying to kill me, but thrusting a dogfish shark in my face was not exactly kind.

Luckily, the shark seemed more interested in escaping the grip Marty had on its tail than biting into my mask and ripping at my nose.

Besides, it was two feet long and harmless, though his resemblance to Jaws was striking.

The scuba diving excursion was exactly what I needed after midterms were finished and finals loomed ahead. We journeyed to Hoodspport, located on the shores of Hood Canal, which has a prime combination of waves and rocky shores ideal for diving.

The small town, bordering on the label of "red-neck," was no stranger to the influx of scuba divers who periodically invaded the town.

The days were long and cold, despite the shining November sun. Heat, needless to say, was not abundant underwater, even with a wetsuit on.

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## WEATHER

There will be cloudy skies today with rain and wind. Highs will be around 50.

### Today in History

In 1954, Elizabeth Hodges of Sylacauga, Ala., was injured when an 8.5-pound meteorite crashed through the roof of her house.

## ROAD KILL RIGHTS

CANYON CITY (AP) — Road kill meat may legally end up in the butcher's freezer if a judge's ruling stands up.

Multnomah County Circuit Judge Stephen Walker, visiting from Portland, dismissed a Grant County game charge against a man who saved the meat from a deer killed after it was hit by a pickup truck.

Walker's decision in favor of Dave Traylor prompted applause from a standing room-only audience that gathered just before Thanksgiving to watch the case at Grant County Courthouse.

"I can't find this man guilty," Walker told District Attorney Foster Glass, citing the many dead deer he had seen along the highway en route to court.

## SPORTS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — It's a familiar situation for Bobby Bowden. The Florida State coach is on the outside looking in as rival Miami goes for another national championship.

"It's the same 'ol story," Bowden said Sunday. "Miami." The Seminoles, who routed Florida 45-24 to finish the regular season with 10 wins and a loss to the Hurricanes, still have a shot at avenging that defeat. Bowden has started a campaign to bring about a rematch in the Fiesta Bowl.

"If you want one vs. one, you better get FSU and Miami. Anything else will be one vs. two," Bowden said in assessing the bowl situation.