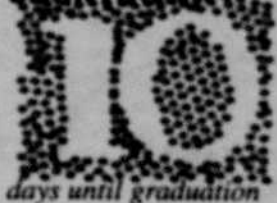


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COUNTDOWN



INSIDE

The UO volleyball team worked hard this year, taking many matches to five games

An Emerald sports staffer writes about how gender and angry mail affected her year



WEATHER

Mostly sunny.
High 80, Low 50.

University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

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Laying the groundwork



Repairing a broken irrigation pipe, Groundskeepers Miguel Rementeria (left) and Rick Green patch a punctured pipe beneath the EMU East Lawn. The pipe was damaged after an aerator machine dug too far into the ground. Aerating the lawn is one of the methods that the grounds crew is using to repair the area that was damaged from heavy rain and traffic during the Willamette Valley Folk Festival.

UO offers students the world

■ **TRAVEL:** The program recently began offering Ghana and East Asia as travel opportunities

By Doug Irving

Student Activities Reporter

Beijing, China. Avignon, France. Perugia, Italy. Quito, Ecuador. London, England.

The world is a big place, and the University is offering it to students through overseas-study programs.

"People have an opportunity to be more global-minded," said Jan Jorgenson, the director of the Office of International Education and Exchange. "But probably what you learn most about is your own culture in contrast."

Between 300 and 400 University students study abroad every year through University programs, Jorgenson said.

Because the programs are run through the University, overseas students receive resident credit for courses they take out of the country.

"It cost even less to go to Italy [than it does to go to the University]," said Jennifer Huegli, a University student who studied in Perugia, Italy. "But check out every single program and find out how the credits transfer."

Turn to TRAVEL, Page 4

Laughter is the best medicine for marriage

■ **RESEARCH:** A doctoral student examines how humor helps couples overcome conflict

By Laura Kepshire
Higher Education Reporter

A University psychology student has found through her research that humor is an important element to happy, long-lasting marital relationships.

Doctoral student Erica de Koning has been conducting new research for her doctoral dissertation on marital satisfaction in long-term marriages, in which humor has been closely examined as an important factor.

"Humor is the ability to see something from a different perspective," de Koning said. "This gives flexibility to a relationship and helps couples not to take

things so seriously."

De Koning began her research with a 70-couple study last year about the influence of humor on marriages.

"I see humor as an important part of my own life," de Koning said. "Everyone agrees that humor is an important thing in a relationship, but there is not a lot of research out there."

Most research done today is conducted on newlyweds, whose average age is around 30, or couples with marital problems.

But de Koning is taking humor in marriage research in a different direction as she studies couples who have been married for 15 years or longer and whose average age is 45.

"Instead of studying younger, distressed couples, we would

Turn to RESEARCH, Page 4

OSPIRG blazes nature trail for kids

■ **PROJECT:** The path is now a part of the 20-acre home of S.A.F.E., which houses abused children

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

When members of Streamwalk and its umbrella organization, OSPIRG, helped build a nature trail at the Stabilization Assessment and Family Evaluation Center, a Mohawk Valley children's home, it was simply business as usual for the 15 students who participated.

Streamwalk, one of several project groups within OSPIRG, is a national organization that completes about five projects a term at the University, intern Amy Doane said.

S.A.F.E. Center, which houses emotionally disturbed children, needed volunteers for the trail project and because of a chance meeting, Streamwalk became involved, she said.

"One thing led to another," she said. "We just kind of kept in contact and worked something out."

Non-members and some of the kids helped when the trail was finally built last weekend on June 1. A landscape architecture major even mapped out the trail before it was dug, Doane said.

"The kids made signs and name tags," she said. "We just had a really nice time."

The trail will make it easier for the children to enjoy the center's 20-acre property, staff member Jill Godici said.

"The trail will be a wonderful way to introduce the kids to nature," she said.

The center, part of the bigger Jasper Mountain nonprofit organization, provides evaluation and basic treatment for as many as 12 children at a time who have often experienced some sort of abuse.

"The facility itself is basically dedicated to dealing with chil-

"We just kind of went out there and went at it."

— Amy Doane
OSPIRG intern

dren of abuse and just various other situations and working to educate people about abuse," Doane said.

For Streamwalk, who finished the year with the trail-building, the event may be the first of many volunteering opportunities at the center. Doane said the group hopes to return to do maintenance on the trail next fall.

As for OSPIRG and its subgroups, they have the numbers and motivation to involve themselves in many such projects every year.

"We basically got the manpower to help," Doane said of the trail. "We just kind of went out there and went at it."