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TODAY

For National Coming Out Day, the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance is sponsoring a rally in the EMU Courtyard at noon.



INSIDE

County Commissioner jams with the band, emphasizes involvement in local politics.

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Matt and Micah Davis look to make a big impact on the cross country team this year

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WEATHER

Showers today with a high near 60

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High School Equivalency Program in danger of being cut

■ **CONGRESS:** House representatives want public high schools to fund the HEP program

By Mara Stine
Higher Education Reporter

When Emilio Hernandez Jr. was 14, his father's neck was broken. Hernandez dropped out of school and became a migrant worker to support his family while his father spent the next six years recovering.

Hernandez missed out on something most Americans take for granted — high school. However, a federally funded program

helped him get his General High School Equivalency Degree when he felt he was too old to go back to school.

Now, Hernandez is the director of the University's High School Equivalency Program, and he is concerned about recent congressional attempts to cut the program's funding.

The House voted to eliminate funds that operate 21 HEP programs around the country. However, Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., who is chairman of the Appropriations Committee, helped keep HEP in the Senate version of the bill.

Hernandez said both branches of Congress must hammer out a compromise now and are considering transferring HEP funds to public high schools.

"[The House] feels that the program is too small and that the public high schools should be in charge of educating these kids," he said.

Martha Mendez, 18, who is in the University's HEP program, disagrees with this argument. "If we're here, it is because we didn't find what we wanted and needed in the educational system," she said.

Turn to **CONGRESS**, Page 6



University's HEP students take a science test Tuesday. From right to left are Maria Sandoval, 22, Erick Garcia, 17, and Geisoi Garcia, 18.



Tim Clark, who graduated from the University in 1993 with a masters in music, met his current partner, Chris Stevens, while working as a sound editor for Dynamics. The pair have gained national recognition for their work.

UO drop-outs in big business, bucks

■ **MONEY:** Former college students are flocking to the promising computer and software industries

By Abe Estimada
Community Reporter

If former University student Brett Mitchell's Internet service business continues to bloom, he'll probably retire before the age of 30. Mitchell, 22, who was an art major at the University, dropped out of school to begin his business, The Pond, five months ago. He hasn't looked back since.

The Pond currently provides

Internet access to 140 Lane County residents and six businesses. The company is also involved with World Wide Web page design, and Mitchell is working on expanding access to his systems statewide.

"Business has been fabulous," he said. "It's been something I've been planning on doing for five years. When the funding and investing were just right, I finally got the chance. I was reaching a dead end in school and beyond what was being taught in class."

Mitchell, along with other former college students, are flocking in increasing numbers to the computer and software industries.

What is particularly interesting about this phenomenon, according to a *New York Times* article published Oct. 2, is that more of these graduates are seeking their fortunes in the high-tech fields without having degrees in computer-related majors.

Mitchell said his staff consists of six former University students who majored in a variety of areas ranging from linguistics to economics.

As computers become easier to operate, a degree in computer science is no longer a requirement to work in the high-tech industry.

Turn to **MONEY**, Page 8

UO football player arrested, charged with assault Sunday

■ **FULLBACK:** Pulou Malepeai was suspended from the team and will not play in Saturday's game against California

By Samantha Martin
Community Reporter

University football player Pulou Malepeai was arrested and charged with third degree assault Sunday following a fight with a group of approximately eight to 10 men in front of the University Bookstore.

According to police reports, an officer was dispatched to the scene after an area resident called the police. Upon arriving to the scene, police observed an unidentified white male who pointed to Malepeai and another man, Sundeep Saberwal, indicating that one of them had assaulted a man.



MALEPEAI

Saberwal told police that he, Malepeai and two other men were walking near the bookstore when a group of eight to 10 men began making racial comments and saying that the football players believe they are "hot shit." Saberwal then told police that it appeared one of the men was going to hit Malepeai, and Malepeai defended himself by hitting the man.

However, according to police reports, the other group of men charged that Malepeai and his companions had been extremely upset and attacked the group without provocation. A member of the second group told police that as they approached the east-west alley from Kincaid Street to Hilyard Street, they were confronted by four or five big males, two of which were later identified as Malepeai and Saberwal, according to police reports.

One of the men in the second group, Todd Logan, a 28-year-old white contractor from Washington, suffered a swollen right eye, broken nose and cut and bruised lips, requiring emergency room treatment, according to police.

Malepeai, who was likely to start at fullback in place of the injured A.J. Jelks for Saturday's game against California, was suspended from the team and will not play this week. Team officials would not return *Emerald* phone calls.