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TODAY

Today is the last day to drop classes or reduce credits and still receive a full tuition refund.



INSIDE

Ducks show up Colorado with fan loyalty and turnout despite bad weather

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Eugene's alcohol-free First Night rang in the new year sober, but still silly

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WEATHER

Afternoon clearing with a high near 50

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Wyden vows to vote for students, speak on issues

■ **ELECTION:** The Democratic candidate gathered support during an on-campus rally while criticizing his opponent

By Abe Estimada
Community Reporter

Democratic candidate Ron Wyden vowed he would continue to fight Republican assaults on financial aid to students, middle class families and the elderly, if voters elect him to the U.S. Senate.

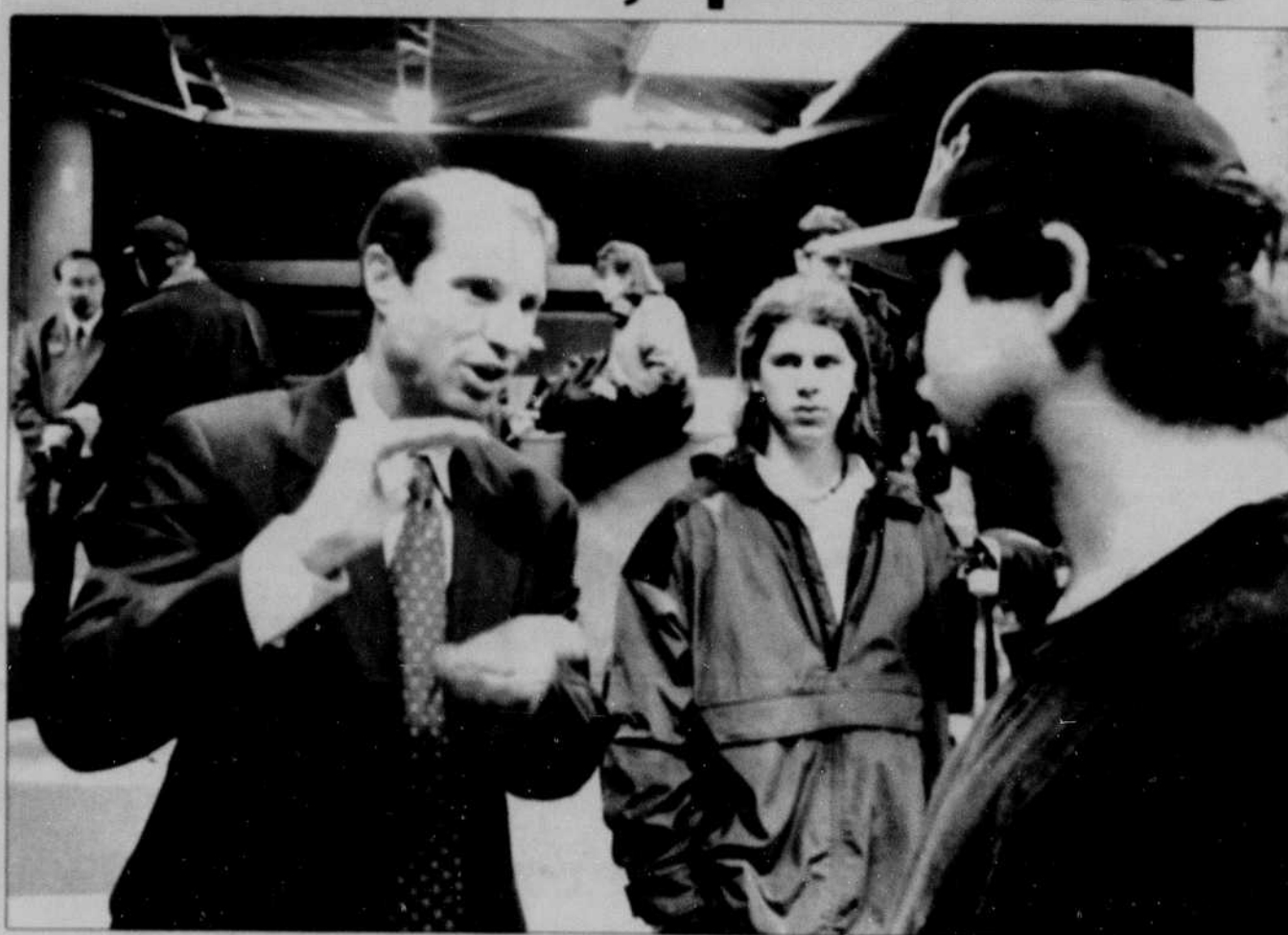


"I want you to know that as your Senator, at the top of my priority list, will be to protect direct lending, protect student loans and protect working class families," Wyden said during a town hall-type meeting that drew about 100 students to the EMU Ben Linder Room on Tuesday.

