

# Student wins World Bank award

by Regina Brown  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Prapimporn Somnasang, a University of Oregon graduate student, was recently awarded a \$6,000 fellowship from the World Bank for her research about the use of wild food sources in rural communities in Thailand.



Prapimporn Somnasang

The award is part of the 1994 Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund Fellowship, which goes to women from developing countries who are studying in the United States and who plan to return home.

She will use the money to finish school. Somnasang came to the University to study nutritional anthropology under the direction of anthropology associate professor Geraldine Moreno-Black. Somnasang said she became interested in nutritional anthropology while working on a research project in Thailand with Moreno-Black. She said the time she spent working with Moreno-Black in Thailand "is why I am interested in mixing anthropology with my nutrition field."

Somnasang is an associate professor of nutrition at the department of Community Medicine at Khon Kaen University in northeast Thailand, where she has been for 13 years. The main focus of her studies in Oregon is women and nutrition. "Women have an important

role in nutrition," she said. Women are important in insuring good health in their communities because they are primary food gatherers, according to Somnasang. She said that because rural people are often poor, Thai women must gather food from the surrounding forests to feed their families. Women must have detailed knowledge of local vegetation in order to maintain good health. In August, Somnasang will return to Thailand to live in a rural village for eight months to study food gathering and eating habits. She will then come back to Oregon to finish her dissertation. Somnasang said that she hopes to use her knowledge of nutrition to convince the Thai government to stop deforestation, which is destroying important food sources.

## POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene Department of Public Safety July 1-11.

- A 21-year-old male Lane Community College student was cited July 1 on the 1300 block of Alder Street for having an open container.
- A 26-year-old male transient was arrested on the 1200 block of West 7th Street on July 1 on a warrant as a fugitive from justice. The transient was wanted in Washington state for a felony theft charge.
- A female student reported a \$110 bicycle stolen from the 1400 block of Hilyard Street on July 1.
- A 19-year-old female was cited July 2 on the 900 block of Patterson Street for being a minor in possession of alcohol.
- A 19-year-old male Lane Community College student was cited July 2 on the 1200 block of Patterson Street for being a minor in possession of alcohol.
- A 20-year-old male transient was arrested for theft in the second degree and an outstanding Robbery II warrant on the 700 block of West 8th Avenue on July 2.
- A juvenile female was arrested for theft in the second degree on July 3. According to police reports, the suspect attempted to take a wheelchair valued at \$400 from Sacred Heart

General Hospital.

- A 39-year-old male transient was arrested on July 3 near the intersection of Franklin Boulevard and Moss Street for having an open container.
- A 51-year-old male was arrested on a contempt of court warrant on the 1700 block of Mill Street on July 3.
- A 44-year-old male transient was arrested on July 3 near the intersection of Franklin Boulevard and Villard Street for having an open container and an outstanding Theft II warrant.
- A male student reported a robbery on the 1400 block of Kincaid Street on July 4. According to police reports, the victim and two friends were followed by three suspects. The suspects approached and threatened the victims before stealing a backpack containing a laptop computer and books. The items were valued at \$618.
- A 19-year-old male student was arrested for disorderly conduct, being a minor in possession of alcohol and discharging a firearm within the city limits on the 1000 block of Hilyard Street on July 12. According to police reports, officers in the area heard what they believed to be gunshots. The officers discovered the man had fired several rounds from a 12-gauge shotgun at a cardboard box in front of a tree stump. Police seized the weapon.

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