

Board hears appeals

Students can appeal their traffic and parking tickets in front of the OPS Appeals Board and have their fines waived or reduced

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New rules for wrestlers

After the recent deaths of three wrestlers trying to make weight, the NCAA announced new restrictions on the ways wrestlers can drop pounds before competition

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TODAY

A discussion on solar access laws will be held at 177 Laurence Hall from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

WEATHER

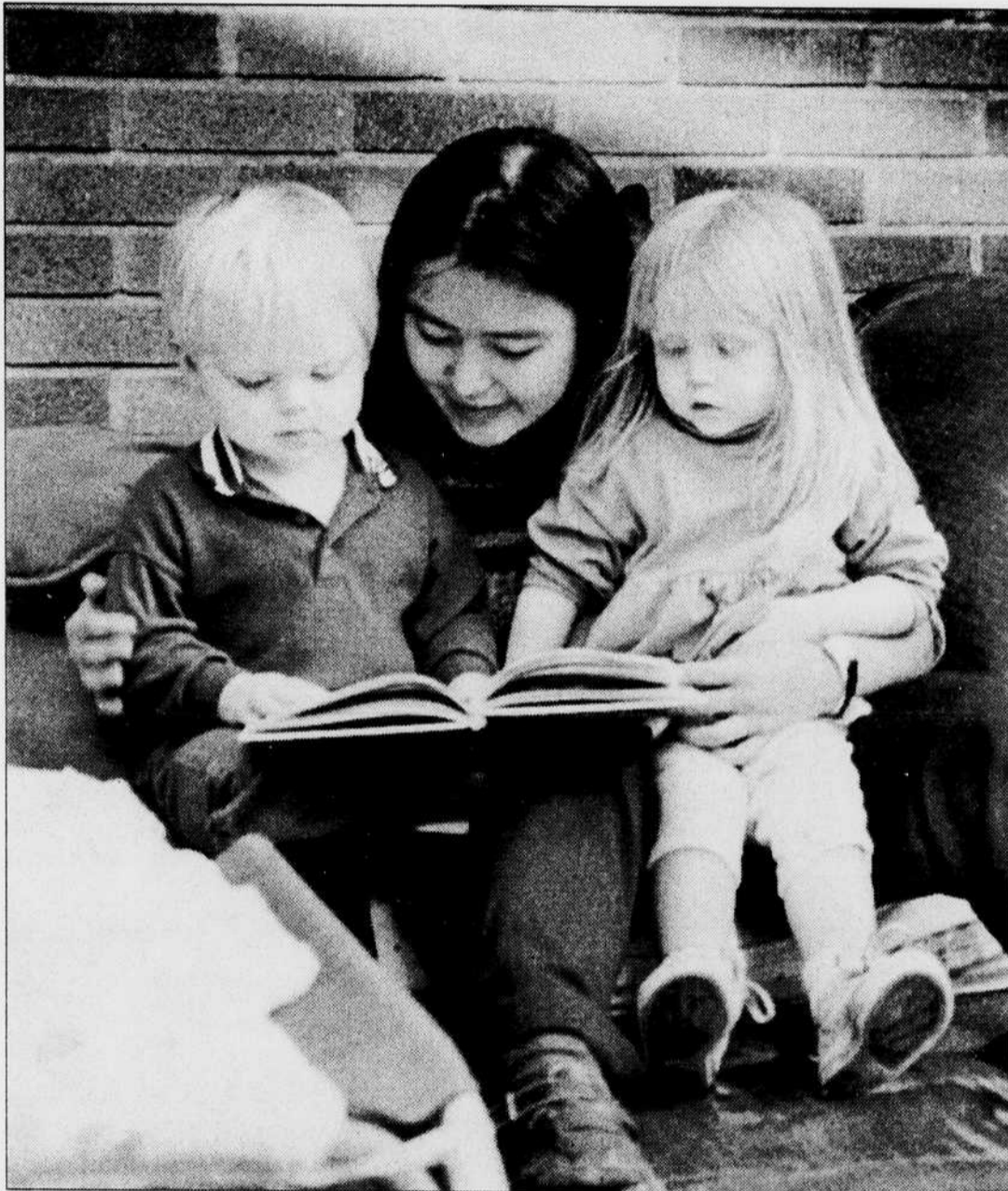
Today
Some rain
High 48. Low 38.
Thursday
Partly sunny
High 50. Low 40.

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CHILD CARE



LAURA GOSS/ Emerald

Sophomore Suzi Sathan-Art, reads to Jackson, 2, and Molly, 2, at the EMU Child Care Center.

