

Diagnosing disorders

Chronic dieting, guilt related to eating and negative body image are some indicators of disordered eating

PAGE 4

Peace possibility

Iraq and the United Nations reach an agreement, but the United States has not yet approved it. The Security Council will be the first to review details

PAGE 6

TODAY

Today is the first day of Spring Term registration. Don't forget your PAC.

WEATHER

Today
Rain
High 50. Low 35.
Tuesday
Showers
High 53. Low 34.

University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper
Volume 99, Issue 102

Professor discusses Asian crisis

Professor Bruce Blonigen said the trouble may have begun when Japan raised its interest rates in the summer of 1997

By Adam Rice
Freelance Reporter

Bruce Blonigen, assistant professor of economics, explained the complexities of the current economic crisis in Asia to nearly 50 students during the International Students Association's weekly coffee hour last Friday.

Economists speculate that many Southeast Asian countries' economies began to fall apart when Japanese officials started raising interest rates in the summer of 1997, Blonigen said. The rising interest rates scared many investors. Shortly after that, several other Asian currencies depreciated, he said.

By July 2, Thailand had devalued its currency and from there others followed, such as the Filipino peso, Blonigen said. This sparked many governments' decisions to allow their exchange rates to be affected by everyday global market forces.

In the past, they had been pegging their exchange rate to the dollar. This means that no matter what, they would keep their currencies at a steady one-to-one rate with the U.S. dollar; instead, they allowed their currency to "float" up and down, Blonigen said.

This also frightened a lot of investors, who left those countries and took their money with them by selling their shares of those particular currencies. The exchange rates began to fall then as well.

Speculators, or people who buy and sell foreign currencies, attempt to predict the future value of currencies. They will trade or buy based on the way the market in those countries could potentially pay off. Their actions actually make the currencies fluctuate in value.

"If a currency goes down, then they start

Turn to **CRISIS**, Page 3

Skate hard



AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

Junior Keith Stephens takes advantage of the break in the rain Sunday afternoon to skateboard under a bridge near the Autzen Foot Bridge.

Speaker says Christianity is the key

Michael Horner believes that God is the best explanation for a universe that supports life

By Jesse Sowa
Community Reporter

Michael Horner found his profession in a very interesting way.

When he was a student at the University of Calgary in Canada, Horner thought he was attending a concert by Josh, a rock 'n' roll group; instead, he walked in on a Christian speaker named Josh McDowell, who was talking about the difference between knowing God and knowing about God.

"I was at a point in my life where I was going to let [church] quietly slip out of my life," Horner said in an interview Sunday.



HORNER

Horner, now an experienced speaker who lectures to thousands of students primarily in the United States and Canada each year, will speak tonight on campus. His speech is titled "Does God Exist?: Does scientific evidence support or refute a belief in God?"

Horner will focus on two ideas: First, God is the explanation for the existence of the universe; and second, God is the best explanation for a universe that supports life.

Horner said McDowell explained how people believe that a personal relationship with God is hard to maintain.

"I realized I was a pretty self-centered person, and unless God changed me in the inside, I was probably going to be part of the problem," he said. "That was the day I made a commitment to God, let him change my life."

Horner joined Campus Crusade for Christ, a sponsor of tonight's lecture, which he said helped him to better understand God. Later, he found the need for a person to "intelligently defend the Christian truth claims on the university campuses."

Turn to **CHRISTIAN**, Page 3

'Paths to Peace': Rabbi to discuss Palestinian-Israeli conflict

The speech is part of a year-long program that focuses on the possibility of peace in the Middle East

By Laura Cadiz
Higher Education Editor

Los Angeles Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller will share his views on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict today at the University.

"He is an active seeker of peace," said Diane Baxter, co-chair of the Carlton Raymond and Wilberta Ripley Savage International Relations and Peace Committee, which is partially sponsoring Seidler-Feller's trip. "He wants to look for ways in which Israelis and Palestinians can achieve peace with each other while also providing justice and being open to dialogue."

Seidler-Feller, a nationally recognized advocate for speech and diversity, will present his speech, "Paths to Peace: Jewish Perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," as part of a year-long program that focuses on the possibility of peace in the Mid-

dle East.

The program is partially sponsored by the Wilberta Ripley Savage Endowment on International Relations and Peace, which has a mission of finding peaceful solutions to international conflicts. The endowment brought Shiite Muslim and religious historian Mahmoud Ayoub to give an Islamic perspective on Feb. 18.

Baxter said both scholars wanted to speak together, but their schedules would not allow it to happen.

Seidler-Feller has been the director of the UCLA Hillel since 1975, and in that time he has helped develop programs that attempt to reduce ethnic tension at UCLA.

"We chose [Seidler-Feller] because he's a very highly respected scholar of Judaism who has enormous experience in studying and speaking about this topic," Baxter said.

Baxter said Seidler-Feller does not fit the normal role of an Orthodox Jew, as he does not lean to the right side of the political spectrum.

"He is quite liberal in political thinking and attempts to dialogue with Palestinians in an attempt to solve for this conflict," she said.

Baxter also labeled Seidler-Feller a creative thinker because she said he finds different and creative ways to think about problems that do not seem to have a solution.

"He's a very interesting and challenging speaker," she said. "People who have heard him talk almost always find something new to think about."

The lecture is free and open to the public. It takes place today from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in 100 Willamette.

"People who have heard him talk almost always find something new to think about."

Diane Baxter
Endowment co-chair