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TODAY

Today is "Día de los Muertos" or the "Day of the Dead"



INSIDE

Portland's Rod Strickland and Cliff Robinson have been mentioned in trade talks

A ballon travels 900 miles delivering a message in Stranger than fiction

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WEATHER

Sunny today with highs in the mid 50s.

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Rec Center becomes smoke-free starting today

■ **EMU:** The board's decision was based on survey results strongly in favor of the non-smoking switch

By Doug Irving

Student Activities Reporter

The Recreation Center used to be the last refuge for smokers in the EMU.

Not anymore.

The EMU Board voted Oct. 20 to ban smoking in the basement rec center, effectively making the entire student union a smoke-free environment. The ban takes effect today.

"It's something that's been thought about for a long time," said Stephanie Dixon, rec center manager.

The board based its decision on a study that showed the center could dramatically increase its patronage if it banned smoking. About 140 students said they would be more likely to use a smoke-free recreation center, while only about 40 students said they would be less likely.

"When you're running a public building, you have to measure the number of complaints and also the number of congratulations," said Frank Geltner, associate director of the EMU.

Health considerations also played a part in the decision. According to Dixon, about half of the center's employees do not smoke.

"For the people who aren't smoking, it's a benefit," said Byron Hall, a student employee. "It can get really smoky in here."

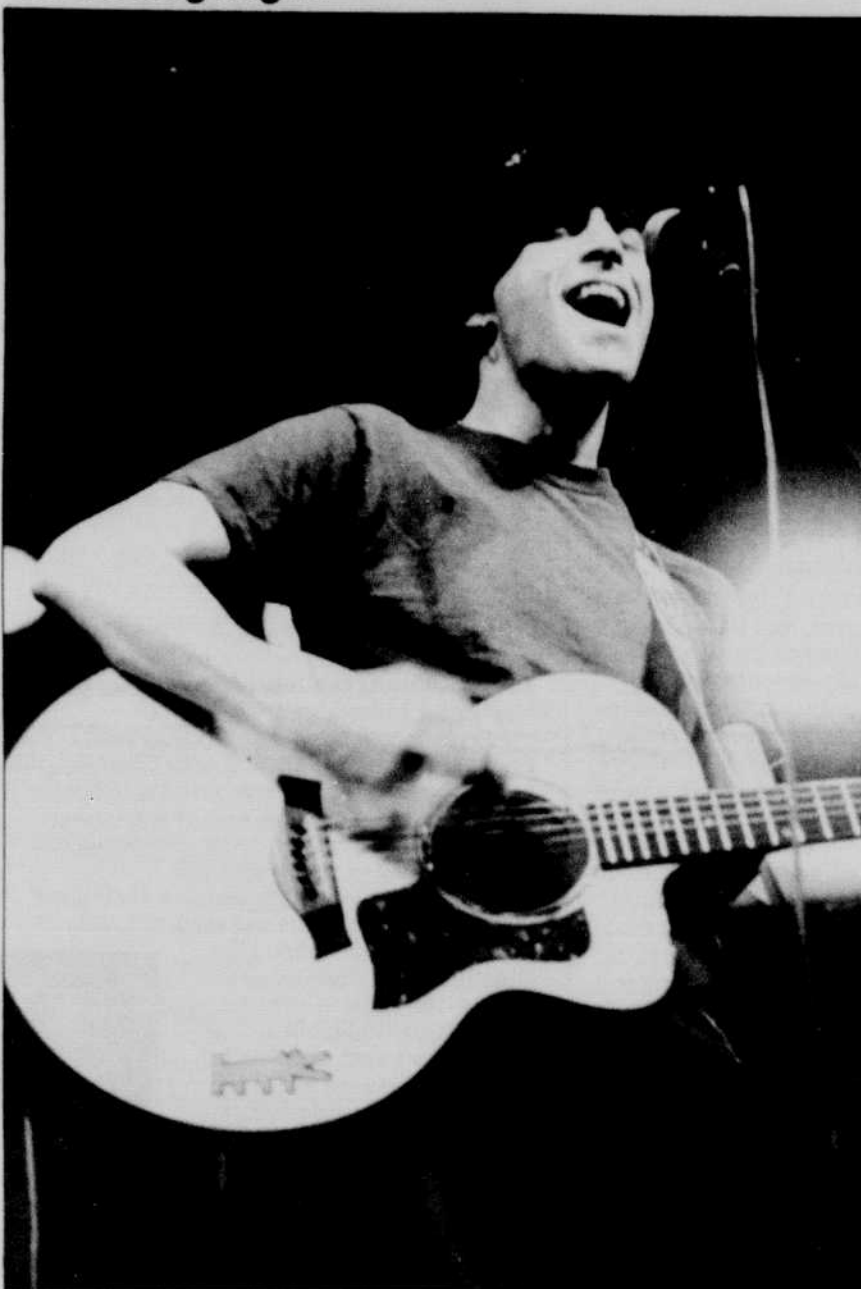
The center had installed ceiling filters to counter the problem of smoke-buildup caused by smoking, but these failed to solve the problem.

