

Pesticides in river

Five potentially carcinogenic pesticides found in the Willamette River are under review by the EPA

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Women win again

The Ducks pulled off a fifth straight win over the Huskies Saturday with an 11-0 run in the second half

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TODAY

Although it is Presidents Day, classes will still be held today at the University.

WEATHER

Today
Mostly cloudy
High 50. Low 37.
Tuesday
Showers
High 53. Low 36.

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East meets West



AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

Ugyen Shola and Migmar Gyalhub perform the Tibetan Folk Dance at the main stage of the Asian Celebration.



AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

The traditional Chinese Lion dance is performed at the Asian Celebration Saturday afternoon at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

UO to honor black history, achievement

The Black Student Union is sponsoring events in honor of Black History Month

By Chris Kenning
Student Activities Reporter

Speakers, films and think tanks are among the events scheduled for this year's Black History Month, an annual celebration of African-American history, culture and achievement. The Black Student Union is sponsoring campus events that will run through February.

"We need a time when we can acknowledge our own history, as well as all of the contributions we have made to civilization," BSU director Lakeyshua Washington said.

Historians point out that before this century, African-Americans were thought to have contributed little to civilization and were visibly absent from historical and intellectual scholarship.

Adjunct Professor William Toll, who teaches African-American history, said the celebration was started as Negro History Week in 1926 by Carter Goodwin, an African-American, Harvard-educated scholar. The event, later termed Black History Week, was expanded to a month in 1976.

"Black History Month helped motivate the black community to put more emphasis on their history, achievements and struggles, and not just concentrate on the history of slavery," Toll said.

The month of February is significant because several influential, black journals began in February during the early 1900s. The month also contains the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, Langston Hughes, W.E.B. DuBois, the NAACP and the first Pan African Congress.

This year's events include a three-day think tank, which takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room on Feb. 18, 19 and 20. The event is titled "How



The annual event was a blend of art, food and dance from many Asian cultures

By Tricia Duryee
Community Reporter

Numerous cultures came together this weekend to celebrate the uniqueness of their food, dance, crafts and art at the 13th annual Asian Celebration. This year's theme of the celebration was represented by the "Spirit of the Tiger."

"There is a diversity of cultures represented here," said Nou Cha,

co-director of the Asian/Pacific-American Student Union.

The group was responsible for cleaning up after the cooking demonstrations and also for manning a drink booth. "We get a little money, but a lot of it is to get our club back into the community. This is one of the biggest events of

"There is a diversity of cultures represented here."

Nou Cha
APASU co-director

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Learning disabled students face daily academic challenges

Students who have learning disabilities say school can be tough, but many are dedicated and committed to the task

By Doug Irving
Student Activities Editor

Dan Adkisson tried to learn the word "the" when he was 7 years old.

His family was on vacation in Madrid, Spain. His father sat him down one warm afternoon and started teaching him how to read. They gave up two hours later, his father in frustration, Dan in tears.

"I could not learn how to put three letters together and spell the most common word in the English language," said Adkisson,

now a University freshman studying psychology and special education. "It was like trying to get over a 12-foot wall. You might be able to touch the top of it, but you just can't pull yourself over."

"It was honestly one of the most challenging things I ever did in my life. Much more challenging than college."

About 500 students with some sort of learning disability attend the University. They range from people with minor comprehension difficulties to people like Adkisson who cannot read.

"Learning disability" has been used to lump people together who learn differently. The term includes physical problems such as blindness or deafness; psychiatric problems such as panic attacks and depression;

and "traditional" learning disabilities such as attention deficit disorder or dyslexia.

It means learning ability doesn't match intelligence.

Hillary Gerdes, the University's counselor for students with disabilities, holds her left hand high above her head. "Their IQ could be way up here," she explains. Her right hand dips below her lap. "But their [learning] ability is down here."

Emily Johnson couldn't read when she was 7, even though her parents were amazed by her spoken vocabulary.

She bounced between public and private schools, taking remedial classes and fighting to succeed. She took the Honors English test her senior year and passed — surprising the

teachers who had told her not to even try.

"They had never met a learning disability student who wanted to take a foreign language and thought she could go to a four-year college," Johnson said. "They were very confident I would fail."

Johnson is now a senior studying romance languages and special education. She speaks French and Spanish, but admits she's much stronger in French.

She's learned to adapt to her strengths, staying away from math and focusing on foreign languages. She's gone slower in school, usually taking 12 credits each term.

"The terms that I tried to take more have certainly been mistakes," she said. "I should know

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