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## GTF union ratifies insurance contract

□ The contract will be the first in Oregon offering part-time employees health benefits

By Julie Swensen  
Oregon Daily Emerald

In a historic move, members of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation voted nearly unanimously last week to ratify a landmark union contract which will provide health insurance coverage for the first time.

Ninety-nine percent of the members voted for ratification of the two-year contract, said Diane Rau, a union representative for the federation. Graduate teaching fellows, or GTFs, share teaching responsibilities with faculty members as part of their graduate training programs.

Bargaining teams will work out the technical details of the contract within the next few weeks so it can be submitted to the Oregon State Board of Higher Education for official approval. The contract — which will

provide a 35 percent increase in employer contributions to health insurance coverage — will become the first such contract in the nation for graduate students. In addition, the federation will become the first public labor union in Oregon to win health insurance benefits for part-time employees.

The contract is a result of the federation's 14-year struggle to get the University to provide health care for the more than 1,100 GTFs who teach here, most of whom are rep-

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## Discussion focuses on safe, fun sex image

□ LGBA sponsors sex issues lecture

By Lia Saliccia  
Oregon Daily Emerald

With new statistics showing that AIDS not only strikes at intravenous drug users, recipients of blood transfusions, gay men and heterosexuals, but lesbian women as well, the need for information about safe sex may be greater than ever.

At a Sunday lecture titled "Safe Sex, Fun Sex," Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance co-Director Rachel Dueker spoke frankly to a group of 13 women who identified themselves as either lesbian, bisexual or straight.

"You need to discuss (sex) with your partner. You need to feel comfortable. You need to discuss the risk that both of you want to take," Dueker said at Baba Yaga's Dream, a women's coffeehouse.

The presentation focused on giving safe sex a positive image and showing how it can be fun.

Dueker then passed around items she said women should be using to make heterosexual and homosexual sex safer and talked about fun ways to use them because "you don't have to be ashamed of enjoying sex, just protect yourself."

"This is a dental dam," said Dueker, holding up a blue sheet of latex about the thickness of a surgical glove. "They are flavored."

Used now mostly by lesbians to prevent transmission of infections from oral sex, they are an effective way for people of "any of the three sexual persuasions" to protect themselves during that activity, especially if someone has a cut or open sore in their mouth, or during menstruation, Dueker said.

The product is available at dental supply companies at a cost of about \$12 a box. Dentists use them to isolate one tooth, stretching the dam across a patient's mouth with the isolated tooth sticking out of a hole cut in the latex.

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## Students form group to support Kitzhaber

□ Committee will aid candidate in gubernatorial race

By David Brotherton  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Kitzhaber joined about 20 University students Monday to announce the formation of the University "Students for Kitzhaber" campaign committee.

The group will assist Kitzhaber in his effort to defeat Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts in the state democratic primary election May 19.

"I entered the race for governor out of personal concern over the direction Oregon is headed," Kitzhaber said at a news conference in the EMU. "The state is drifting. There is no common focus, no vision for the future."

The former president of the Oregon Senate announced his candidacy for governor Oct. 16. Kitzhaber, 46, holds a medical degree from Oregon Health Sciences University and currently lives in Eugene.

"There are those who choose to view Oregon's current economic situation as a threat, but I prefer to see it as a challenge," Kitzhaber said. "We now have the opportunity to move beyond the reactive posture regarding Measure 5 that has gripped us for the last three years."

Kitzhaber described his plans for redirecting the way in which the state's economic decisions are made and called for an end to par-



John Kitzhaber announced his candidacy at a press conference Oct. 16. On Monday Students for Kitzhaber presented him with 200 of the 1000 signatures needed to qualify for the ballot.

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## Student loans easier to obtain with new program

□ University will participate in new financial aid process that eliminates agencies

By Rivers Janssen  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Student loans will be cheaper and easier to obtain as a result of the new Federal Direct Student Loan program, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley announced Monday.

The University is one of three West Coast schools and 105 schools nationwide to participate in the inaugural program, which will eliminate private lenders and guarantor agencies from the financial aid process. More than 1,100 schools applied for admittance to the program, which will supplant

the current federal loan program at the school.

As of July 1, 1994, member schools will receive loan money directly from the U.S. Department of Education and then distribute the loans from their business offices, cutting down the loan process from two months to about two or three weeks while curtailing paperwork and processing costs. There will now be one lender — the department of education — as opposed to multiple private lenders.

"It's a terrific boost," said Norm Wessells, University provost. "We can simplify the loan process for students and reduce costs significantly."

Students traditionally have paid an eight percent processing fee to private lenders off the top of their loans. That fee will either be

eliminated or reduced to four percent.

University President Myles Brand has been lobbying the federal government for inclusion in the program for the past two years. Rep. Peter Defazio's staff said the University was selected because of its officially managed program and low loan default rate of less than five percent.

Brand said the ruling is a windfall for students.

"With the dramatic rise in tuition in the last three years, the ability to obtain student loans at reduced rates is very, very important to our students," Brand said. "Anything we can do to make it more affordable to obtain a college degree is of great benefit to students and our state."

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