

INDEX

Editorial	2
News Briefing	3
Stranger than Fiction	6
Sports	11
Classifieds	14
Horoscope	14

TODAY

An informational meeting on sorority rush will take place tonight at 6 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room.



INSIDE

Kyle Milling and the Ducks will host the Cougars tonight

11

Spartacus Youth Club protests U.S. involvement in Bosnia

7



WEATHER

Cloudy today with highs near 48

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Enrollment shows signs of stabilizing

■ **COLLEGE:** Enrollment decline slows; tuition rise may have caused decrease

By Sean Rossol
Higher Education Reporter

Enrollment of traditional college-aged students is down, by 12 percent in some states, but it has not decreased as much as it has in recent years, according to a survey conducted by the American Council on Education.

The council cited several reasons for the decrease, which is consistent with a three-year pattern.

The survey revealed that almost half of the 20 states that submitted complete enrollment data experienced declines this year, much less than those seen in 1993 and 1994, indicating a trend toward stabilized enrollment.

"This year's declines appear to be smaller than [those] in 1994," said David Merkwitz, director of the survey.

Escalating tuition costs are cited as a possible reason for the decrease in enrollment.

"Increased tuition could be correlated," said Martha Pitts, University director of admissions.

Although the University of Oregon is not included in the study, Pitts said the University has actually seen an increase in enrollment. There was an increase in applicants by 5 percent for 1995 and an increase of those actually admitted. That translates into an increase of 432 undergraduates for 1995.

Along with increased tuition, other factors are cited for the falling enrollment numbers appearing elsewhere in the country.

"In an economic boom, many high school graduates and other potential students choose to work full time rather than attend college," Merkwitz said. "In some states, students are leaving school because they are able to secure employment."

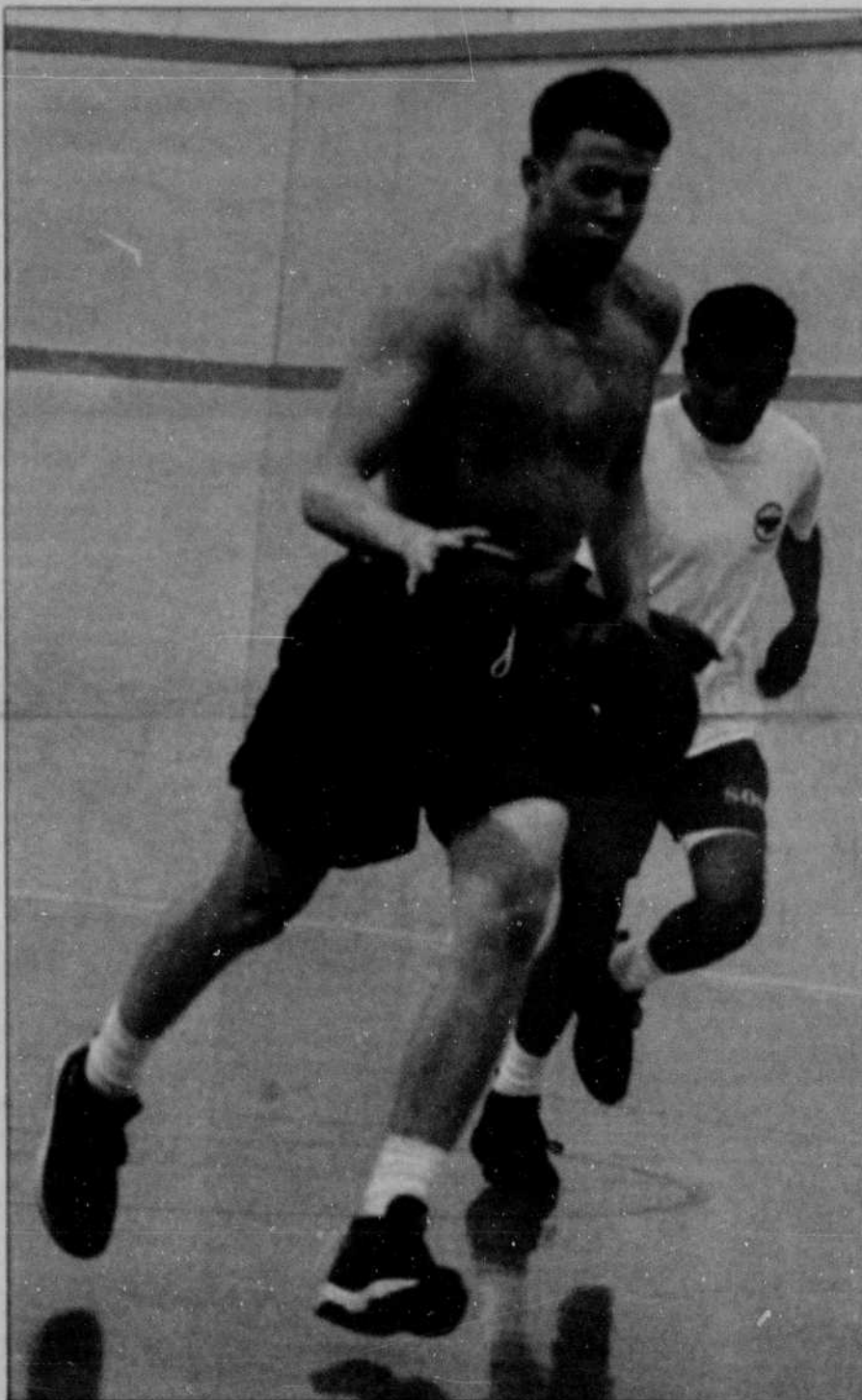
"When you can find work, why go to school?" said Brad Barron, administrator for information systems and research for student enrollment at the Ohio Board of Regents.

