

Black arts featured

A festival showcasing African-American art, music, dancing, cuisine and poetry continues until 7 p.m. today

PAGE 4

Oregon is 'in the hunt'

The Oregon men's golf coach said his team has played well on an unfamiliar golf course in the Pacific-10 Conference Championships

PAGE 7

TODAY

Academic Advising presents "Applying to Graduate School" at 3:30 p.m. in 164 Oregon Hall.

WEATHER

Today
Sunny
High 76. Low 46.
Wednesday
Mostly sunny
High 76. Low 48.

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OPS officer files discrimination suit

A former OPS patrol officer alleges that his supervisor did not consider him for promotion

By Teri Meeuwesen
Higher Education Editor

A former campus patrol officer, who is African-American, is suing a former director of the Office of Public Safety, the University and the State Board of Higher Education for alleged racial discrimination.

James Williams, a patrolman from 1994 to February 1998, is seeking back pay and compensatory damages through the Lane County Circuit Court. Williams said he is also seeking "attention to be drawn to campus to show people there is something

wrong with the [judgment] process."

A court date has not yet been decided.

Williams was subjected to alleged racial discrimination and harassment by his supervisor, Ahmad Tajwall, a former OPS director who is Arabic, according to court reports. Williams is suing the University and the State Board of Higher Education for not taking efficient action to investigate and remedy the alleged discrimination.

Tajwall was unavailable for comment.

After a summary judgment was denied during a preliminary hearing last week,

Williams is making a state civil rights claim that deals with discrimination based on race, said Pete Cogswell, a public affairs assistant to the Oregon Department of Justice. Cogswell, who represents the defendants, was also speaking on behalf of Dave Landrum, the defendants' lawyer.

Williams said Tajwall began to discriminate against him a week after Williams started working at OPS. The discriminatory treatment included numerous complaints, failure

"Whenever you say something is racial, it should ... go toward an investigation."

James Wilson
Former OPS officer

Turn to **SUIT**, Page 5

GAY PRIDE

LGBTQA honors history, heritage

This year's Pride Week will feature lectures, activities, films and music celebrating the gay community

By Kristina Rudinskas
Student Activities Reporter

Socrates, Janis Joplin, Leonardo da Vinci, Melissa Etheridge, James Baldwin and Drew Barrymore are just a few of the famous gay and bisexual men and women who have graced history. Gay, lesbian and bisexual people have touched our hearts, minds and culture throughout the ages.

The University and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance celebrate their heritage and community with a variety of music, food and activities during Pride Week.

"It's to celebrate history, have fun and honor those that came before us," explained Amy Gould, one of the LGBTQA event organizers. "Twenty years ago this celebration could not have occurred on campus."

According to the Office of Student Life's 1991 survey, 48 percent of students reported hearing anti-gay or -bisexual remarks from an instructor and 61 percent of gay and bisexual students reported that anti-gay harassment on campus is prevalent enough that they fear for their safety.

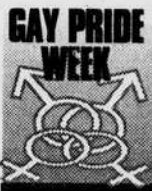
Current information about the perceptions of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students on campus was unavailable.

Gould cited several improvements in the community for gays and bisexuals. The Public Employees' Benefit Board recently voted to provide healthcare benefits to domestic partners of state employees.

The University also added a sexual orientation non-discrimination clause to its hiring policy, while the LGBTQA plans to move its office to the lower part of the EMU where Footnotes was formerly located.

"Pride Week is a chance to be part of

Turn to **PRIDE**, Page 3



Drag queen Victoria Venom entertains the crowd during Monday's LGBTQA rally on the EMU East Lawn.

AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

OSPIRG is down but not yet out

A special election may occur because several grievances have been filed against supporters and opponents of the group

By Doug Irving
Student Activities Editor

Don't count OSPIRG out just yet.

Students rejected a ballot measure last week that would have funded the advocacy group with \$147,390. OSPIRG's University chapter would go broke July 1.

But a flurry of grievances, filed against OSPIRG's supporters and opponents, means the issue is far from resolved.

The elections board has about five grievances against the Honesty Campaign, which led an anti-OSPIRG campaign, and other opponents of OSPIRG. The board has even more grievances against OSPIRG and its supporters.

One grievance in particular, filed by elections coordinator Christy Lorenzini, could force a special election on the OSPIRG issue.

Lorenzini said in her grievance that anti-OSPIRG groups violated elections rules to a degree that would justify another election.

A special election could cost as much as \$1,000, said elections board member Jennifer Wilson. A bare-bones election, without polling locations or advertising, could carry a price tag of more than \$300.

Furthermore, most elections officials are paid only through April. The ASUO would have to pay them extra because any special election probably couldn't happen before May 1.

The money would have to come from a special request to the Student Senate, said Vice President Ben Unger.

The ASUO must complete its regular election by May 1. It also must finalize the fees it plans to charge students by then. But Unger said he thought the Oregon University System would understand if the ASUO decides it needs a special election.

The Constitution Court, which would hear the grievances, has said it probably won't be able to make any decisions until May.

Turn to **OSPIRG**, Page 3