

## Tree Time

**Pines:** Tree farmers prepare for the demands of the holiday season

**Suzanne Marta**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The trees are wet with dew, the cold air blows the aroma of fresh pine and your feet sink 1 to 3 inches into sticky mud. The fog on these tree-lined hills is thick and limits the view of the cow pastures in the distance of the Willamette Valley.

For Tony Stroda and the many other farmers in the area who produce the largest supply of Christmas trees in the nation, this scenario is how days begin between Nov. 1 and Dec. 25.

"Some days it can be really miserable," said Stroda, wearing a flannel shirt and pants covered in mud. "It'll be 35 degrees, cold and windy."

Stroda and his brothers Kirk and Kelley own the Stroda Brothers farm and raise Christmas trees in the fall when their regular peppermint and grass seed crops have ended.

The three brothers expanded their business to include Christmas trees 15 years ago when they took over the family's 60-year-old farm.

"We saw an opportunity to utilize some hilly ground and work during the off-season," Stroda said.

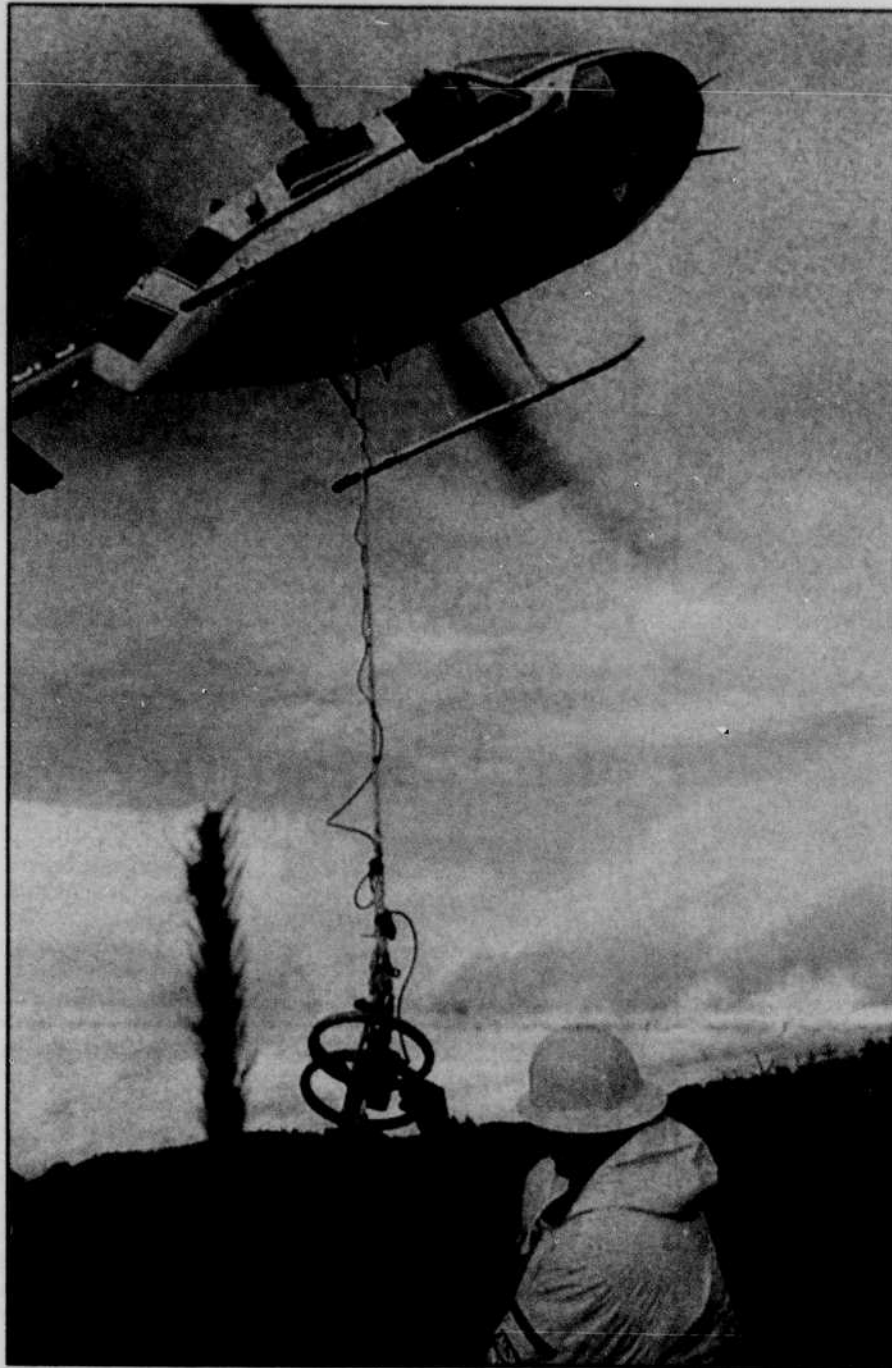
Stroda begins his day by dispatching his cutting and slinging crews armed with chain saws and rope to harvest the Christmas tree crop and then coordinates up to three helicopters at a time to pick up the bundles of trees. As many as seven trucks transport the trees to a shipping lot where specific orders are filled and sent out.