"The rec center was postponing the inevitable," said Geltner.

Dixon said the board also considered the pos-

Turn to **EMU**, Page 5

A howling night



NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

Three bands — Belly, Dog's Eye View and Catherine Wheel — played the Halloween night away at the EMU Ballroom. Concert goers took advantage of the haunting evening to dress in all sorts of costumes.

UO professor to speak at national earthquake-conference

■ **DISASTER:** Risa Palm's speech is part of a larger conference on America's need for earthquake preparedness

By Brian Womack

Higher Education Reporter

The dean of the University of Oregon's College of Arts and Sciences will be speaking on earthquake preparedness at the White House Conference Center Nov. 3.

Risa Palm, a professor of geology, will speak at a conference on the risks involved in making decisions regarding natural hazards.

Twelve Congressional staffers, 25 university experts, six or seven people from private industry and 50 people involved in setting Federal policies will attend the conference. Walter Hays said. Hays is a geophysicist with the geological hazards program of United States Geological Services.

"It's an opportunity to speak to influence policy," Palm said.

She will compare the way Japanese and Americans prepare for earthquakes in her presentation called "Communicating to a Diverse Population."

From this comparison, she will show how America's wide variety of cultures should be approached differently on the subject of earthquake preparedness. Just like the Japanese prepare differently for earthquakes than Americans, different Americans react in different ways to the threat of earthquakes as well.



PALM

Turn to **DISASTER**, Page 5

GTFF's hirings question federation's motives

■ **MONEY:** The Federation's hiring of new employees cast doubt on its ability to negotiate fairly

By Mara Stine

Higher Education Reporter

Graduate Teaching Fellows, federation staff members and Eugene residents are making allegations that the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation is trying to take away its staff member union's power.

In a commentary by Eugene resident Teri D. Ciacchi, (ODE, Oct. 10) she asserts that the Executive Board of the GTFF claims that collective bargaining between the federation and its staff union is unnecessary.

According to a policy statement

made Aug. 11, the GTFF believes that through staff guidance and suggestions, the federation "can make compensation gains fairly and equitably."

The federation made the statement during a labor dispute between the federation and its two employees: Diane Rau, union organizer and chief negotiator and Larry Williams, insurance benefits assistant.

Rau and Williams wanted their pay raise funded with \$26,000 the federation received for managing GTFF insurance policies. However, the federation wants to use the money to give smaller raises than requested and create a new organizer position.

In Ciacchi's commentary she said the federation executive board thinks the staff members should

waive their union-guaranteed rights to contract bargaining.

"Board members suggest that staff members should trust them to provide adequate wages and benefits based on mutual goodwill," Ciacchi wrote.

Rau said the board's position is "completely contrary to the reason that we have unions."

"This is an indication that they don't think they should have to negotiate with their staff," she said.

Rau also said the federation stance teamed with recent changes in the staff union makes the federation appear to be busting the staff union.

During contract negotiations, Rau and Williams were the only two federation staff members. However, in September, Williams quit his job for a higher paying

one with the Lane County Labor Council and is no longer in the staff union. Rau is still negotiating her contract and is still in the union but is on medical leave because of high blood pressure. She will return in December.

Since September, the federation has hired two new staff members — Carol Adamson, who replaces Williams, and Steven Brence, who is the new organizer.

Sociology Teaching Fellow Emory Smith is a former executive board member and represented by the federation. He said the federation is influencing the union's decision by hiring people it hopes will help settle the contract dispute between the staff union and the federation.

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Labor Dispute

A three part series analyzing the GTFF labor dispute:

■ **MONDAY:**

Wage Dispute

■ **TUESDAY:**

Allegations of stalled negotiations and questionable hiring of new organizer

■ **TODAY:**

Allegations of "Union Busting"

DENNIS BOLT/Emerald