

Moving quickly

Oregon wrestler Chael Sonnen, who has 12 pins this season, calls himself "slick and quick"

PAGE 5A

Heart attack

With Valentine's Day only four days away, here's a barrage of love-laden stories

PAGE 1B

TODAY

Alicia Quintano will speak in the Agate Auditorium at 7 p.m.

WEATHER

Today
Rain
High 55. Low 42.
Wednesday
Showers
High 55. Low 41.

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City Council denies plans to fire Elmer

Some officials
have heard
rumors the
Council will
consider firing
Elmer

By Michael Burnham and
Tricia Duryee
Oregon Daily Emerald

With the ability to hire and fire the city manager at will, the City Council is rumored as planning to take advantage of its city charter power on Wednesday, despite vocal support for City Manager Vicki Elmer.

A press conference was held at City Council Chambers Monday by representatives from Citizens for Public Accountability, former City Council members and critics of the City Council.

resignation, which in turn stirred up criticism of Elmer from members of the community.

Metro Wastewater Commissioner Ruth Duemler said she heard from at least four "very reliable" sources that the City Council and Mayor Jim Torrey would be deciding whether to fire Elmer at Wednesday's council meeting. However, Torrey and other council members have denied this rumor. As of Monday afternoon, Torrey was unavailable for comment.

"I believe this was organized a long time beforehand," Duemler said in regard to Eugene Police Chief Leonard Cooke's recent

resignation, which in turn stirred up criticism of Elmer from members of the community.

"People who talked to me in the past few weeks said that this is an escalating problem because we are having a lot of development issues that are coming to the forefront right now," Duemler added.

Some of the issues Duemler alluded to were upcoming council action on wetlands development and land-use decisions that



ELMER

Turn to ELMER, Page 4A

UO brings science to schools

A University outreach program teaches middle and elementary school students about science

By Teri Meeuwse
Higher Education Reporter

Field trips in wetlands and public lectures about Antarctic fossils are activities created through the University Science Outreach Program.

The program was designed by biology Professor Nathan Tublitz and six other professors three years ago to educate elementary and middle school students about different aspects of science, Tublitz said. The fun and interesting sides of topics such as geology, psychology and physics are examined and discussed.

"It gets children exposed to science and the fun aspects of science," he said. "It's something special teaching such young kids. It's different and unique. They act like sponges. They just can't get enough info. They're in that 'gee whiz' stage where everything is pretty interesting. It's very invigorating."

A three-part lecture series titled "A Touch of Science" was added this year. This term's lecture, "The Earth's Greatest Mid-life Crisis: Permian/Triassic Extinctions," will be held today for South Eugene High School students and again for the general public at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Geology Professor Greg Retallack will present slides of Antarctica and fossils at both lectures.

"Science is pretty important these days," he said. "What we do on campus is done with public funds, and it's good to let [the public] know what we're doing."

An example of using public funds is a trip Retallack took to Antarctica in 1995, the same trip shown in the slides he will present at the lecture.

