

ROTC opportunities

Students say the University's Reserve Officers Training program offers them scholarship, leadership and structure

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Ducks take Nevada, 86-69

The men's win over the Wolf Pack improved their nonconference record to 2-3, ended a losing streak and dropped Nevada's record to 2-2

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TODAY

This is the last issue of the Emerald for fall term. Daily publication resumes Jan. 5, 1998.

WEATHER

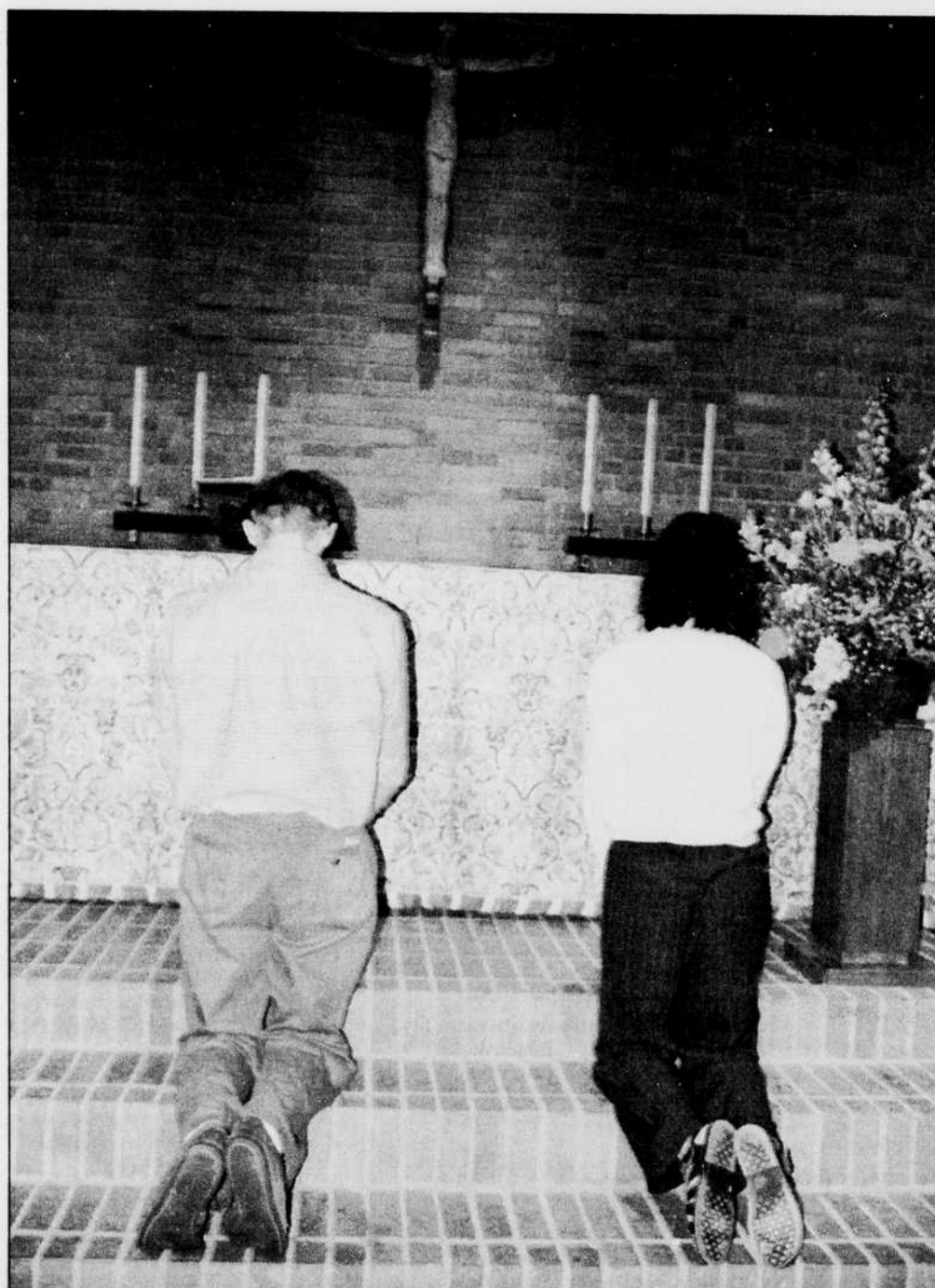
Today
Rain
High 45. Low 35.
Tuesday
Showers
High 44. Low 31.