An energetic Wyden, almost yelling at times, took shots at Republican opponent Gordon Smith's anti-abortion position.

"I find it particularly interesting that while Mr. Smith is always talking of less government, less intrusion and less bureaucracy," Wyden said, "he wants to go out and put government bureaucrats into women's private lives with respect to women's health care. I say that's wrong."

Wyden and Smith are locked in a close, heated race that has drawn heavy criticism for negative campaigning on both sides. A recent poll by *The Register-Guard* and KVAL showed Smith with a slight edge over Wyden as mail-in ballots go out



Ron Wyden, the Democratic Party candidate for the U.S. Senate, speaks with audience member Robert Finsand after his speech in the EMU Ben Linder Room on Tuesday evening. Ballots for the mail-in election are being mailed today.

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Erb Memorial Union to undergo major additions, improvement

■ **CONSTRUCTION:** The renovation will apply to both the recreation center and food service area

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

The EMU Board of Directors has approved massive renovations that will give the campus center a newly remodeled food service area, recreation center and a new suite addition by fall term 1998.

The changes will ultimately alter the locations of several student groups and administration as well as revamp other areas of the building.

Among the moves already under construction is the shift of the scheduling and information office from the mezzanine level to the former location of the Main Desk Store. The store has tentatively been moved to the old Fountain Court location.

Building officials hope by consolidating the services of sched-

uling and information into a main floor location, they will make themselves more accessible and visible to students and other patrons.

"We're trying to go one-stop shopping," said Dusty Miller, EMU director.

With the move of the scheduling office, the rest of the EMU administration, which currently is sharing space in both the EMU and Oregon Hall, will then be able to move completely into the mezzanine level, taking the

majority of office space there.

Miller said the staff members will then be able to work more efficiently because they will be in close proximity to one another. "There's just a real desire for [our] staff to have a home," he said.

Early this summer, construction will begin on a 1000 square foot addition on the EMU ground floor to house the new office for Greek Life. Like the EMU administration, the Greek office, which is currently being

housed in the Craft Center, has some of its staff operating in Oregon Hall. The new office will enable the whole group to share one space.

As part of a separate \$4 million project that will begin construction in the summer of 1997, the food service area and recreation center will undergo remodeling and updating of facilities. "We want students to have as good a service as possible," Miller said. "And we will be able to when this [renovation] is done."

COST INCREASES

Weekly prices for campus-area child care facilities before and after the 4 percent rate increase.

	BEFORE	AFTER
Villard House Toddler Program	\$117.50	\$122.00
Westmoreland Toddler Program	\$117.50	\$122.00
Green Toddler House	\$117.50	\$122.00
Moss House Preschool Program	\$85	\$89
EMU Preschool Program	\$85	\$89
Westmoreland Preschool Program	\$85	\$89
Brown House Program	\$85	\$89

SOURCE: Child Care Development Centers
Rates do not reflect a 7 percent non-student surcharge

STEVEN ASBURY/Emerald

The price of child care goes up at EMU

■ **COST:** The increase will be only 4 percent; some parents don't mind

By Doug Irving
Student Activities Reporter

On a dark winter afternoon, young children laugh and play happily on the playground outside the EMU.

After a 4-percent increase in child care fees, their parents might not be nearly so happy.

The tuition increase, which took effect on Jan. 2, will affect

the student parents of almost 200 children. The increase was mainly a result of increased staff costs that were caused by raises and annual merit increases, said Dennis Reynolds, EMU child care coordinator.

"We're hoping that the impact will be minimal," he said. "Right now we're in a particularly sticky time."

The 4-percent increase will translate to a fee increase of no more than \$45 per child per term, Reynolds said. More expensive child-care programs, such as the

Child Care and Development Center's full-time toddler programs, will face higher fee increases than their less expensive counterparts.

"We're still at market rate," he said. "They're not going to save a lot of money by going somewhere else."

Student parents at the center were not overly concerned with the increase. Many said the accessible location and relatively inexpensive costs outweighed the increase.

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