

A Midspring Revelry

At a celebration in the EMU Amphitheater, students enjoyed Shakespearean comedy as it was meant to be done — outside

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Ducks duel Huskies

The men's and women's track and field teams gear up for some stiff competition in their final dual meet of the season

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TODAY

Conflict Resolution will host a drop-in session from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room E.

WEATHER

Today
Partly cloudy
High 70. Low 48.
Weekend
Mostly cloudy
High 65. Low 42.

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PASS system will affect admissions

New proficiency standards will assess college applicants who have earned Certificates of Initial and Advanced Mastery

By Amalie Young
Higher Education Reporter

The University's admissions office will be ready when the first group of students to pass through a revamped assessment structure in high schools — Certificates of Initial Mastery in hand — apply for admission in 2001.

Oregon's public universities have been developing a new set of guidelines for admissions, the Proficiency-based Admissions

Standards System (PASS), that will "align closely with the content standards and benchmarks for the Certificate of Initial and Advanced Mastery."

PASS proficiencies, which will be used to assess applicants' abilities, have been developed with the Oregon Department of Education to reflect curriculum standards in schools. PASS will be phased in to the admissions process as the certificates are implemented.

If the restructuring process continues on schedule, the assessment will not be fully in place until the fall of 2005.

The Oregon Legislature passed laws in 1991 and 1995, which gave rise to the Oregon Education Act for the 21st Century and restructured guidelines for assessing students in grades K-12. By the year 2005, high schools will be required to offer Certificates of Initial and Advanced Mastery and will use performance-based criteria to evaluate student abilities.

The school reform program was initiated in part to better prepare students to do college-level work. Under the new system, Oregon high school students may not graduate

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Strictly Ballroom

The Oregon Ballroom Dance Formation Team members have fun with competitive dance

By Michael Hines
Student Activities Reporter

For years, something has lurked around campus on Friday nights. It's cool and suave, and now it has spawned a monster that can spin, twirl and flip all night long.

The campus monster is the Oregon Ballroom Dance Formation Team, a recent offshoot of the Oregon Ballroom Dance Club. Although it may not seem threatening now, the team will begin entering competitions next year, and it could have opponents seeking refuge.

"There's no outlet for competition in ballroom in Eugene," said team captain Scott Adams. "Formation team is always a good starting point if you want to compete." The closest places for competition are Portland, Seattle and San Francisco, he said.

Adams, a senior, has been involved with ballroom dance for four years, ever since he attended a ballroom-club dance Friday night during his freshman year. After the dance, Adams took classes privately and through the University; he recently competed in a pro-am ballroom event in Portland.

The reason for being involved is simple. "I do it because I like it," Adams said.

At one of this year's Friday dances, much like the one that hooked Adams, freshman Heather Amaral became enamored with dance. She later invited

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LAURA GOSS/Emerald
Eric Foley swings Marisa Feldman during a practice for the Oregon Ballroom Dance Formation Team in Gerlinger Annex Tuesday evening.

After 20 years, parenting organization gets permanent home

Birth to Three, which helps families learn how to raise children, has shared space since it was founded in 1978

By Michael Burnham
Community Editor

Tonight a Eugene organization that has helped more than 15,000 families learn to raise children will celebrate its first permanent home. The organization's new facility comes not a moment too soon — staff members have had to operate without a permanent one for the past 20 years.

Since 1978, Birth to Three has split its time occupying open space at two local ele-

mentary schools as well as sharing office space with another organization.

"The [school] space was really inadequate," said Minalee Saks, Birth to Three executive director and co-founder. "We were servicing 1,000-plus families a year with inadequate spaces. If school enrollment increased, we were out of a space."

But according to Saks, staff, volunteers and interns are more than happy to make use of their new 6,000-square-foot facility, which required years of fund raising to build.

"It's a wonderful building, and it does not feel institutionalized at all," she said. "It feels warm and friendly for families."

Birth to Three has been in the business of

instilling these same feelings in parents and their children since its inception.

The organization originated from a study conducted by the University's psychology department in the early 1970s.

University psychology Professor Mary Rothbart directed the study of more than 60 mothers and infants to determine different temperaments among infants.

Rothbart said part of the study required researchers to make observations within the homes of study participants.

"[Participants] involved in the study saw how families coped with the difficulties of raising a child," Rothbart said.

She said the findings prompted two University researchers and the mother of one of

the children in the study to create Birth to Three.

Today the organization brings new parents together to share parenting experiences in discussion groups. Through these discussions, parents can increase their knowledge of early childhood development and form support networks.

Other programs include a toddler series, which addresses issues parents face as their children begin to develop independence, as well as a program that helps parents manage stress issues associated with raising children.

"The best part of Birth to Three is it's for

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