

# Land of a thousand smiles celebrated

■ **CULTURE:** Dance and authentic food mark first-ever Thai Night

By Kristin Bailey  
Student Activities Reporter

More than 200 people celebrated Thailand, the land of a thousand smiles, Thursday night in the EMU Ballroom.

The first-ever "Thai Night" marked the beginning of a University tradition, said the former president of the Thai Student Association, Theerada Suphaphong.

"This is our first culture night," she said. "Last year we worked with Malaysia's culture night, but this is our own."

Suphaphong said a lot of planning and organization went into the night's activities, which included an authentic Thai dinner donated by A Taste of Thai Restaurant.

"We planned this for three weeks," she said. "We tried to get the people in the community to help us out. There is a very small Thai population on campus — only about 30 — so we got students who are studying South East Asia to help us in the performances, cooking and organization."

Performances included the singing of the Thai national



Apiradee Jansaeng, a graduate student in Asian Studies, and Joseph Schiller, a junior in Anthropology, perform the Red Ant Egg Dance at the Thai Students Association's cultural night.

anthem, traditional dances, a fashion show and a kick boxing demonstration.

"We are well-known for kick boxing," Suphaphong said. "The Kick boxing Instruction College of Lane County helped us out."

Some costumes for the fashion show were donated by community members, Suphaphong said.

Vijitra Boonkoom, Miss Lane County and co-host of the night's performances, invited the attendees to a glimpse of Thailand's six regions.

"Each of you has received a passport to the beautiful country

of Thailand," she said. "Tonight we're going to share with you the beautiful culture of the Thai people."

Thai Sen, Sippanondha Ketudat attended the evening's festivities and said he hopes the future will bring an understanding of Thailand for everyone.

"Tonight is a special night for all of us to be together," he said. "It is only through such contacts that all of us can be at peace with ourselves and our neighbors. I hope tonight is not the night you learn about Thailand. I hope one day you come to Thailand."

## Students protest riverfront construction

■ **RALLY:** Plans to build two parking garages and a four-story research park beside the Autzen Foot Bridge brought protesters out on Campus

By Doug Irving  
Student Activities Reporter

About 50 protesters met in the EMU Courtyard Thursday to rally against construction projects planned for a site only 35 feet from the Willamette River.

The Riverfront Research Park will turn "this beautiful place into a research place," said Joey Lyons, a member of the Multicultural Center.

"I prefer to have a field than a parking lot," he said.

The proposed building would take place along the riverfront by the Autzen Foot Bridge. Two parking garages and a four-story research park would replace the large field that runs parallel to the river, Lyons said.

"They can find a better place for this than right on the riverfront," said Todd Farris, a speaker at the rally. "We could replant [the riverfront]. We could invigorate it."

The research park hopes to meet five goals, students said. These include diversifying the economic base and providing research opportunities.

However, Lyons said many of the businesses that would use the space are not beneficial enough to

students. For example, one business creates video games, he said.

Lyons also warned that the buildings have not secured enough tenants to pay off their bills.

"It's a little bit economically weak," he said. "It's very insecure."

The construction will probably go forward, however, in spite of the demonstration, Lyons said.

"But I think that they might consider some alternatives to building so close to the river," he said.

The site was originally zoned for a gravel mine, Farris said. It was then rezoned to allow for the building.

"This is a beautiful area," Lyons said. "We like this area. Instead the University is turning this into a research park."

The University has loaned \$1.7 million to the developer at student loan interest rates of 8 percent, Farris said.

The construction could have negative effects for the University, said Kip Mayer, the ASUO environmental advocate.

"We're going to be taking more of our professors out of the classroom and moving them to the research park," he said.

After the rally in the courtyard, the students walked to Johnson Hall where they chanted, "Stop the destruction." The protesters will deliver a list of complaints to the president's office today, Lyons said.

### CORRECTION

In the May 29 edition of the *Emerald*, it was incorrectly reported that Tooraj Fooladi, identified as Mohammed Fooladi in the article, has a letter of trespass filed against him that

prohibits him from being on campus. The *Emerald* was given incorrect information by Eugene police. In fact, Fooladi does not have a current letter of trespass lodged against him, and

he is free to be on University grounds whenever he wishes. The *Emerald* sincerely apologizes for the error and for any embarrassment it may have caused.

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