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Flood danger ends, but rain continues

Weather: Rains flood basements, cause two deaths

Marcelene Edwards and Ben Moebius
Oregon Daily Emerald

Heavy rains over the weekend kept the manager of the Campus Cottage Bed and Breakfast busy mopping up pools of water from her basement floor.

"It was a constant parade of towels from the wet floor to the dryer then back to the floor," Melinda Olson said.

Water has been leaking into the basement of the bed and breakfast, located at 1136 E. 19th Ave., all weekend, Olson said.

She tried to reroute the water from her gutter to the street, but it still seeped into the basement.

"I think I've got it under control now," she said, "at least until the next rain."

If David Farmenter, from the National Weather Service, is correct in his predictions, Olson may be running wet towels from water to dryer for a lot longer.

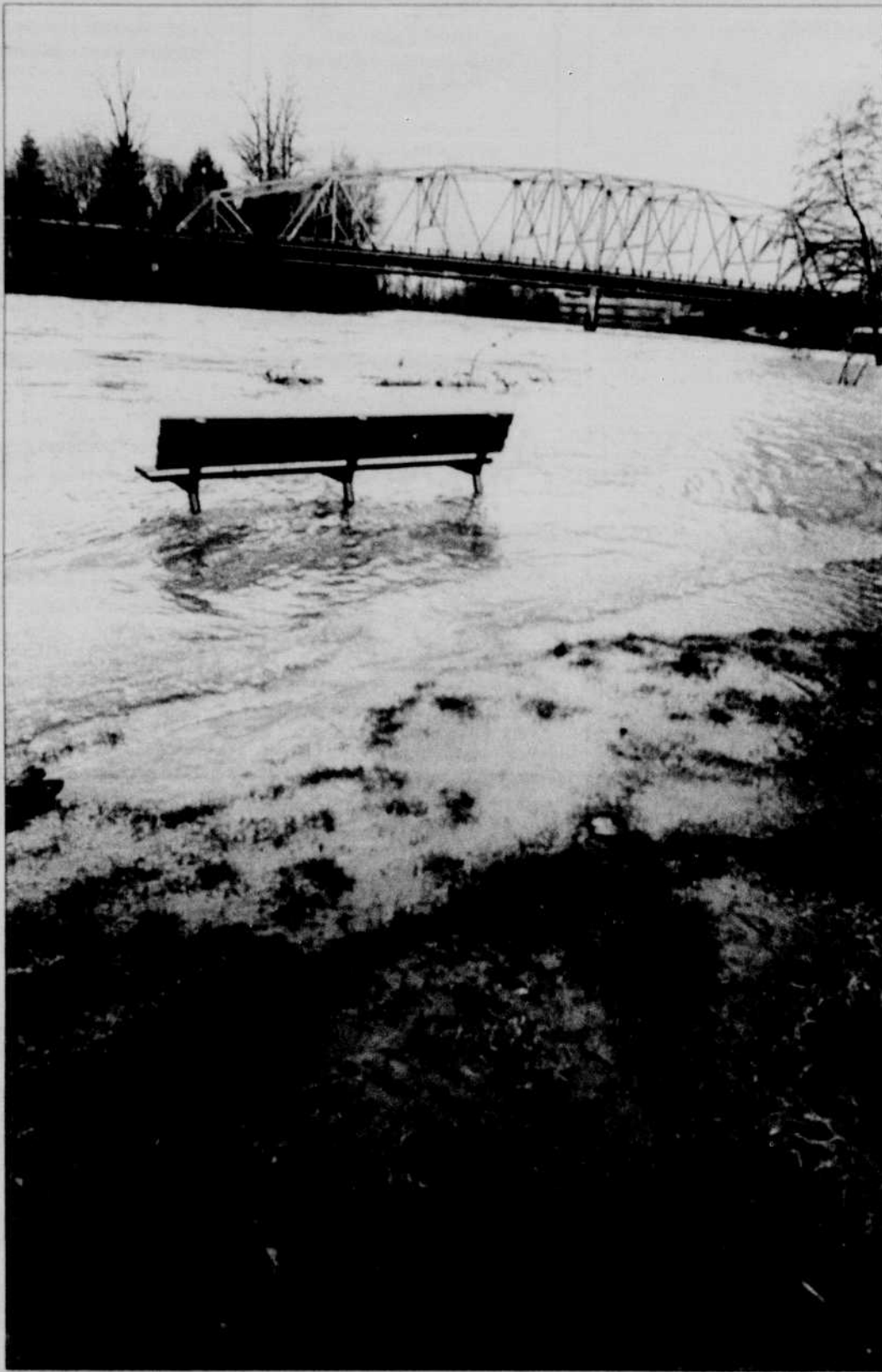
Farmenter said Eugene residents could expect more rain through the rest of the week. The rivers are going to stay high, but there probably won't be much more danger of flooding. He said the flooding wasn't normal, but usually happens about every 10 years.

