

INDEX

Opinion	2A
News	4A
Rhythm & Reviews	5A
Sports	9A
Classifieds	13A
Graduation	1B

TODAY

Oregon Ballroom Dance is offering lessons for beginners tonight at 7:30 in Room 220 Gerlinger Hall. Cost is \$2 for students.



INSIDE

The track and field teams meet disappointment in the second day of the NCAA championships
Eugene's Human Powered Parade this Saturday will recognize alternate transportation

12A

9A



WEATHER

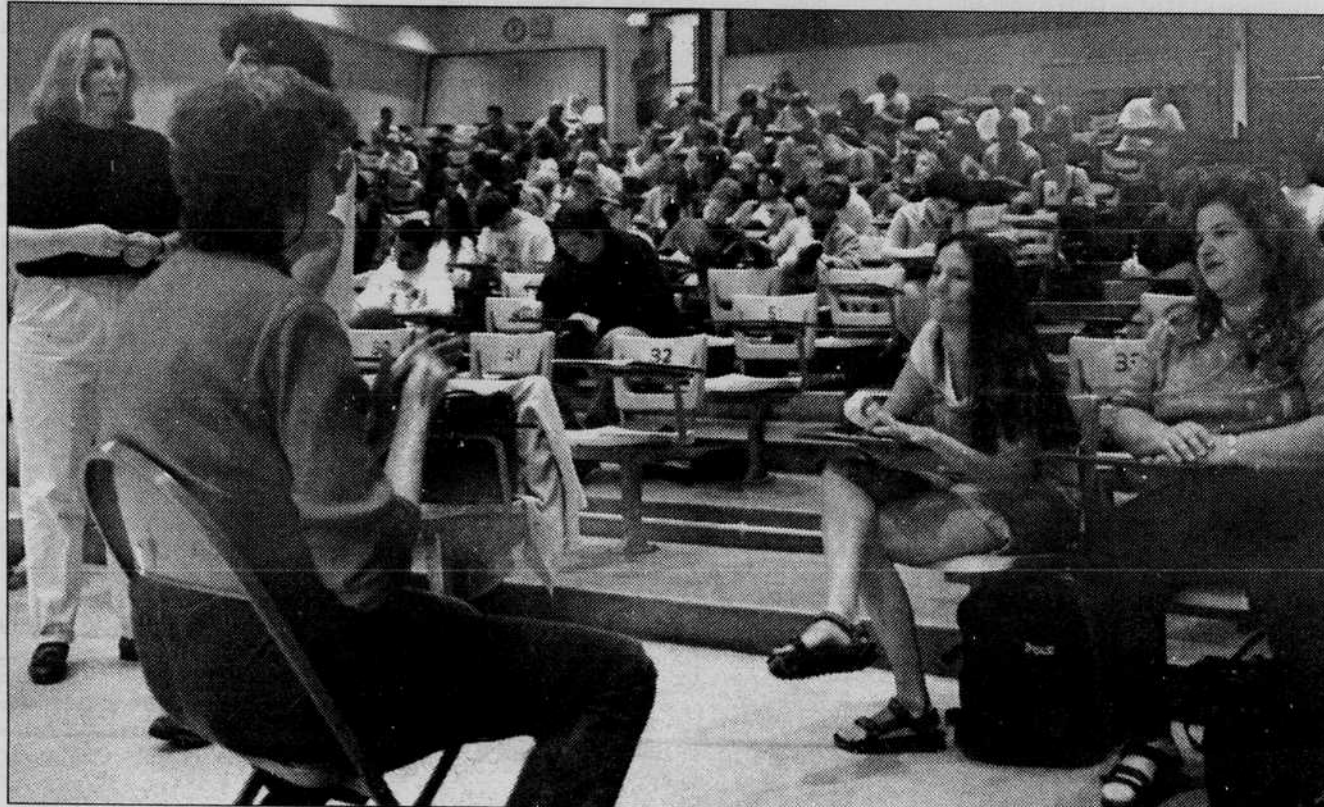
Partly cloudy.
High 70. Low 50.

