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**TODAY**

The Young Life College Fellowship is meeting in the Walnut Room of the EMU from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



**INSIDE**

The Oregon men's basketball team loses for the fourth straight time, while the women split two in California

Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey answers questions about the future of the University and the city

9A  
4A



**WEATHER**

Scattered showers. High 45. Low 40.

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## New group focuses on humanism

**CAMPUS:** Students for Freedom From Religion offer resources for atheists, agnostics and skeptics

By Joel McGrady  
Freelance Reporter

University students can choose from more than 20 campus organizations specific to religious affiliation, but now students who count themselves as agnostic, atheist or skeptical of traditional religions have an organization of their own.

Students for Freedom From Religion (SFFR) recently formed on campus to promote several key ideas of humanism: "the ethical tenets of personal responsibility, accountability, freedom and critical inquiry," according to the organization's constitution.



BREWINGTON

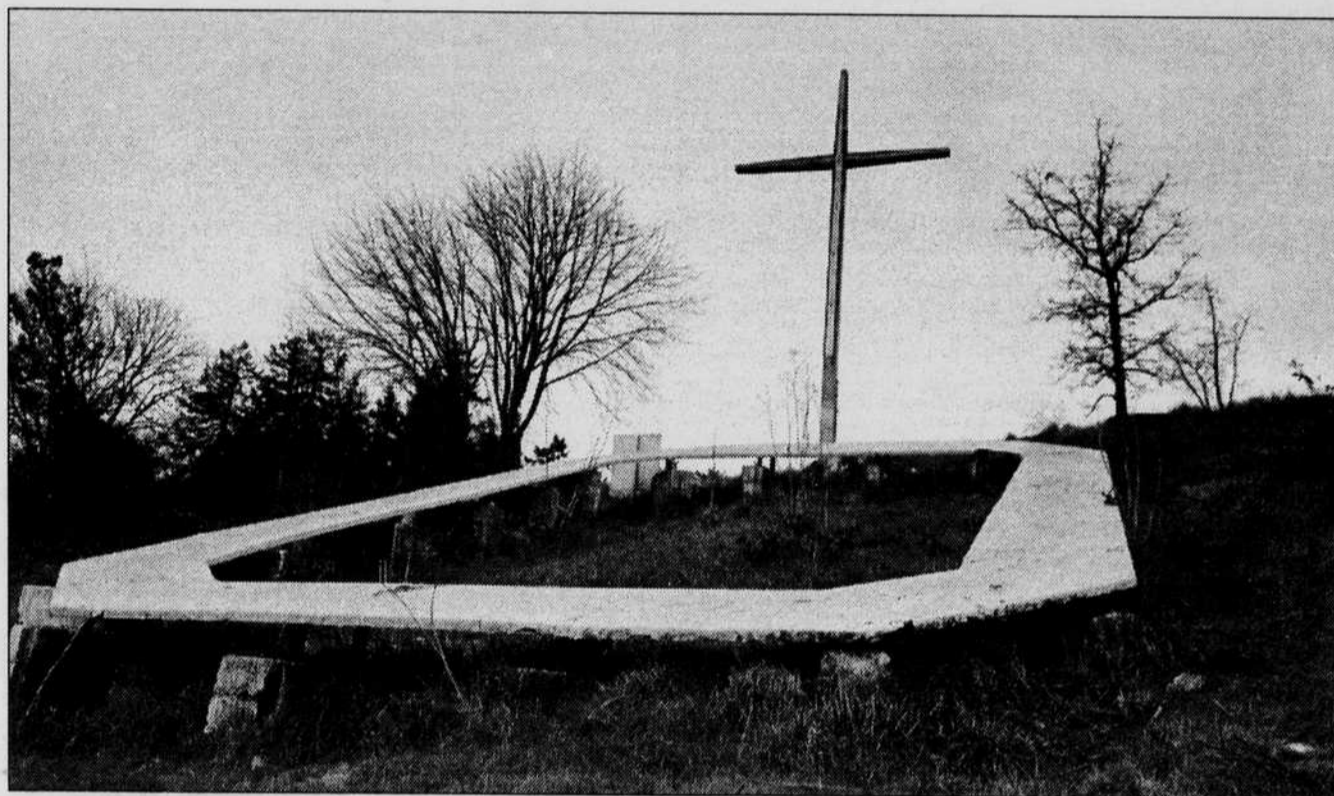
"SFFR was created to bring together people interested in discussing secular and humanist ideas," said Selena Brewington, one of the group's founders. "We encourage those who are involved in our discussions to be informed. We provide books, magazines and on-line materials."

