News Briefs

Progressives sponsor riverfront cleanup

The Progressive slate will sponsor a riverfront cleanup at 11 a.m. on Sat-

The group invited every candidate for the ASUO presidency to speak at the cleanup.

Participants will also clean up the river bank where the proposed Riverfront Research Park would be. The event is partly to raise awareness about the research park.

The cleanup will start at the Autzen Foot Bridge.

Local children invited to UO Easter egg hunt

A group of University students will host an East-er egg hunt Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon on the EMU East Lawn.

Organizer Brandon Smith expects 300 to 500 children to attend the free event. The group has received about \$7,000 in donations, mostly in the form of airtime advertisement donations from KDUK radio station.

The Oregon Duck and the Easter Bunny will also attend the hunt, which will give away about \$1,000 in candy and prizes.

Fraternity's charity auction breaks rules

The Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils were not notified about the event beforeband

By Matthew Conover

A charity auction held Wednesday night at the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity ended after police issued a noise disturbance. The event, which reportedly raised \$1,400 for Eugene Big Brothers/Big Sisters, also prompted neighbors to complain to the authorities.

The Interfraternity and Panhel-

lenic councils, the groups that enforce the rules of the University's greek system, have strict guidelines covering events such as the one Wednesday night.

According to Marissa Ramsdell, president of the Panhellenic Council, if alcohol, 15 or more guests and at least 20 percent of current members are under one roof, the councils need to hear about it. She said the fraternity didn't tell anybody but the sororities present at the auction.

According to the Eugene Police Department, between 75 and 100 guests came to support the frater-nity. The ensuing noise prompted neighbors to report the incident.

The police said they could hear screaming a block away when they arrived and told Tyler Smith, vice president of the fraternity, to end the party. The noise continued 10 minutes after the police demanded the house be cleared.

Ramsdell arrived at the house during a routine check and allowed EPD officers to enter. "The house was clearly decorated with party paper and a stage," Officer J. Boyd wrote in his report. "[We] also observed an abundance of empty alcoholic beverage containers strewn throughout the house."

Smith asked the guests to disperse. However, the police report stated that they became belligerent toward the police and screamed obscenities. While police were writing the citation, a person poured an alcoholic beverage from a second-story bedroom window, just missing the officers.

Smith was fined \$350 dollars, and the fraternity will be brought before a tribunal for breaking Interfraternity Council rules. Possible punishments include 10 hours of compulsory community service for all of the fraternity members and the loss of one formal function.

Geneticists to discuss evolution at forum

Evolutionary scientists will explore mechanisms of species formation at Saturday's symposium

By Mark Yates

The country's leading evolutionary geneticists will meet at the University on Saturday to compare their notes on evolution. Specifically, they will examine the mechanisms of species forma-

Understanding how a new species develops remains one of the most fundamental questions of evolution. Although the theory of evolution has been around for almost 140 years, scientists still wrestle with the genetic details of speciation.

This weekend's symposium is organized by biology Professor John Willis and ecology Professor Emilia Martins. "We have a lot of ideas on how [speciation] might occur; we just don't have a lot of data," said Willis, who teaches ge-

netics and evolution. "This conference will allow scientists to talk to each other and collaborate.

Willis said most people are familiar with the idea that species formation depends on geographic isolation. For example, it has been shown that squirrels that once belonged to the same species, but which lived on opposite sides of the Grand Canyon, evolved into separate species.

However, William Rice, a symposium participant from the University of California at Santa Cruz, showed that two species of fruit flies could evolve without being geographically isolated.

His 1990 findings showed that speciation could occur as a byproduct of habitat selection. Flies that favored high places eventually evolved into a separate species from those that chose low places. This means that geographic isola-tion is not required for a new species to develop.

While this theory of speciation has been around for many years, its molecular mechanism is poor-

ly understood. "Darwin couldn't explain how reproductive isola-tion evolved," Willis said. "He didn't know about genes.'

But today's scientists do.

When Watson and Crick discovered the structure of DNA in 1953, scientists immediately set about studying the newly discovered DNA. The tools they developed are now employed by some of the geneticists coming to the symposium. By examining the genetic and physical changes that occur when species are cross-bred or changed in the lab, scientists hope to shed light on how genes change over time.

Although Willis does not see any medical applications developing out of the research presented this weekend, he does think it will eventually help explain the enormous diversity of life on this planet.

The symposium is free and open to the public. It will be held in 100 Willamette and begins with a lecture at 8:30 a.m. and ends with a discussion at 5 p.m.

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