"Our colleges historically have noted a correlation between enrollments and the health of the national economy," said David Pierce, president of the National Association of Community Colleges.

The survey revealed that declines were more

Turn to **COLLEGE**, Page 4

It's gotta be the shoes



Driving the lane, Tom Tatten plays a pick-up game of basketball with some friends at Esslinger on Wednesday evening. The Esslinger basketball courts are open and free to all students most weekday evenings from 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.

Commissioner candidate big on parks, environment

■ **POLITICS:** Fodor is one of five candidates now in the running for Lane County Commissioner

By Melissa Lebahn
Community Reporter

A candidate for Lane County Commissioner said he wants to be the voice for progressive leadership in Lane County.

Eben

Fodor, 39, president of Friends of Eugene and of Energy and Environmental Planning Associates, has

announced he will run for Lane

County Commissioner in the district now headed by Commissioner Jerry Rust. The district includes South Eugene and the University of Oregon.

Commissioner Rust has said he will not be running for office again after he completes his current term.

So far, Fodor is one of five candidates who have announced intentions to run for the position.

In general, a county commissioner deals with community issues like the remaining old growth trees, juvenile criminal justice, public health, environment and recycling programs within the county.

Fodor said Commissioner Rust should be replaced with someone who is outspoken on environment, social, alternative and transportation issues.

Turn to **POLITICS**, Page 4

Proposed utility tax would fund low-income housing in Eugene

■ **MEASURE:** If passed, the average tax for a resident would be a little more than \$1 a month

By Sherry Rainey
Community Editor

The Committee for Affordable Housing began its campaign for Measure 20-54 at the Eugene Hilton on Wednesday.

If passed March 12, the measure would place a 1 percent utility tax on the usage of electricity, natural gas, water, sewer services and cable TV. The proceeds would fund affordable housing projects and energy assistance to low-income persons.

"The utility tax was chosen because it is the broadest tax," said Jean Tate, campaign co-chair and realtor. "Everyone pays utilities, whether for their home or business."

According to the Committee for Affordable Housing, the average monthly residential electric bill is \$60 with a potential tax of 60 cents. Including bills for electricity, water, sewer services and basic cable TV, the proposed total monthly tax would be \$1.06.

The estimated total revenue for the measure, which terminates in 10 years unless voters authorize continuation, would be about \$1.13 million per year.

INSIDE

■ 1996 Eugene State of the City Address meets with negativity/ Page 6

This seemingly small tax will not pose problems to the community, committee members said, and no one's utilities would be shut off because of failure to pay the tax.

"If you are homeless there are few options," said Terry McClintic, assistant director of First Place Family Center.

According the committee, more than 3,400 households are on the waiting list for federally subsidized housing, and the

wait is about one to two and a half years.

Another statistic the committee shared: On any given night at least 1,000 people are homeless in Eugene, according to the 1995 Eugene-Springfield HUD Consolidated Plan.

If voters approve Measure 20-54, an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 new rental and home ownership units will be built and another 500 units will be rehabilitated.

"There is a basic unfairness when people who work full-time can't afford affordable housing," Eugene Mayor Ruth Bascom said. "When we pass this measure, we will be sending a message that this issue must be addressed across the land."