

## WEB

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nics. Student and faculty home pages are filled with scanned art and photographs as well as a variety of prose and poetry.

Some professors have added their class lecture notes and diagrams to their home pages for students who could not make it to class.

"The technology makes it possible for anyone to get on the Web," Haller said. "Gopher is more institutional, so you can't find any individual stuff at all on Gopher. The Web's evolving. There are some limits with what you can do, but they're continually adding on more stuff."

The Computing Center made its decision to convert from Gopher to the Web last February, after recommendations made by the 10-member University Library World Wide Web Committee, an advisory group composed of library staff, Computing Center staff and faculty.

The committee coordinates the computer systems of the library and Computing Center, and advises campus departments on the Web.

The University's Web computer servers have been running alongside Gopher for the last two years, but the Web did not become an attractive option to the committee until advances in the Web's multimedia capabilities took off.

"We didn't start promoting the Web as an alternative until it became clear that the Web was far superior to Gopher," said Haller, who is also a member of the advisory committee. "We

made the decision to get off the fence and go from the experimental stage to the production stage."

The cost of duplicating computer services also weighed in to the committee's decision to convert to Web, he said.

Haller and other technicians at the Computing Center began phasing out Gopher last Monday. Computer users who logged on to Gopher this week may have noticed the reduced Gopher menu.

Haller said he hopes most of the campus departments and programs will have switched to the Web by Aug. 31. Notices were sent out to professors and departments informing them of the change, and most of them have already begun working on switching from Gopher to the Web.

However, the Web is still beset by some problems. Users accessing the Web from their personal PCs will find that it's slow going downloading the Web's graphics.

But Gopher's retirement also signals the University's entrance into what may turn out to be a revolutionary movement in the way individuals exchange ideas and information along computer cyberspace for a relatively low cost.

"[The Web] will be everywhere," Haller said. "It started out as a university thing, but now it has gone beyond that. As the price goes down and the speed goes up, people will be able to afford this in their own homes. Eventually, it will be as commonly used as the telephone."

# Asia Day celebration highlights diversity

Patrick Minford  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A cultural celebration highlighting nearly a dozen Asian cultures will mark today's Asia Day festivities in the EMU.

Asia Day is the third of four continent days that are part of International Week, a celebration of diversity at the University sponsored by the International Students Association.

International Week lets Americans know about cultures, said Jessica Lim, the ISA Office Manager and one of Asia Day's organizers. "Asia Day is a day where [Americans] have a chance to learn about Asia."

The celebration will start at 10 a.m. in the EMU courtyard if the weather cooperates. If it rains, events will be in the EMU Fir Room.

The first two hours will feature table presen-

tations with representatives from each country on hand.



From noon to 2 p.m. several performances and demonstrations from several Asian cultures will be featured.

Culinary events will include tea demonstrations from Taiwan, and Filipino cooking displays. Vegetable carving demonstrations are also planned.

The day will also feature several martial arts performances, as well as Japanese, Taiwanese and Korean calligraphy displays.

## Athlete sells, services sports wheelchairs

Samantha Martin  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Imagine shopping for a car and not being able to test drive it, or buying athletic shoes based on what they look like in a catalog.

Sounds illogical, but this sort of frustration was a reality for people in a wheelchair, searching for chairs that fit their athletic needs.

The frustration of not finding a local company that distributes specialty sports chairs inspired Len Torbenson to start his own distributing company in April 1994. Torbenson initially sold the chairs out of his Newport home, then later moved to his Springfield location because of increased demand.

"The Eugene-Springfield area is at the hub of athletic wheelchair activities in all of Oregon," said Torbenson.

Torbenson's company, Outlaw Sports Chairs, sells and services specialty wheelchairs for athletes. The chairs come three-fourths of the way assembled from different manufacturers all over the country. Torbenson carries display models of all the different styles so that customers may test drive the chairs before purchase.

Before starting his own company, Torbenson and other wheelchair athletes had to rely on the pictures in catalogs to determine what chair was most appropriate because the nearest specialty

sports chair dealer was in Ohio.

Regular wheelchairs from medical supply distributors do not fit the needs of wheelchair athletes, nor is a specialty sports chair recommended for everyday use, Torbenson said.

"The fast-turning radius of the wheels on the tennis chair, for example, are great for playing tennis, but makes it difficult to go through doors," said Torbenson.

Torbenson recalls the frustration at not finding a wheelchair that was suitable for his athletic needs.

"As a wheelchair athlete, I was treated like I spoke a foreign language," said Torbenson, of the medical supply wheelchair distributors.

"If you try and take care of sporting needs in a place that deals primarily with basic medical needs, it's the same as going to a Cadillac dealership when you really want a 4x4."

Each sport, such as tennis, basketball and rugby requires a different type of wheelchair specifically designed for that sport.

The cost of a sports chair varies with each sport, but is usually around \$1,800, according to Torbenson. Regular wheelchairs cost \$1,000 to \$1,300.

According to Torbenson, clientele for Outlaw Sports Chairs has been growing steadily and customers have been very positive about the chairs.



our earth day section  
is coming up!  
look for it april 20th.

the daily  
grind

in the lower level of the knight library  
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