

Single parents on-line

University single parents are now using electronic newsgroups to share ideas about parenting and as a way to ask each other for help with child care

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Fighting adversity

Rachel Astrella, a water polo goaltender, plays a crucial role in her team's defense while adapting to a disease that causes her pain in her right hip

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TODAY

The Jewish Student Union presents Israel night in the EMU Fir room at 8 p.m.

WEATHER

Today
Showers
High 50. Low 34.
Thursday
Showers
High 48. Low 34.

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Court date set for Smith, McCullough

The two football players were charged with assaulting a bouncer at a bar on Feb. 1

By Ryan Frank
Sports Editor

Oregon quarterback Akili Smith and former Oregon running back Saladin McCullough will appear in Springfield Municipal Court on March 5 at 8 a.m. for their role in an attack on a bouncer at the Mill Camp Saloon on Feb. 1.

Both men were charged with fourth-degree assault, second-degree trespass and harassment by the Springfield city prosecutor on Tuesday, and Smith was charged with an additional count of harassment.

Dave Williford, director of Oregon's media services, said Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti was out of town and had no further comment on the incident.

Bellotti suspended Smith, who started seven games last fall, on Feb. 16 after he was arrested and charged with drunk driving early Feb. 14.

Williford and Oregon athletic director Bill Moos said no changes would be made in Smith's suspension.

Moos said Tuesday he will meet with Bellotti when the coach returns to Eugene and "will be working to resolve this and to continue to educate student-athletes that they are role models."

Smith, 22, will appear in Eugene Municipal Court on Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. on the drunk driving charges.

According to a Springfield Police Department press release, the incident at the Mill Camp Saloon began when two men were asked to leave the premises after one of the suspects was refused entry because he did not show proper identification.

A confrontation occurred in the parking lot between the two men and bouncers Steve Underwood and Mike Stam. According to the press release, Underwood and Stam were allegedly attacked by the two men, injuring Underwood, who Mill Camp owner Jeff Gaulton

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Circle of thoughts



MARY K. CHANG/Freelance

Professor Erica Dukehart (sitting on the ground) and honors college students discussed whether the United States should go to war with Iraq during class outside Gerlinger Hall Tuesday afternoon.

Teachers help impoverished communities

A group provides teaching jobs in poor neighborhoods for recent college graduates

By Di Nguyen
Freelance Reporter

A good teacher is hard to find. Many of the school districts across the United States are finding it more difficult to attract and retain high-quality teachers. Whether the problem is a lack of resources or the living conditions found in many of these poverty-stricken communities, schools are finding that many of their teaching positions are left unfilled, and their children, uneducated.

A group known as Teach for America hopes to increase the quantity and quality of the teachers in these areas.

Established in 1990, Teach for America seeks to deploy America's brightest and most dedicated college graduates to schools that are lacking even the most basic resources. Teach for America corps members, who come from all academic majors and ethnic backgrounds, spend at least two years of their post-college lives teaching in these underprivileged areas.

Since its founding, more than 4,000 graduates have taught in 13 different areas throughout the country — graduates like Eloina Gonzalez.

Gonzalez, a 1997 University alumna, graduated with a degree in political science and international studies with a minor in Spanish. Gonzalez now teaches a bilingual kindergarten class in Phoenix, Ariz., but plans to go to law school.

For some, the Teach for America program is a way to get into the teaching profession. For others like Gonzalez, Teach for America is viewed more as a community service than as a means to an end.

"I really wanted to be in a community

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UO deans challenge importance of rankings

Law school Dean Rennard Strickland said a magazine's rankings are a 'laughing stock'

By Teri Meeuwsen
Higher Education Reporter

The University's graduate programs are among the best in the country in architecture, education and law, according to U.S. News & World Report. But to the University's law dean, the ranking system is "really a laughing stock."

The magazine's annual "Best Graduate Schools" edition, released Feb. 20, originally listed the University's graduate program overall as 37th in the nation's top 50.

The College of Education's graduate program in special education ranked fourth in the nation, the architecture program ranked 15th, the environmental law program ranked ninth and the overall law graduate

program was in the second tier — just below the top 50.

However, the rankings were nulled, said law school Dean Rennard Strickland. After printing the rankings, U.S. News & World Report had to withdraw them because of mistakes made during the information-gathering process.

"No one takes them seriously anymore," he said. "They're really a laughing stock. They use the 'one size fits all' way at looking at law schools. They've lost their face."

Some U.S. law schools, including the University's, are challenging the ranking system. At a news conference in New York City on Feb. 18, the Association of American Law Schools asked the magazine to stop publishing its rankings. The AALS released a recently completed independent study that found serious problems with the way U.S. News & World Report evaluates

law schools.

The magazine's survey considers student selectivity, placement success, faculty resources and separate measures of institutional reputation.

The AALS distributed letters to 93,000 law school applicants titled "Law School Ranking May be Hazardous to Your Health." The letter was endorsed by Strickland and deans of 164 of the 180 law schools approved by the American Bar Association, including some of the most highly ranked law schools in the rankings.

Any ranking system should be looked at carefully when using it to choose schools, said Martin Kaufman, dean of the College of Education.

"No ranking system is a good ranking system," he said. "We should take these [rankings] with a grain of salt."

Lights out

Parts of the University were stuck in the dark Tuesday.

A lightning arrester near Autzen Stadium failed at 4:10 p.m., causing parts of the University to lose power.

A lightning arrester is a pole that protects Eugene Water and Electric Board equipment during lightning storms, EWEB communications coordinator John Mitchell said. EWEB workers had to reenergize the arrester and had power restored by approximately 4:45 p.m.

"This time of year, I would say it was caused by either a fuse or animal, but I can't be sure," he said. Officials had not determined the cause as of 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

EWEB didn't receive many complaints from the University, Mitchell said.

— Teri Meeuwsen