"We have an expressly non-religious membership, but people who have religious affiliations are encouraged to attend and participate," Brewington said.

"The most valuable human quality is the ability to reason," Brewington said. "Reasoning allows us to be moral and to have compassion. Reasoning also allows us to question and to critically analyze. On campus, our mission is to encourage a wide range of activities. Among them: critical

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**IN FOCUS** RELIGION



MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

The Skinner Butte cross, erected in 1964, was deemed unconstitutional by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

## The Cross and the Courts

By Donovan Pacholl  
Freelance Reporter

The next time someone gazes up at Skinner Butte, he or she might notice something different. The 51-foot-tall cross — a well-known landmark in Eugene that was erected in 1964 — might not be there.

Attorney Charles Porter filed a lawsuit in December 1992 challenging the cross' location on public land as a violation of church and state.

"When the cross shows endorsement by the federal government, that is a no-no," Porter said.

Last summer the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decreed the cross unconstitutional. The American Legion Post 3 had filed an appeal

to keep the cross standing, but the U.S. Supreme Court denied the appeal because it was 12 minutes late.

"We shouldn't have this case decided based on a technicality," said Don Helm, Commander of Eugene's American Legion.

Unless the attorney for Eugene's veteran group can persuade District Judge Michael Hogan on Jan. 29, to drop federal court action on the removal of the Skinner Butte Cross, it will most likely be removed and relocated.

"After we appealed this decision, we received approximately 40 phone calls from citizens who agreed with us," Helm said. "Only

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## Clinton takes oath for second term

The Associated Press

Setting a new course for a new century, William Jefferson Clinton claimed his second term Monday.

"We must succeed as one America," the president told an inaugural crowd packing the flag-decked Capitol grounds.

"Our greatest responsibility is to embrace a new spirit of community for a new century," Clinton said. "For any of us to succeed, we must succeed as one America."

In his 22-minute address, Clinton promised a government "humble enough" not to try to solve all the nation's ills yet "strong enough" to help Americans improve their own lots.



CLINTON

### Memorial Timeline

- **1936-1964:** A series of wooden crosses are erected on Skinner Butte
- **NOV. 1964:** Current cross erected
- **1969:** The cross as "a religious symbol" is debated by the courts
- **1970:** Eugene declares the cross a war memorial
- **DEC. 1992:** Charles Porter files a lawsuit
- **1996:** American Legion files an appeal

## PFC controls allocation of incidental fees

**FINANCE:** The amount students pay in University incidental fees depends on budgetary increases

By Autumn De Poe  
Student Activities Reporter

Each year, students pay incidental fees as part of their tuition, and they often have no idea where the money goes. The ASUO Programs Finance Committee is the government body responsible for review-

ing, deliberating and recommending student program budgets to the ASUO Student Senate for approval. Every year, ASUO Programs Finance Committee meetings are also covered in the *Oregon Daily Emerald*.

The committee meetings often evoke questions about what the PFC is and does. Some commonly asked questions concerning the PFC are answered below.

**Q** How does the PFC affect students?

**A** Students pay an annual incidental fee to the University. The incidental fee money is then allocated to student organizations through the PFC. Student groups must organize their finances and approach the PFC each year to ask for funding.

**Q** How much money does each student pay the University?

**A** Each student paid \$135.05 this year, a 9.35 percent increase from

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**PFC**

■ **MEMBERS:** The PFC is made up of a seven member student-elected board.

■ **MONEY:** The PFC divides \$2,319,228 worth of student incidental fees between 96 student programs.