

Active citizens

More than 25 Eugene activist groups gathered at a forum Wednesday evening sponsored by a new public interest group

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Seeking his destiny

Junior Terik Brown feels that he and the Ducks are eventually bound to play in the NCAA basketball tournament

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TODAY

A hearing on ASUO election rules will be in EMU Century E at 2 p.m.

WEATHER

Today
Showers
High 53. Low 39.
Friday
Rain
High 53. Low 40.

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Board votes to extend health care

The decision to grant benefits to gay and unmarried partners of state employees hinges on the outcome of a court case

By Michael Burnham
Community Editor

Last week the Public Employees Benefit Board voted to extend health benefits to the gay and unmarried heterosexual domestic partners of its employees effective June 1.

According to Mylia Wray, administrator of the Public Employees Benefit Board, the board voted 7-1 to extend benefits to approximately 45,000 state employees. But she said the extension of benefits is pending the outcome of a suit involving Oregon Health Sciences University and the state of Oregon.

The case stems from a 1996 Multnomah Circuit Court ruling that the OHSU must extend benefits under state law to its employees because not doing so violates the Oregon Constitution.

The state appealed the case, and it is now up to the Court of Appeals to decide who has the right to extend benefits under state law.

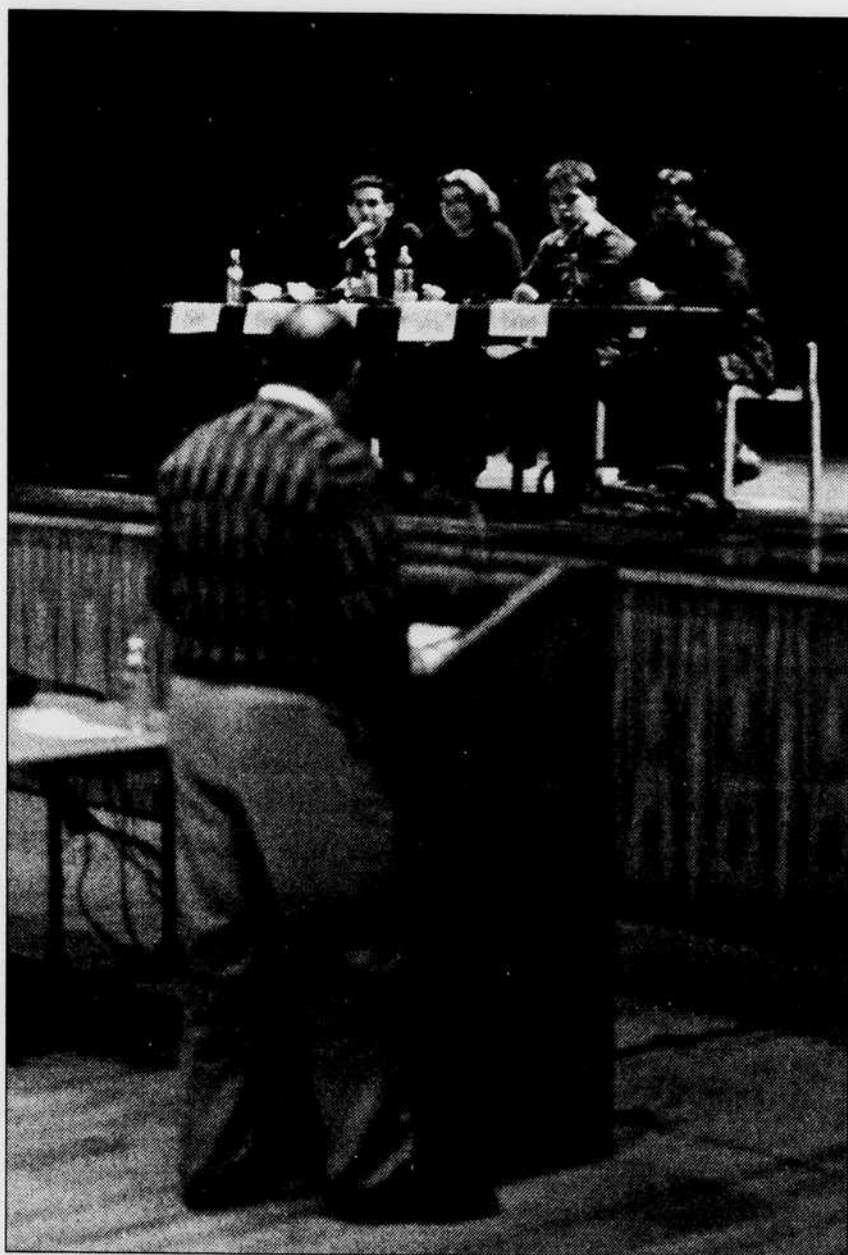
According to Wray, the policy would be implemented if the court rules the Public Employee Benefits Board is within its authority to extend benefits to state employees. If the court rules otherwise, she said the new policy is not likely to be implemented.