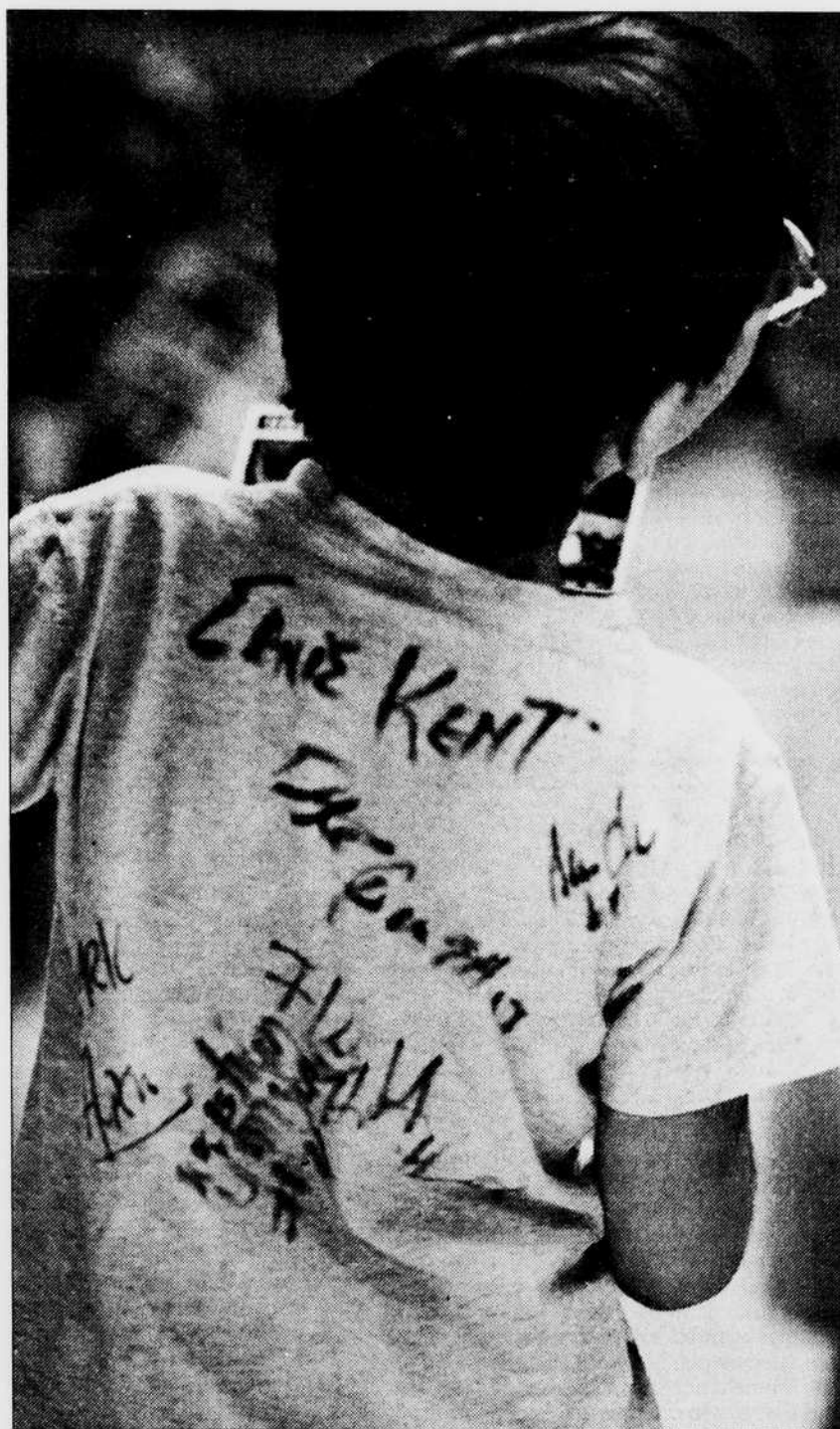
"[The lecture] will show who geologists are and what they do," he said.

The outreach program arranges classroom visits from professors and trips to wetlands and creates school science kits and long-term school curricula for 30 to 40 elementary and middle schools.

Coburg Elementary School Principal Lo-

Turn to SCIENCE, Page 4A

Sign me up



AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

Adam Bruce, a member of the Oregon Special Olympics, patiently waits to add another signature to his shirt at the University of Oregon Basketball Clinic held at Mac Court Sunday afternoon. Members of the Special Olympics got to play basketball with the men's team and get the team's autographs.

EMU board asks Senate for funding

The board said it would be less expensive to install sprinklers and the heating and cooling system at the same time

By Kristina Rudinskis
Student Activities Reporter

Heated debate took place between the EMU board representative to the Student Senate and other Senate members. The EMU board is now asking the Senate for \$350,000 to fund several EMU development projects.

Previously, the EMU board asked the Senate for \$383,000 to be taken from the Overrealized Fund, but only \$376,000 is currently available. The proposed funding, if passed, would leave \$27,000 in the fund for the Student Senate to access for the remainder of the school year.

"We're elected representatives; it's our job to decide how to spend that money," said Jenna Wasson, EMU board representative.

The money in question would include \$25,000 for a heating and cooling system in the EMU Computing Center, \$50,000 for a mandated sprinkler system in the EMU basement and \$275,000 for partial funding of an elevator in the International Student Lounge.

It would be less expensive for the EMU to install the sprinkler system at the same time as the heating/cooling system in the computing center, according to EMU board President Kim Guevara. She anticipates \$5,000 to \$6,000 in total savings if the projects are done simultaneously.

"It is important for the sprinkler system right now because of the time frame for construction," Guevara said. "It was our original goal to do this as early as possible."

Senators brainstormed alternative ways to approve the money. Some suggested allowing students to decide by placing some of the requests on the student ballot.

"The bigger problem is that people don't know," said Farrah Bostic, a concerned student who attended the meeting. "It's a legitimate concern for the students who are paying for it."

Black requested the EMU board submit more information about the proposed construction projects — including a time-line of the projects and copies of the studies done

Turn to EMU, Page 4A