CAMPUS CONSUMPTION
Second in a three-part series on binge drinking.

■ **TODAY**: A look at how binge drinking statistics at the University compare with nationwide studies.

■ **THURSDAY**: A look at how University officials are working to prevent abuse and to educate the campus about binge drinking.

Binge drinking lower than other schools

Lori Bettineski
Oregon Daily Emerald

Recent surveys show that binge drinking at the University of Oregon is lower than what occurs at other colleges — yet officials warn it is still a problem.

A survey conducted winter term of 1994 revealed that 41 percent of the 686 students polled had engaged in binge drinking in the previous two weeks of the survey. Compared to national studies, this represents a three to nine percent decrease overall.

A widely-publicized Harvard University study conducted in December 1994 found that 44 percent of the students surveyed admitted to binge drinking, spending an estimated $5.5 billion a year on beer, wine and liquor. The survey polled 17,592 students at unidentified, four-year colleges in 40 states.

Similarly, a study conducted by Columbia University in June 1994 found that 50 percent of the students at Columbia practiced binge drinking. Among college women, the percentage had increased from 14 percent to 37 percent over the last 15 years.

Although the University of Oregon's survey did reveal smaller percentages, concern among officials about the consequences of binge drinking remain high.

"It's better to be under the national average, but we still need to put resources into this," said Laura Blake, associate dean of students. "Binge drinking affects others and wreaks havoc in communities. It can also lead to sexual assaults, property damage and other negative consequences."

The University's survey found that 43 percent of the students polled reported they had done

Turn to **SURVEY**, Page 5

College Life: A Few Things To Know

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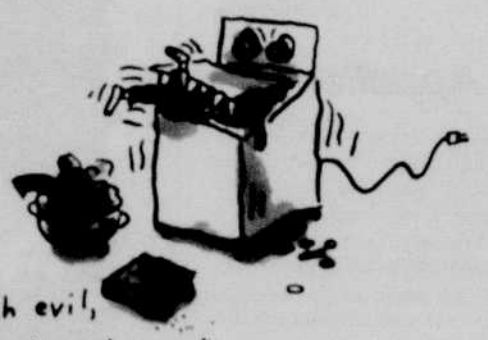

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