Parents support UO day care

Students and parents say campus child care eases the stress of going to school and raising kids

By Kristina Rudinkas
Student Activities Reporter

Imagine all the stresses of college life: late night studying, classes, homework, term papers, finals and research.

Then imagine having to do all that and take care of a child. Imagine packing lunches, kissing skinned knees, soothing scary nightmares, buying new clothes and helping with homework. It's almost impossible to determine all the responsibilities that student-parents have to maintain on a day-to-day basis without worrying about where to find day care.

In 1969 University students held a sit-in at the president's office and demanded that the administration devise a system of child care for students and employees. Since then the student body and ASUO have actively supported University child care and development centers and eased the responsibilities for student-parents through affordable and flexible programs.

"It's the main reason I came to the University," said Jenna Wasson, whose son has been in the program for three years. Her family looked at the University of Denver, which didn't have on-site child care, and then decided on Oregon.

"When I first came here I didn't know who to trust or what was a good day care center," she explained. "My child had never been in a day-care center before."

Student interest in maintaining day care has been a concern on campus for a long time. Approximately 10 percent of overall funding goes to support University day care through the ASUO subsidy program, EMU budgets for Child Care Development Centers, funding for cooperative care and student incidental fees.

"I don't think the general student body is aware of how much is happening in terms of child care on this campus, and how much has happened for a long time,"

Turn to CARE, Page 3A

Campus hate crimes often underreported

Only 3.3 hate crimes a year are reported to OPS, but some say the actual figure is higher

By Chris Kenning
Student Activities Reporter

When Neyna Thompson arrived at college, she hoped she had left behind the gay-bashing that had forced her to leave her high school.

But what she hoped wouldn't follow her to the University did.

When she saw the words "Dyke Bitch" scrawled on her Hamilton Complex door, Thompson knew she hadn't escaped the harassment and bias that has followed her throughout her life.

"My first instinct was to erase it or cover it with paper. I didn't want to report it because I felt embarrassed," she said. Thompson, who is one of Hamilton's program assistants, said she eventually did call the Office of Public Safety.

"Things like this happen a lot. This campus is not hostile, but it's not exactly welcoming," she said. "Unless they're re-

ported, incidents like this will continue."

Between 1994 and 1996, OPS reported an average of only 3.3 harassment bias crimes a year, with two assaults associated with bias or hate.

"I can't believe those numbers," said Glen Banfield, director of the University's Race Task Force. "Easily 90 percent of hate crimes don't ever get reported."

Banfield said he knew of many bias crimes that were never reported because of a lack of trust in police and the trauma involved with reporting such crimes.

Hate or bias crimes, defined by state law as those motivated by prejudice based on such perceived characteristics as race, color, national origin and sexual orientation, are underreported both on campus and off, said Greg Rikhoff, director of Eugene's Human Rights Commission.

"Bias crimes are akin to domestic violence in number and the fact that they're incredibly underreported," said Rikhoff, who analyzes bias crime activi-

Turn to HATE, Page 5A

New program targets undeclared freshmen

The Discover Oregon Program will give first-year students time to get academic advice

By Nicole Kristal
Higher Education Reporter

Residence halls.
Cafeteria food.
Introductory courses.

These ideas usually come to mind when one thinks of freshmen at the University.

But next fall term, a new program targeting freshmen hopes to join this list: The Discover Oregon Program.

"It's an excellent idea," said Tom Dyke, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "The purpose behind it is to improve the experience of first-year students."

The program aims to enhance the academic and advising experiences of undeclared freshmen, improving both their performance and lowering college dropout rates.

The idea for the program originated in the College of Arts and Sciences, headed by Dean Joe Stone and Associate Dean Jo Anna Gray.

"It's one of several initiatives

in terms of attracting high-quality students and supporting them so they would stay here," Gray said.

Gray said, statistically, undeclared freshmen are more at risk for dropping out because of their unsuccessful college experiences.

Sherri Argyres, assistant director of Student Academic Progress, said another benefit of the program will be the small-class sizes.

"The class size will be 20 to 25 students," Argyres said, "so they can get to know each other through quality interaction."

She also said this will help students "create a sense of belonging on campus."

Argyres said proponents of the program hope to recruit anywhere from 500 to 700 students.

The one-credit, year-long program allocates time each term for students to visit Academic Learning Services and the Career Center, as well as the Advising Office to schedule classes for the next term.

"It will help those students find an academic home at the University," Argyres said.