

'Kurt and Courtney'

The scathing BBC documentary about the late grunge musician and his wife will open tonight at the Bijou

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Track to Des Moines

The men's and women's track and field teams will travel to Iowa for the Drake Relays this weekend



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TODAY

The first annual Bicycle Expo will take place at 10 a.m. in the EMU Amphitheater.

WEATHER

Today
Showers
High 59. Low 45.
Saturday
Cloudy
High 63. Low 47.

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Wortman, Cowling snatch executive

OSPIRG denied funding for first time since '71

More than 15 percent of students voted in the final ASUO election

By Chris Kenning
Student Activities Reporter

Geneva Wortman and Morgan Cowling inched past solo candidate Kelli McCartan by 99 votes to claim next year's ASUO executive post.

In an unexpected ballot measure upset, the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group

(OSPIRG) came up 143 votes short of obtaining any of its \$147,390 incidental fee budget for the first time since 1971. In 1996, 63 percent of student voters approved the group; while this year the approval rate narrowed to 47 percent.

From their victory party late Thursday night, Wortman and Cowling said they were "shocked" and "thrilled" about the win. But they said the de-

Turn to **ELECTION**, Page 3**ASUO executive results**

GENEVA WORTMAN

MORGAN COWLING

It's a bittersweet victory. A lot of people lost their jobs today.

— Geneva Wortman
President-elect

Elections results unofficial until grievances are settled

More than 10 elections complaints have now been filed with the Constitution Court

By Michael Hines
Student Activities Reporter

When it rains, it pours. What started as a drizzle of complaints is now overflowing the ASUO Constitution Court's gutters.

Because of the flood of grievances, the court decided to make Thursday's election results un-

official until all elections grievances have been settled, said Chief Justice Joel Corcoran. That could mean the results will not become official until the middle of May.

ASUO President Bill Miner filed a grievance against Jonathan Collegio, athletic department finance senator, seat No. 7, asking for his removal from the ballot for using a megaphone on 13th Avenue on Wednesday. The use of a mega-

Turn to **GRIEVANCES**, Page 3

Health plan extended to domestic partners

A state board voted to extend benefits despite pending lawsuits after receiving the go-ahead from the state attorney general's office

By Michael Burnham
Community Editor

The state Public Employees' Benefits Board voted unanimously on Tuesday to extend health care benefits to unmarried gay and heterosexual domestic partners of state employees, effective June 1.

The vote comes almost four months after the board initially voted to extend such benefits to about 45,000 employees. The original vote was not implemented because of a lawsuit. An employee at Oregon Health Sciences University sued the state of Oregon for failing to extend health care benefits to her domestic partner.

Although the case is still wrapped up in appeals court, the board voted to go ahead with the decision.

Tuesday's vote comes after the state attorney general's office, which represents the board, said to go ahead and extend benefits.