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The ways we WORSHIP



AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

Sophomore Annie Chen and graduate student Chad Dorsey kneel in prayer at Central Lutheran Church. (Top) Junior Michael Mechanick plays guitar at Shabbat services at Hillel.

The campus and community offer students a variety of ways to express their spirituality

By Carl Yeh
Freelance Editor

To some of us, they are just buildings. But to others, churches, religious centers and even homes are places of sacred worship. There are myriad places where people can go to worship, and this diversity reflects the diversity of people who use them.

The Eugene area has many Christian churches, but senior Andrew Blazier, a Christian, says: "There aren't a whole lot of Christians here — at this campus, at least. I know this from experience. If you look at who is involved in Christian groups, there are about 500. There are about 17,000 stu-

dents at this University."

Senior Selena Brewington, who considers herself a "weak atheist" — an atheist completely renounces the possibility of God, she says — agrees for the most part. She guesses about 15 to 30 percent of the students at the University believe in an organized religion. However, she thinks spirituality, which she defines as "the belief that there are supernatural powers at work that in some way influence somebody's life," is something that most people embrace.

Brewington, a computer and informa-

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OPS offers advice on holiday safety

An officer suggests taking all valuables home for winter break to prevent burglaries

By Jesse Sowa
Community Reporter

Despite wanting to get out of the area as soon as possible after finals, students should take the time to secure their valuables and their dwellings to prevent items from being stolen, the Office of Public Safety advises.

Officer Robert Guse, the student patrol coordinator, suggests taking home items of monetary value, including hidden ones.

"You want to take the items that are a tempting target," he said. "You want to take the valuables that anybody knows about."

Guse said several things should be done inside your residence before leaving for the holidays. These things include making a list of possessions, hiding valuables that can't be taken home and closing the curtains.

Guse said students should

Safety tips

- Make a list of your valuables, including serial number, model, value and identifying marks
- Close the curtains
- Check around the residence for easy break-in points
- Have mail and newspaper held
- Buy an automated timer for lights

make a list of items left in an apartment or room in case someone does break in. This list should include serial and model numbers, value and any identifying marks on the items.

Closing the curtains in a house or apartment could keep thieves from targeting a residence.

Guse said taking items out of plain view in your apartment or house, as well as in your car, is a good idea. Hiding or removing detachable stereos and face plates, taking all items out of

Turn to SAFETY, Page 10

ASUO works to increase students' financial aid

Statistics show many students are taking out more loans and receiving fewer grants

By Michael Hines
Student Activities Reporter

It's 10 p.m., and you're studying in the EMU.

Do you know how much debt you've accumulated?

Chances are you'd rather bury your nose in a history book than think about it.

The University's 1997 June bachelor's degree graduates averaged \$17,400 in debt, said financial aid director Edmond Vignoul.

"I don't think that's unreasonable," he said. "I still believe that it's a worthwhile investment by students in themselves."

Students are currently relying on loans more than they have in the past, Vignoul said. Several years ago, students used loans for a one-third of their aid and grants for the remaining two-thirds. Now the grant-loan balance has switched, and students are taking twice as many loans.

"I would definitely like to see that go back, but it would take a substantial amount of money," Vignoul said, "and we just don't have that."

The ASUO plans on a major campaigning push during winter term to preserve financial aid, said ASUO Federal Affairs coordinator Melissa Watson. It wants to fight the grant-loan imbalance.

Specifically, the ASUO wants to raise the Pell Grant's maximum by \$300 and expand the eligibility requirements. It also wants to keep the Student Incentive Grant, graduate funding and Perkins Loan program, Watson said.

"We're looking to a real successful year, but it's going to be a fight," Watson said. "I think there's a lot of good forces behind us."

The ASUO also wants to lower interest rates on loans, but Watson said this will meet a stiff battle from the banking industry.

Finally, Watson said the ASUO wants to end the origination fee. The 4-percent fee is

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