The move places Oregon with a growing number of states, counties, businesses and cities that have extended similar benefits to domestic partners of gay and unmarried heterosexual employees.

The city of Eugene will extend health care benefits to the domestic partners of its non-unionized employees beginning July 1. The

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Mind games



MATT GARTON/Emerald

The College Bowl campus finals finished Wednesday night in the EMU Ballroom. The winners will go on to the regional finals at the University of Montana.

UO professors want program on film studies

The University offers 17 film studies courses, but some students would like the option to earn an actual certificate

By Kristina Rudinskas
Student Activities Reporter

What do East Asian languages, English, folklore, political science and Romance languages all have in common?

Film studies classes.

Professors Kathleen Karlyn and Julia Lesage are working toward integrating an interdisciplinary certificate for film studies administered through the English department. It would be based on a combination of existing film courses.

"It would be a way of formalizing a connection among the courses," Karlyn explained. "Students who want to study film would have a more systematic program, carefully designed and not so random."

Students would take a core set of classes as a foundation, with an opportunity to choose from numerous electives for the interdisciplinary certificate, Karlyn said. This would ensure that students were exposed to a certain basic ideas. The certificate would be noted on the student's transcript.

Today, the University offers film-related courses in 17 different departments. A list of almost 40 of the previously offered courses is available through the House of Film Web page gladstone.uoregon.edu/~movies. The Web page also directs students to film-related courses in creative writing, fine and applied arts, theater arts and journalism.

House of Film is a student group that works to develop an independent film-making community at the University. It supports the move to add a film studies interdisciplinary certificate.

"Today we are more and more involved in media," said Jeff Miholer, administrative coordinator for House of Film. "It is a more

Turn to **FILM**, Page 3

Housing director proposes sweeping changes for residence halls

Mike Eyster wants to crack down on the rising number of violations of the conduct policy

By Michael Hines
Student Activities Reporter

University Housing Director Mike Eyster leaned back thoughtfully in his chair.

With his tie loosened and the top button on his white shirt open, Eyster finally leaned forward in his chair.

"It's doing more of what we've always tried to do," he finally said.

"It" is the numerous sweeping changes that Eyster, in his seventh year as director, is considering making to the housing system for next year. And he has difficulty trying to explain what it means.

"We're considering doing much more in a single year since I've been here," he explained.

These proposals — should they be instituted — are bound to impact the financial, organizational and structural state of University Housing in coming years.

Housing needs some changes, Eyster said.

During his time as director, he said he has become more concerned with what he calls

the "folklore" and "mythology" of housing as a place to party.

Eyster has proposed changes within the housing staff, and he has proposed charging residents found in violation of the conduct code a \$10 fee.

"Every year we do a little bit more," he said of the housing conduct policy, "but it doesn't seem to make a difference."

Some residents seem to think housing is a place tolerant of rowdy behavior, drinking and doing drugs, Eyster said.

"That is not the impression I want people to have. I don't think we're looking for a monastery," he said. "But the impression I've increasingly gotten over the years from students is that people are increasingly frustrated."

"People come in with misconceptions about the rules," said Josh Greenough, chair of the Residence Hall Governance Committee. "People are under the misconception that they are under total freedom to violate the policy of University Housing." Many

students leave the residence halls because of this kind of behavior, he added.

The preliminary conduct numbers for fall term were high, according to Residence Life director DJ Morales. Resident assistants wrote 290 incident reports for noise, 214 for alcohol and 95 for drugs. She added that the high numbers are because of increased resident assistant activity and not because conduct is getting worse.

Eyster described the fall term conduct load as "phenomenal."

"We need to do something different in terms of conduct," he said. "The students that want to study are leaving. They think that people are getting away with policy violations and nothing is happening."

This is partly due to the length of time the conduct system takes to process an incident, he said.

Hamilton resident director David Bayless said the average time it takes for a resident to

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STUDENT HOUSING



This is the first in a two-part series covering proposed changes in University Housing next year.

■ **TODAY:** proposed conduct changes

■ **FRIDAY:** proposed financial changes