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TODAY

Today is the first day of Homecoming Week. Festivities will lead up to the Oregon-WSU game this weekend

INSIDE

Women's volleyball team wins first Pac-10 match of the season

Today's Million Man March marks "day of atonement and reconciliation"

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WEATHER

Showers today, with highs in the 60s.

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Students organize Alton Baker restoration

■ **CLEAN UP:** Students work together to improve Willamette's waterways

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Reporter

Alton Baker Park is going native. About 100 students gathered Saturday to remove non-native plants from the banks of the Willamette River and return the park to its natural state.

The restoration effort was sponsored by Streamwalk, a project that organizes students to work with the community to help improve waterways. The project was organized by four University Americorps volunteers who will earn money for college through volunteer service.

Streamwalk participants pulled ivy and non-native forms of blackberry bushes from stream beds, removed trash and debris from the river and evaluated the temperature and flow of the river.

Dave Hubin, executive assistant president of the University, said he was pleased by the turnout at the event.

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Cat caper



Liz Howell, a sophomore environmental studies major, holds a ladder for Jason Bell, a sophomore philosophy major, while rescuing a cat from a tree near Carson Complex. The cat got down safely but the owner was nowhere to be found.

Matthew Stiffert/Emerald

City policies questioned after Rickies incident

■ **CATHOLICS:** A private investigator files charges against the city of Eugene for awarding prize money to Rickies

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Reporter

Emotions were mixed at a Eugene Human Rights Commission meeting called to address whether a \$200 second-place prize should have been given to the Rickies, a loosely knit group of friends who stage an elaborate entrance each year at the Eugene Celebration parade.

Some Roman Catholics are angry about the group's satire on Pope John Paul II, in which the Rickies dressed as nuns and bishops who were following "Pope George Ringo" as he rode through the streets of Eugene in his "popemobile." The entry was a variation on the celebration's theme of "Pop goes the Weekend."

Local Catholics complained about the parade entry, saying it made a mockery of the Roman Catholic church and amounted to Catholic bashing.

"The pope, nuns and priests hold a special place in our esteem," said Daniel Sullivan, a Catholic from Noti. "To ridicule him and make fun of him is tantamount to making fun of Martin Luther King Jr."

Others believe the Rickies' apology, published in the *Register-Guard* on Sept. 25, should have brought

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Student supports cancer-stricken mom

■ **LIFE:** An *Emerald* reporter shares her family's ordeal with breast cancer

By Mara Stine
Higher Education Reporter

When I was 12-years-old, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer after a routine mammogram.

In my simple way of looking at things, I knew that as soon as her breast was surgically removed she would be fine.

What I didn't know was how scared I was to find my mom preparing her will at the age of 46, while waiting for surgery. I also didn't realize how little support I gave her at a time when she was afraid she would die.

But 10 years later, as an adult, I offered her my support by walking by her side in the annual Race for the Cure.

Last year the race, which is one of 56 in the country, raised \$4 million for breast cancer research.

My mother was one of 700 women to wear the pink visor reserved for breast cancer sur-

REPORTER'S notebook

vivors at this year's race. The remaining 17,300 women to either walk or run the three-mile course wore pink signs in memory or celebration of loved ones who battled the disease.

On my sign, in the blank space under "In celebration of ..." I wrote, "MY MOM" in bold, capital letters.

Although my mom could have written "myself" on her sign she wrote the name of a friend fighting the disease.

Waiting to start walking while the runners took off, I read the sea of pink signs on the backs in front of me. Some had a list of names on them. Others had photographs of aunts, sisters, mothers and grandmothers pinned to them. One woman held a blown-up picture the size of a picket sign of her sister who died of breast cancer.

Many of the signs had dates of birth and death under the names.

One woman's sign said simply, "For all women."

There were so many people waiting to start I couldn't see where the river of runners and walkers began in front of me or ended behind me.

By the time we did get through the starting line, the runners who had started before us had already reached the U-shaped curve of the course and were heading back.

As the wave of women carried us along, I knew the runners were getting closer because the cheers around us were growing louder.

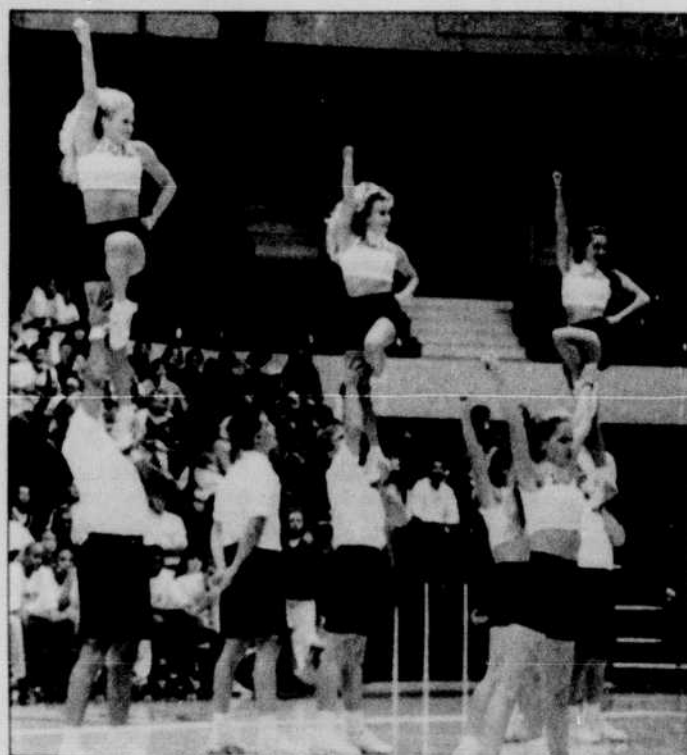
As a retired long-distance runner, I moved closer to the median dividing the branches of the course to get a better look at the runners fast approaching the finish line.

The woman in the lead got closer and closer. Everyone was screaming and yelling, encouraging her as she kicked it in to the finish.

That's when I noticed the tears welling up in my eyes. Since I

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Jerry's kids



Andrew Brackensick/Emerald

Rally squad members perform new routines for Duck basketball fans at "Late Night With Jerry Green" Saturday at McArthur Court. The basketball team performed a show at midnight that marked their first official practice.