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Mark Ferris and Ray Livingston spot Amy Johnson, a sixth grader at Edison Elementary in Eugene, as she flips onto the mat. The Oregon Kids Track Camp will conclude Thursday and Friday at Hayward field.

UNIVERSITY

Summer campers invade University seeking knowledge

Campers: Everything from journalism to swimming taught in summer sessions aimed at high schoolers.

By Don Reynolds
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Perhaps you've recently noticed gangs of kids, really young kids, roaming the University. No, minimum ages for enrollment haven't dropped. Nor is their presence a sign of the imminent collapse of civilization as we know it.

Students from around Oregon — and from other western states — are attending a series of summer youth camps at the University this summer. These kids, who range in age from eight to 18, will swim, run, debate, write and cheer away their summer vacations.

They make up over half of the 8,700 guests the University will host from June through September, said Dean Inouye, Director of Conference Services and Public Relations for the University, who coordinates residence hall accommodations for summer guests.

The first camp of the summer is already history. Oregon Boys' State ended its mock government proceedings Friday, June 18. But the American Legion, which sponsors the political events, will hold Oregon Girls' State June 25 through July 1.

Currently, students are attending a minority journalism camp, a summer swim camp, a softball camp, a track camp and a talented and gifted camp.

The school of journalism brought together minority high school students from around the state for a week-long journalism experience.

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Senate rectifies loan situation Money to come from fund

Loan: Reserve fund pays up to save face.

By Ed Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

A \$15,000 loan the Incidental Fee Committee gave to the ASUO Child Care Task Force May 10 was on its way to being repaid Tuesday when the new Student Senate recommended the money come out of the Incidental Fee Reserve Fund.

Senator Joey Lyons amended the motion to require task force Chairwoman Carmel Bender to go before the whole Senate in October and explain why that money was needed. Bender agreed to the amendment. The motion passed 5-0-0.

The task force originally received the IFC loan to offset a \$15,000 shortfall in the 1993-94 school year.

If Gerard Moseley, vice provost for academic support and student services, and Leslie Warren, ASUO president, sign off on the Senate's recommendation, the money will allow about 15 more families to receive up to a 50

percent subsidy for child care expenses.

The task force planned on repaying the loan out of the 1994-95 fiscal year budget, which would have reduced the number of families able to receive a subsidy from 210 to 185.

Bender presented the request on a suggestion from Warren. Warren wanted to find a way to repay the loan and not reduce the number of families served by the subsidy, said Cheryl Hunter, executive coordinator for the ASUO. Warren left Eugene Monday and could not be reached.

Requesting money from the reserve account, which is composed of interest on student fees and student fees taken from higher than estimated enrollment, was Warren's way of serving families and not making the Senate feel like they were rescuing yet another program, Hunter said.

Yet, that's exactly what one former IFC member and a current Senate member were

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Free lunches bridges summertime gap

Lunches: Children ages 4-18 are welcome, for lunch no questions asked.

By David Thorn
Oregon Daily Emerald

School may be over, but lunch goes on.

For low-income families with school-age children, the arrival of summer might also mean the arrival of tough times, if it weren't for a program designed to bridge the gap until fall.

About 2500 kids a day are served free, nutritious meals under the Summer Food Service Program, sponsored locally by the Housing Authority and Community Services Agency of Lane County, and administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"The intent of the program is to help those families whose kids get free and reduced priced lunches during the school year," said Mike White, special projects coordinator at the agency. "In the summer the kids are home, and we hope that this helps out the family food budget."

The program operates 30 distribution centers throughout the county, from Eugene-Springfield to Oakridge, Florence to Cottage Grove. Most sites began operating Monday, although Springfield locations won't open until Monday of next week.

At one site, Sladden Park in the Whiteaker neighborhood of central Eugene, almost 75 children, with ages ranging from pre-school to mid-teen, showed up for meals on Wednesday.

Lunches were distributed by Kathleen Friestad and Lori Cunningham, hired by the county specifically for the program. Friestad is beginning her third year participating in the program; Cunningham is starting her fourth.

"I really enjoy the interaction with the children," Cunningham said. "Plus it feels good."

A mother duck had taken up residence under one of the picnic tables at the park, and sat patient-

ly on a nest of eggs while children polished off red apples and emptied milk cartons just inches overhead. Jennifer, Elizabeth, Amanda and Kristina took turns tossing it crumbs of bread from their cold-cut-and-cheese sandwiches, but cautioned that it had been known to bite and didn't let their fingers get too close.

Although the duck was apparently a permanent fixture at the park, it hadn't yet been given a name. One of the kids, Jeff, 12, seemed to think that simply "Duck" was enough. Tony, 11, suggested a slight improvement. Perhaps in a conceit to this reporter, he said it should be called "The Oregon Duck."

Nearby, a pick-up basketball game was beginning between some of the middle-school-aged boys who had scarfed up their lunches as soon as they were handed out — which was promptly at 11:45 at the Sladden site. One of the players, Matt, made a 360-degree turnaround jumper, and the others immediately started in with good-natured trash-talking. "It's called talent," Matt laughed, "and you've got none of it." His adversary, Brian, took a look at Matt's chipped tooth and shot back, "I see somebody got a tooth out for talkin' trash."

Not far away, Brian's mother conspired with a friend to embarrass him. She called out to him repeatedly, but gave up laughing as Brian refused to divert his attention away from the game.

Meanwhile, a group of about 25 other children showed up from the nearby Whiteaker Preschool, and together filled many of the benches just vacated by basketball players.

The adult accompanying them, Angie Ransdell, said that if it weren't for the lunch program, students whose families could afford it would probably have to bring their own lunches to the school, and the school would have to pay for the rest.

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