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TODAY

The EMU Board is meeting at 4 p.m. in the Walnut Room to discuss student group space during renovations.



INSIDE

The Kenya Wilkins era is about to end as he'll play his final regular-season game Saturday

Citizens suggested some potential sites for the relocating Skinner Butte Cross Tuesday night

7

10



WEATHER

Mostly cloudy.
High 50. Low 40.

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Eugene, Oregon

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Economics graduate student Philip Norstrand (left) receives free advice on his taxes from accountant Tina Zamora.

A TAXING TIME

The dreaded deadline for filing taxes is almost here, but help exists for the confused and bewildered

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

Cursing at your tax forms won't get your refund any faster. Sure, we all hate taxes, but as students at least most of our money still comes back. But students won't see any money if they don't fill out their state and federal tax forms by April 15.

Where to get answers?

There is help in the Eugene area for students lost in the proverbial tax void, and the surprising thing is that it doesn't cost a penny. The American Association of Retired Persons sponsors an annual Tax-Aide program from Feb. 1 until April 15 at 14 sites in Lane County. The Eugene Public Library, Lane Community College and the Lane Community College Downtown Center locations are probably the closest for most University students.

Bob Bottge, coordinator of the program, said students can bring their tax forms in for review, come in with general or specific questions or even hand over their forms for

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NEED HELP WITH YOUR TAXES?

IN PERSON

■ **LCC Downtown**
Front Lobby West 11th Ave.
and Willamette St.
Tue-Wed 9-3 p.m.

■ **Eugene Public Library**
13th Ave. and Olive St.
Thurs. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ **LCC Campus**
2nd floor, Center bldg.
Tue, Wed, Thur 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BY PHONE

■ **IRS**: 1-800-829-1040

■ **OSDR**: 1-800-356-4222

■ **H&R Block of Eugene**:
344-5488

■ **AARP**: 687-1777

ON THE WEB

■ **GENERAL INFORMATION**
Tax Web:
www.taxweb.com

■ **FEDERAL INFORMATION**
Internal Revenue Service Home
Page:
www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/

■ **STATE INFORMATION**
Oregon State Revenue:
www.dor.state.or.us

■ **1040EZ INFORMATION**
Intuit's Turbo Tax:
www.qfn.com/taxcente

■ **STATE FORM INFORMATION**
Tax Sites Directory:
www.uni.edu/schmidt/tax.html

UO students accumulate more debt

■ **LOANS**: As tuition increases and grants stagnate, debt is forcing some students to change their future plans

By Sarah Keech
Higher Education Reporter

Since the 1991-92 school year, the amount of money borrowed by University students in the form of student loans has more than doubled, and the number of students taking out loans has risen 50 percent.

The Office of Financial Aid reports in 1991-92 about 5,000 students took out loans totaling approximately \$18.5 million. This current academic year the numbers jumped to 7,500 students borrowing more than \$50 million in loans.

"Because I will be graduating about \$20,000 in debt, I won't be able to buy a car or a house," said Jessica Frahs, a senior majoring in political science. "I also won't be able to take any job I want; I have to worry about making enough money to pay off my loan."

The lack of grant money and the seemingly endless increases in tuition seem to be a big weight on the shoulders of many University students, explained Jim Gilmour, associate director of financial aid.

"The average debt of a recent University graduate is around \$17,000," Gilmour said.

Much of the increase is blamed on Measure 5, the property tax measure that went into effect in 1991 and subsequently caused an increase in tuition.

But Measure 5 is not the only reason for the increase in student loans, Gilmour explained.

"It is difficult to tell how Measure 5 has directly affected the increase in loans," Gilmour said. "Grant programs have remained stagnant over the past few years; that is another reason for the increase."

In a survey compiled by the Oregon Student Association (OSA), the number of students leaving college owing \$20,000 or more has increased from 11 percent in 1990 to more than 24 percent in 1996.

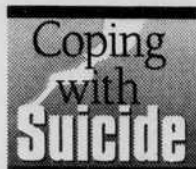
MEASURE



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHAD PATTESON & DENNIS BOLT/Emerald

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Recognizing signs of depression can be key to prevention of suicide



Second in a
three-part series

■ **TODAY**:
The Warning Signs
of Suicide and How to
Help a Suicidal Friend

■ **HEALTH**: Studies indicate that depressed students often give clues about their suicidal intentions before they make an attempt

By Autumn De Poe
Student Activities Reporter

"I feel like killing myself. I don't know how much longer I can take this."

According to Student Health Center literature, suicidal persons show their intentions directly with statements of hopelessness such as this. Studies performed at the University of Illinois show that 80 percent of all people who attempt suicide give

some clue about their intentions before they make an attempt. Recognizing the clues that suicidal students may deliver can change the outcome of a life or death situation.

Health center literature states that many students may convey their intentions directly, while others hint at detailed suicide plans like, "I've been saving up my pills in case things get really bad." In general, statements describing feelings of depression, helplessness, extreme loneliness and/or hopelessness may suggest suicidal thoughts. Some students prepare for death by giving away prized possessions, making a will, or feeling a sudden lift

of spirits and a relief of knowing that the pain may soon be over.

In a letter sent from the University Counseling Center to University faculty, counselors warned that the "emotional support that we may take for granted — being acknowledged, listened to, and cared about — may in fact be novelties for some of our students." The letter also stated, "Depression may express itself tacitly in the form of late papers or missed classes. Such students — especially those with low self-esteem — may be reluctant to inform professors of problems that interfere with their aca-

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