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TODAY

The Student Health Center is providing flu shots. The cost is \$3.50 for students and \$4 for university staff



INSIDE

Women rally support for abortion rights and access in the face of opposition

Members of Oregon's Crew team row towards biggest regatta in North America

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WEATHER

Mostly sunny after morning fog. High 70.

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Symposium examines effects of Simpson trial on race, law

■ **DISCUSSION:** Media, lawyers are criticized for slanting case information

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Reporter

Why was O.J. Simpson found innocent of murder, and why should anyone care?

Those were some of the questions addressed Wednesday afternoon at a symposium organized

by the University's School of Law. University President Dave Frohnmayer moderated the symposium, which included speakers from the community and from the University.

Participants examined the role race and the media played in determining public perception of the trial, the evidence and the jury.

Some participants said the media slanted their coverage of

the trial, convicting Simpson before the jury was given a chance to hear the evidence.

The public was fed "baseless speculation and gossip," said Tim Gleason, a professor from the School of Journalism who specializes in media law.

A media feeding frenzy built up around the trial, creating sensationalist journalism that overpowered good coverage of the trial, Gleason said. The coverage

focused on the entertainment aspect of the trial, which contributed to the lack of attention to quality coverage based on facts, he said.

Henry Luvert, a representative from the NAACP, said the lack of objective media coverage led the public to condemn the jury for finding Simpson not guilty.

"People are wrong to have an opinion without hearing infor-

mation objectively," Luvert said.

The lawyers involved in the trial also contributed to slanted information, said Suzanne Chanti, a Eugene lawyer from the law firm of Walters, Romm and Chanti. She believes they tried the case to the press. Both sides appealed to the media by holding press conferences to explain how they would portray evidence in court, Chanti noted.

Turn to O.J., page 8

Pedal pushers



Cruising down Alder Street, John Bravard and Nina Strika of the cycling team take advantage of the good weather Wednesday. The cycling team is looking for riders of all levels and rides Weekdays at 3 p.m. and weekends at 10 a.m.

ANDREW BRACKENSTICK/EMERALD

Library committee examines proposals for improvements

■ **OPTIONS:** The group will consider more books, more space and more money

By Abe Estimada
Community Reporter

The Advisory Committee on Library Service has some tough decisions to make by January.

The committee needs to decide how to improve Eugene's public library system and then find some way to sell that decision to the City Council and area voters.

The committee met Wednesday night for the first time to discuss 10 proposals ranging from buying more books to extending services through a county-wide branch systems.

If the committee recommends buying more books, that may mean more patrons using the Eugene public library. However, the current library is already overcrowded during the day.

If the committee decides to move the library to a bigger building, where exactly will the building be? And will Eugene taxpayers, who have already rejected two library initiatives in the last 11 months, be willing to foot the bill for a building expansion or a move?

After receiving community input on the proposals, the committee will develop a final report for the City Council, which will then decide if it wants to put a new library initiative on the ballot for the fall 1996 elections.

Turn to SERVICES, Page 6

Housing hosts non-alcoholic keg party — students not fooled

■ **ABUSE:** Organizers hoped the event would teach students about the dangers of alcohol abuse

By Janna Braun
Freelance Reporter

As students gathered on the fourth floor lounge of the University Inn Wednesday night, a feeling of suspicion and doubt circulated among them.

Approximately 30 students congregated in the lounge for one of the most unprecedented events in University Housing history — a keg party. Not that keg parties are an unusual part of college life, but a University

Housing-approved keg party, is, in a word, rare.

Students settled in at 8 p.m. for an evening of beer, pizza and movies. But before the beer could flow, Britta Dinsmore from the University Counseling Center held a 30-minute talk about the dangers of alcohol abuse and what responsible drinking is all about. She talked about maximizing the control of alcohol use, being a designated driver and the various penalties for drunkenness.

"I'm surprised not more residence halls do this, because I think it's a good learning experience," said junior Monica Ostlund.

DeWayne Ingram, a UI program assistant, was glad to see so many people show up for the event. "Often times when we do programming, people don't come, so this was something people actually wanted to come to, and I'm glad," he said.

No sooner did the beer start flowing than students noticed something was wrong. By the time most were done with their first glasses of beer, it was all over except for the announcement: the keg was, in fact, filled with non-alcoholic beer.

When UI Resident Assistant Ariya Khamvongsa made the announcement, the students were not fooled.

"I could taste it," said sophomore Zach Jamieson. "There's a definite difference between alcoholic and non-alcoholic beer. At first I thought it would be real, so I went because I figured I had to see it to believe it."

"I was doubtful about the possibility of the whole thing to begin with," said sophomore Brannon Fetzer. "At first I thought it tasted like beer, but after my first glass, I realized I wasn't even slightly drunk."

By 9:25 p.m., more than half of the students left, not even waiting for the pizza that was still to come.

"I'm disappointed; I was hoping people would think they were

getting drunk and how alcohol affects their minds, but it didn't quite work out that way," said UI Resident Assistant Mya Tebeau. "I thought it would be cool to see people think they're drunk when they're not. We just wanted to show people you could have fun without alcohol."

"The problem was they found out too fast," Khamvongsa said. "A lot of these people already have experience with alcohol, so that helped in giving the whole thing away."

"They were promised beer and it was non-alcoholic, but when people want beer, they want alcohol, and unfortunately, these guys were not fooled."