The crews work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., but the Stroda brothers work sometimes from 5 a.m. to as late as 8 p.m. to keep their business going.

"Sometimes our energy runs out," Stroda said. "It's really a challenge. Some years we lose money."

Many Christmas tree harvesters are using helicopters to transport the trees from the fields to the trucks. The helicopters pick up bundles of up to 1,000 pounds, between eight and 25

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GARY GRASS/Emerald



Steve Clark (above) hooks a bundle of Christmas trees to be flown down the hill and loaded onto a truck. Harold Larsen (left) cuts trees in Monroe, Or.

## Study projects urban sprawl, growth trend for local area

**Findings:** More traffic and higher housing costs also expected in next 20 years

**Jim Bottorff**

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene resident David Rochon fondly remembers a time when he could retreat to his favorite spot in the woods.

Just last month, he pulled on his boots and carefully loaded his rifle into his truck. The sun had yet to slide over the horizon in the east. Rochon sipped his coffee as he drove his truck deeper into the countryside 15 miles northeast of Springfield. Paved roads became logging roads as his four-wheel-drive Toyota eased up a forested hill to within a hundred yards of his destination.

Rochon, 28, had been to this place in the woods many times. He looked forward to parking his truck at the road's end where he would finish his coffee and climb out of his truck into the crisp, cold November morning. As dawn was breaking he would spot deer on an adjacent hill through his binoculars.

Yet today when he rounds the last curve in the rough road and his destination comes into view, something else is in the place of these trees.

"A subdivision," Rochon said. "Right there in the middle of nowhere."

This story, and others like it, have become increasingly common, according

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## Culture clash will be focus of anthology

**Misunderstandings:**

Incorrect translations result in memorable meetings between people from different countries

**Jamie Pope**

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

An international student adviser at the University is writing a humorous anthology consisting of essays written by University students, faculty and staff.

The theme of Dr. Magid Shirzadegan's anthology consists of what Shirzadegan refers to as "close encounters of a second kind."

"I started to work on this project last year," Shirzadegan said. "The reason why I started it was because I had read a lot of funny stories about people's experiences traveling abroad and people who were new to the United States."

Shirzadegan said the anthology will point out the misunderstandings that people of various nationalities have when they communicate with each other. Shirzadegan said these misunderstandings often occur when the translation of one language to another is incorrect.

"An American student wrote about a mis-translation experience that took place

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### GOOD MORNING

► The Eugene fire department responded to an apartment fire that officials said caused an estimated \$8,000 worth of damage last night.

The apartment, located at 642 E. 17th Ave. #C4, is rented by University student Manya Solos.

Solos was not in the apartment at the time of the fire.

A neighbor noticed the smoke and telephoned authorities at 7:52 pm.

Fourteen firefighters and five pieces of fire equipment responded to the scene.

Tim Burr, public information officer for Eugene city Department of Public Safety, said the blaze was contained by

8:05 pm.

Officials said the fire appears to be the result of a stove that was left on.

"The flames were confined to the kitchen," said Burr.

He said the estimated fire damage included, \$6,000 in structural damage and \$2,000 damage to the contents of the apartment.

► **CINCINNATI (AP)** — A jury awarded nearly \$3.5 million to a former Cincinnati Zoo animal keeper whose forearm was chewed off and swallowed by a polar bear.

Laurie Stober, 30, was attacked in 1990 by Icee, an 800-pound bear that

grabbed her fingers with his teeth and chewed his way up to her elbow.

The zoo said that it had followed proper procedures and that Stober had stuck her fingers inside the cage in violation of zoo policy.

Stober, however, said the bear poked through the bars of the cage and bit her fingertips as she offered it a grape. She said the zoo made the animal hostile by confining it in a small, poorly lighted and ventilated cage.

"It's never been about money to me. It's been about working conditions," Stober said after the verdict Wednesday.