The official rain level for Friday was 4.15 inches in the Eugene area, which beat the previous record of 1.79 inches in a 24-hour period, according to the National Weather Service. The agency reported .85 inches of rain on Saturday and .70 inches on Sunday.

George Eimer, a journeyman plumber for Roto-Rooter Plumbing and Repair services, said he responded to at least eight calls related to flooding on Friday. "The ground is so saturated it can't hold anymore water," Eimer said. "So the water is flooding basements."

Eugene escaped the widespread flood-related problems felt in many other areas in Oregon, said Tim Birr, a Eugene public safety information officer. Pools of water were reported on Prairie Road in Eugene, but it caused relatively few accidents in the area, he said.

Two deaths were reported in Oregon because of flood-related conditions. A 16-year-old boy's body was pulled from South Deer Creek on Sunday after he



GARY GRASS/Emerald

Benches and bike paths at Alton Baker were flooded as Eugene got its share of recent rain storms.

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Committee has forums to evaluate governance

Senate: The University Assembly may face changes

Pat Daly
Oregon Daily Emerald

Balance of power between students and faculty on University decisions will be among topics discussed this week in a series of open forums.

The University Assembly Committee on Governance Reform will hold forums to seek ideas, advice and opinions from students and faculty about how to improve governance at the University.

Today's forum is from 7 to 9 p.m. in the EMU Oak Room. Two others will follow Jan. 18 in the Oak Room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Jan. 19 in the Walnut Room from 3 to 5 p.m.

The University Senate usually creates legislation on academic issues like curriculum, grading and student conduct and moves it to the larger assembly for ratification. Students are currently represented in both the Senate and the Assembly by 18 Student Senators.

The committee doubts, however, the University Assembly can remain as a governing body. Some have suggested to create a stronger University Senate with greater decision making powers — and possibly without the 18 students.

"Most students I've worked with are committed and hard working, and that's not the issue," said a

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GOOD MORNING

► **PORTLAND, Maine (AP)** — The state of Maine is trying to collect a few crumbs from the Girl Scouts, slapping a 6 percent "snack tax" on sales of Thin Mints, Trefoils and Samoas.

The Girl Scouts say it's a half-baked idea to tax a non-profit group.

"We're just a bunch of girls trying to raise money for our organization, and we don't need the tax people picking on us," said Julia Payne, 13.

The state imposed a snack tax in 1991 on cookies, chips and candy bars. Initially, the Bureau of Taxation wanted to tax Girl Scout cookies on the wholesale level but backed down when challenged and

returned \$100,000 to the group.

Now the state argues that the Girl Scouts must pay taxes at the retail level because they're running a major retail enterprise, more than just a "casual sale."

"A casual sale is hit-or-miss," state tax assessor John LaFaver said Sunday. "Maybe they do it one year and not the next. It's unpredictable, like a lawn sale type of thing."

Jane Hartman, a lawyer for the Kennebec Girl Scout Council, said LaFaver is misinterpreting the law.

The chips will fall Wednesday, when Superior Court Justice Donald Alexander is to rule on the legality of the action.

University bookstore manager gives campus cause to rejoice

Retailer: Discounts and the "Duck Stop" are benefits offered to campus

Sean M. Smith
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

You're standing in a line that stretches back to the Russian Literature section with 15 pounds of hard-cover books in your little green basket. As you stand there grumbling about the cost of higher education and fuming about your now-empty bank account you wonder: "Who is the bookstore bureaucrat lining his pockets with my hard-earned cash?"

The answer is ... nobody.

The University Bookstore is an independent, nonprofit corporation that channels its net income into improved student services, increased student

and faculty discounts and improvements to store operations. A board of directors, composed of eight students, two faculty members and a bookstore staff member, control its operation.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the bookstore, making it one of the oldest retailers in Eugene. Store manager Jim Williams said University students and faculty have many reasons to celebrate.

Of the approximate 4,000 university bookstores across the country, the University bookstore is one of fewer than 50 that provide student discounts on textbooks, Williams said. Many campus bookstores are owned by their universities and store profits are given to the universities rather than to the students and faculty, he said.

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