Oregon Daily Emerald

University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

An independent newspaper
Volume 98, Issue 166

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



Beth Ticehurst, a deaf student at the University, uses an interpreter while attending a survey class in Lawrence Hall.

MICHAEL CRISP/Emerald

The language of silence

Students struggle to learn ASL, but the UO won't recognize it as a foreign language

By Amy Palanuk
Higher Education Reporter

In a silent world, the language of the spoken word becomes transformed.

Transformed into another language, a language with its own culture and own meanings — a language called American Sign Language.

History major Beth Ticehurst agrees with that statement, especially after having to learn the language so late in the game.

Ticehurst is deaf, and before coming to the University she did not know sign

language. She managed to get through high school by communicating with teachers through lip-reading and written notes. But when it came to deciphering lectures at the University, an interpreter was needed, so Ticehurst learned the language.

Learning the language was the first step. Getting the language recognized as filling an academic requirement for foreign language became the problem.

Many individuals and institutions do not recognize ASL as a language requirement, including the University.

In 1994, the Undergraduate Education Policy and Coordinating Council recommended to the University that American Sign Language not be considered as a foreign language. After a lengthy process, the committee made the conclusion that ASL did not involve the distinctive cultures of a foreign language, said committee chair William Braugh.

Only two public secondary educational institutions in Oregon recognize ASL as a foreign language. Western Oregon

Turn to ASL, Page 10A

Cross will be moved, court says

RELOCATION: A last appeal was made by the American Legion, but the U.S. Supreme Court denied it

By Jennifer Schmitt
Community Editor

The latest chapter in the Skinner Butte Cross saga is closing as city officials and the Eugene Bible College prepare for the relocation of the cross.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor ruled to deny the last-ditch appeal by the American Legion, according to a court clerk.

No official written word from Justice Day O'Connor has been received yet by William Wheatley, attorney for the American Legion.

WHAT'S NEXT

The cross will be relocated to the Eugene Bible College on Monday or Tuesday.

"We have heard the rumors, and we have been told that she signed the denial and sent it Tuesday, but we haven't seen anything yet," said a representative from Wheatley's office.

The last-ditch appeal argued that federal courts never should have considered the case once the Oregon Supreme Court ruled in 1977 that the cross was a war memorial, and thus constitutional.

In April, U.S. Magistrate Thomas Coffin ordered the cross to be relocated by June 15. After considering alternative sites, Eugene Bible College was chosen by the City Council to receive the cross.

The cross was scheduled to be relocated to the Eugene Bible College on Saturday, June 7. City officials now have postponed the relocation until Monday or Tuesday, depending on the availability of the machinery needed to remove the cross.

"They went up to the cross today and put 2,000 pounds worth of pressure on it," said Robert Whitlow, president of the Eugene Bible College. "It didn't budge, so they

Turn to RELOCATION, Page 9A

Bernstine named PSU president

Portland State University named Daniel Bernstine, as its new president Thursday. Bernstine replaces Judith Ramaley, who left to become president of the University of Vermont.

Story on page 4A

IN FOCUS: DISTANCE EDUCATION

University expands independent study, web-based courses

LEARNING: Both on- and off-campus students who have tight schedules enjoy the flexibility of on-line courses

By Sarah Kickler
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University got a step closer to the virtual classroom this fall when it began offering classes over the Internet to students off campus and on.

Through the distance education program, the University has been offering two economics classes, two political science classes, two geology classes and three astronomy and physics classes in an independent study, web-based format.

The economics classes were first offered for both on- and off-campus students this

fall. The other social science classes have been available in self study format to on-campus students for about three years, said Jo Anna Gray, associate dean for the social sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Curt Lind of the University's Continuation Center said the geology classes have been offered through the Oregon State System of Higher Education independent study program for many years and were first included in the University's regular course offerings in winter term 1997.

Students read on their own, get notes off

the classes' web pages and take tests either over e-mail or in a proctored lab. On-campus students take the tests in the Social Science Instructional Lab in the basement of PLC, and off-campus students take tests at proctored locations in or near their hometowns.

"We've been very careful in developing proctored, secure testing for the off-campus students," Gray said.

Gray also said that the organizers of the distance education program wanted to make University education available to

Turn to LEARNING, Page 3A