

Donor wall

The EMU Board discusses a possible donor wall that would recognize major monetary contributions.

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At the finish line

Oregon's men's and women's cross country teams prepare to run on familiar ground at the NCAA Championships

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TODAY

Drop off clothes and blankets at Hamilton dining center for the campus clothing drive.

WEATHER

Today
Mostly cloudy
High 51. Low 40.
Friday
Chance of rain
High 51. Low 40.

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Kicking Butts

The Great American Smokeout is here, so put out that cigarette and get ready for the first day of the rest of your nicotine-free life

By Kristina Rudinskas
Student Activities Reporter

The American Cancer Society wants you to quit smoking — for today. The 20th Annual Great American Smokeout is a national event that urges smokers to put down their cigarettes and cigars for just a day. The hope is that they will stay off smoking forever after that single day. The National Institute on Drug Abuse found in a 1996 survey that people between the ages of 18 and 25 have the highest rate of smoking in the country — 38.3 percent had smoked in the previous month.

"Kids feel it's hard to relate to something that's go-

Turn to SMOKING, Page 4

Smoker kisses habit goodbye

After a health scare over the summer, this reporter knew her days as a smoker were coming to a close

By Kristina Rudinskas
Student Activities Reporter

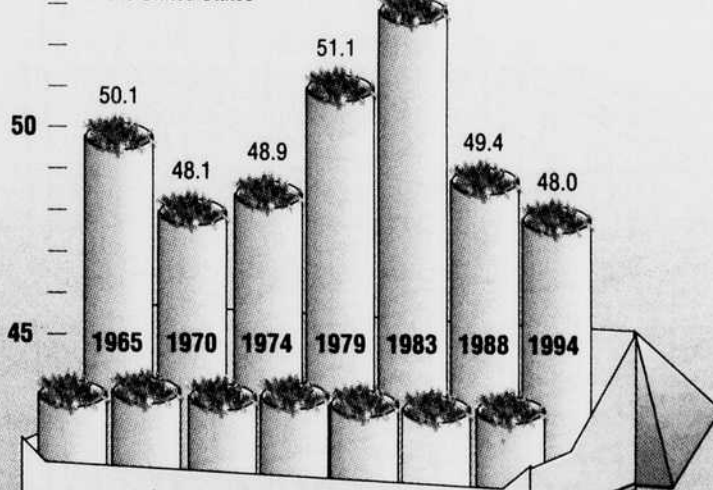
My friend always used to say "quitters never win." But when I decided to quit smoking, I wanted to make sure I never made that midnight trip to 7-Eleven to pick up a fresh pack.

I have been a smoker for six years, starting when I was fourteen with Marlboros, or reds as I called them. I went through the gradual progression of GPCs, Camels and menthols. The homeless didn't want menthols and neither did most of my friends, so I could inhale all 20 of my lovelies, get my nicotine fix and crystallize

Turn to HABIT, Page 4

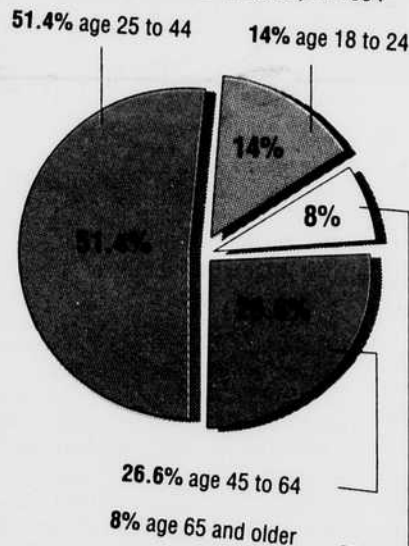
Smoking in the U.S.A.

Number of smokers in millions in the United States



Smokers by age

Percent of smokers by age group in 1994



Source: National Health Interview Surveys: 1965, 1970, 1974, 1979, 1983, 1988, 1994

MATT GARTON/Emerald

Local charity plans dinner for needy

Several student groups helped Whitaker Community Dinners prepare a holiday dinner for the hungry and homeless

By Michael Burnham
Community Reporter

'Tis the season to be giving.

That's the message a local charity organization is trying to send to the community this holiday season.

Whitaker Community Dinners, a Eugene charity organization since 1978, is holding a free dinner and donating clothes and dry goods to the community's needy this Thanksgiving.

"Winter is really hard on people, so we try and give them warm inner feelings for a while," said Beverly Farfan, coordinator of Whitaker Community Dinners.

OSPIRG and other student groups from the University helped organize and package food and clothing Wednesday in preparation for Whitaker Community Dinners' Thanksgiving festivities.

University volunteers helped out as part of National Hunger and Homelessness Week, which began Monday.

The awareness week is sponsored by at least 70 campuses across the country, according to Carolyn Whipple, campus organizer for OSPIRG. It is coordinated at the national level by the National Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness.

University events, which are being sponsored by over 20 student groups and academic departments, have included a shelter visit to St. Vincent dePaul on Monday, a series of documentary films dealing with

Turn to DINNER, Page 6

Student Senate sets '98-'99 budget benchmarks, declares war

By Christopher Kenning
Student Activities Reporter

Student incidental fees could go up by \$8.87 per student next school year if the Student Senate sticks to the benchmark it set Thursday night. The benchmarks, which are non-binding budgetary goals, were set for ASUO programs, the EMU board, and the Athletic Department.

The Programs Finance Committee, which distributes student fee money to ASUO programs, was granted a 2 percent increase by a unanimous vote. The increase, which raises the total budget to \$1,913,944, will cover mandatory increases in minimum wages and the funding of new student groups.

"There are lots of groups who get less than \$1000, and that's who I'd like to see get that money," ASUO Vice-President Ben Unger said.

The Athletic Department requested a zero percent increase which, despite calls to decrease their budget, was finally unanimously granted. The student fee money pays for non-profit University sports programs in exchange for free access to all sporting events for students.

"The members of the Athletic Department Finance Committee believe that we can meet the needs and interests of students without charging them more money," the department said in a memo. "We realize that this request is a rarity in student government."

Kent Black, Senate vice president, spoke in favor of the request: "Their budget has been about the same since the mid-'80s when other [programs] are getting a 5-7 percent increase."

Although the EMU board received its requested 5.5 percent increase, Senate debate was

sharply divided. Jenna Wasson, EMU Budget Committee Chair, said the \$128,752 increase would help bring the EMU up to building code requirements and pay for wage increases.

"Thousands of students use the building every day," Wasson said. Portions of the money would be used to hire a grant writer to help fund the EMU's programs. "We're thinking long-term to start finding other ways besides student fees to finance programs."

Other Senators said cuts should be made in personnel, and the money already allocated be used more efficiently. Unger called for a 0 percent benchmark increase. "These are lean years," he said.

"I don't think [0 percent] is appropriate, and I think it's kind of weird that the Exec. would say the ASUO needs an increase but

the EMU doesn't," said Black, shortly before the Senate agreed on the request.

After the meeting, Unger said the ASUO executive had no plans to veto the EMU benchmark: "If it's what the Senate wants, then we can work with them. We're not looking to veto it."

Senators also used Thursday night's meeting to "declare war" on Oregon State University for the upcoming football showdown on November 22nd. The resolution was read aloud:

"Whereas: The University would become the laughingstock of the PAC-10 conference should the Ducks lose to the Beavers. Whereas: While...the 'Fighting Ducks' is an unlikely mascot, the 'Beavers' deserve to be singled out for ridicule."

The resolution called for a "Civil War" to take place at Autzen Stadium.