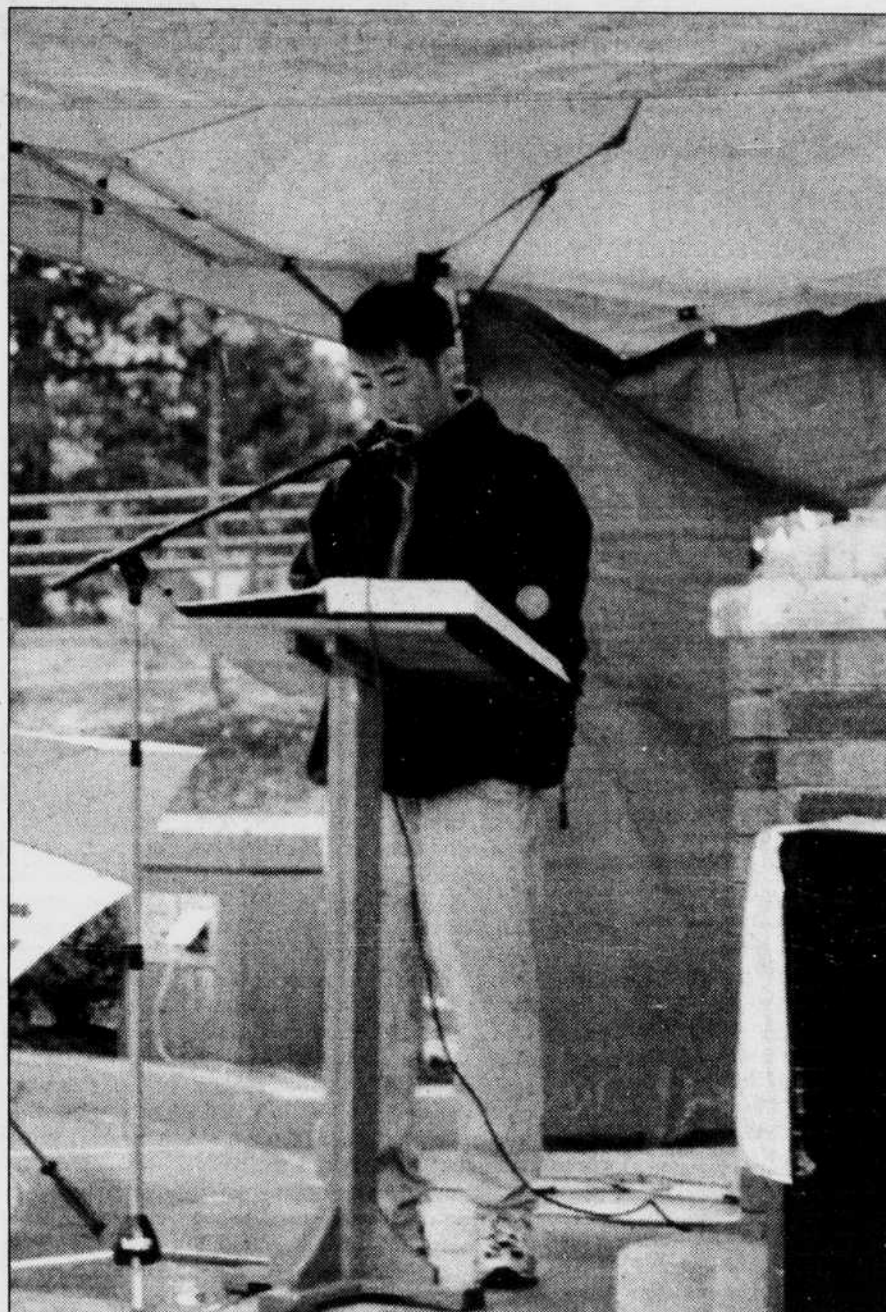
According to Kristen Grainger, spokeswoman for the attorney general, the board was told to proceed because of developments in the OHSU case that might affect the court's ruling. Grainger said the plaintiffs in the case are now receiving health care benefits through OHSU, which means they won't have to rely on the state for such benefits. These developments have raised questions as to whether the appeals court will proceed with the case.

"[The Tanner vs. Oregon case] is still pending and there are questions in the court's mind on whether to proceed," Grainger said. The Public Employees' Benefits Board asked the attorney general's office if its position could be defended in court, and the office told them to go ahead with the decision.

The attorney general's office also gave the thumbs up because the board now possesses more clout. The current board was formed earlier this year, consolidating two smaller benefits boards. Grainger said the boards had different sets of statutes before

Turn to **HEALTH**, Page 3

The names of the victims



LAURA GOSS/Emerald

From sundown Wednesday to sundown Thursday Khamsouk Soukbaseum, Lester Cummings and other volunteers read names of Holocaust victims in the EMU Amphitheater.

"[The Tanner vs. Oregon case] is still pending and there are questions in the court's mind on whether to proceed."

Kristen Grainger
Spokeswoman for the attorney general