

Creative cramming

Looking for a place to pull an all-nighter? Check out some local restaurants for a little sustenance or a change of pace

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Ducks ready for Day 1

Seven women and three men will compete in the NCAA Track and Field Championships beginning today in Buffalo, N.Y.

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TODAY

Student senators will be staffing the grievance table from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the EMU.

WEATHER

Today
Partly cloudy
High 75. Low 49.
Thursday
Partly cloudy
High 78. Low 47.

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Council OKs funding for new library

About \$18 million was granted to build the facility, which may be located on 10th Avenue between Olive and Charnelton

By Michael Burnham
Community Editor

When Eugene Public Library administrative assistant Jan Griffin was asked how she and other library officials felt about a Eugene City Council decision to fund the construction of a new library, she had only one word to say: "ecstatic."

Griffin, along with library patrons and city officials, have reason to celebrate. The City Council voted unanimously Monday night to spend at least \$18 million of future urban renewal funds on the construction of a new library.

The new library will replace the city's existing 40-year-old facility located at 100 W. 13th Ave. The 37,000-square-foot building has become increasingly overcrowded with books as well as patrons in recent years.

Although the city has yet to designate a site for the new facility, the most likely location is on 10th Avenue between Olive and Charnelton streets.

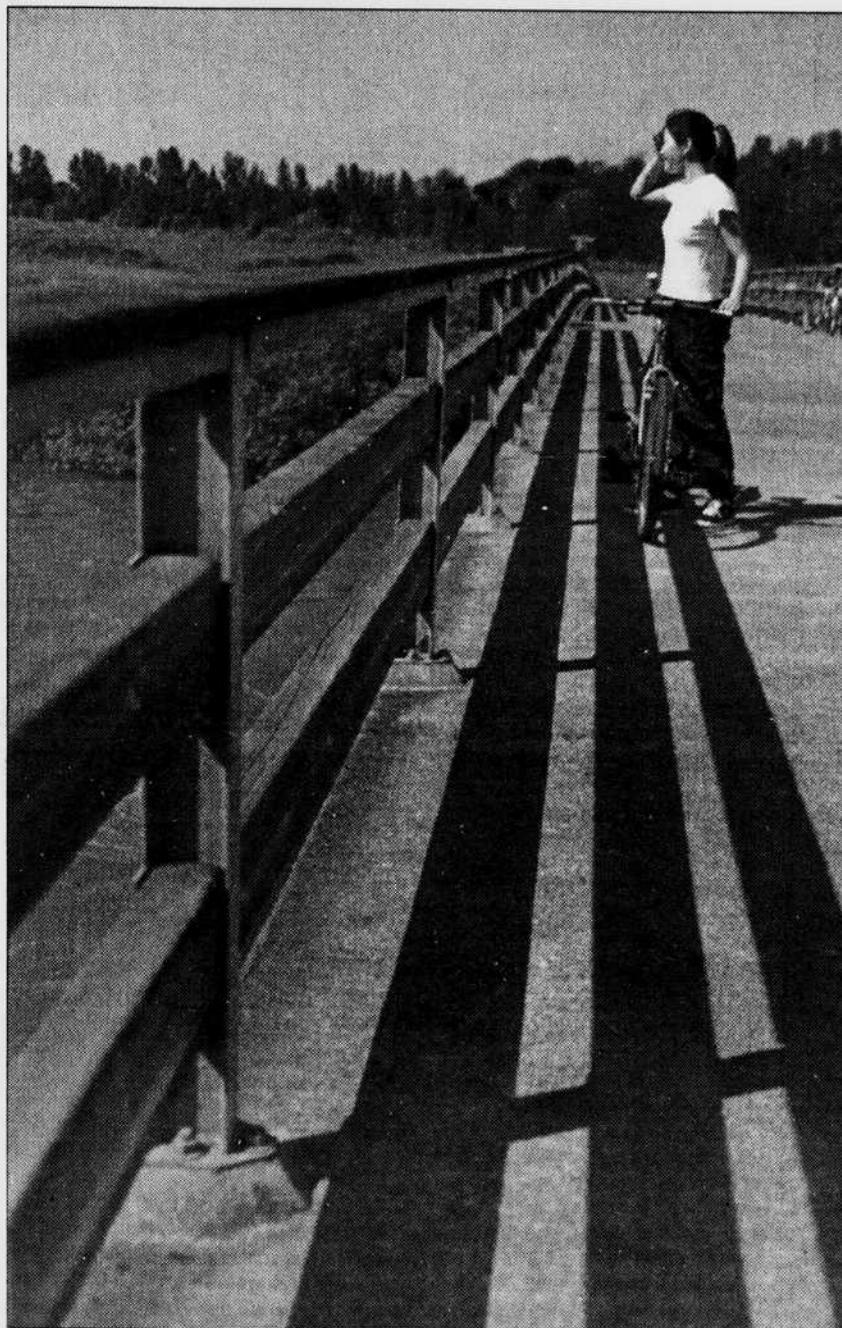
The \$18 million will be generated through urban renewal revenue bonds until 2010, when the downtown urban renewal district will expire. Urban renewal bonds are paid off through property taxes.

In addition to those funds, the council tentatively agreed to refer a measure to the Nov. 3 ballot that would finance expanded library services through the levying of property taxes.

The library funding measure comes after the council agreed to chop from its urban renewal plan a provision that would have shot down the \$18 million if voters did not approve the measure within the next two

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Biking off steam



AMANDA COWAN/Emerald

Music major Annie Chen relieves stress during a bike ride over the Willie Knickerbocker Bike Bridge on Tuesday afternoon.

Professor caps long career in civil rights

Edwin Coleman will retire this term after receiving dozens of awards as an African-American scholar

By Chris Kenning
Student Activities Reporter

English Professor Edwin Coleman looked out the window of his office in PLC, a space crammed with books and adorned with photos of African-American jazz greats like Billie Holiday, as he remembered his struggles to become an African-American academic. Those struggles included growing up in Arkansas under segregation laws.

"We were taught to step aside and let white people pass by — even if it meant stepping into a mud puddle," he said as he stroked his white goatee, recalling segregated drinking fountains, movie houses and bathrooms.

"You were displaced and insulted by ignorant white folks," he said. "And there was not one damn thing you could do about it."

Coleman, who will retire from the English department at the end of this quarter, has been teaching racial equality and understanding at the University through African-American literature and ethnic folklore studies for over 28 years.

"I have tried to get my students to think about race," he said. "The civil rights struggle is far from over."

Retiring at the peak of an impressive career, his résumé speaks volumes, and at over 10 pages long, tells much about Coleman's dedication to students and community.

He has received dozens of honors including the Martin Luther King Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award from the city of Eugene and an outstanding professor award from the University's Office of Multicultural Affairs.

The Multicultural Center recently renamed the lecture series that brought Gandhi's son to campus the Dr. Edwin Coleman Lecture Series. He has served on committees that work to prevent hate crimes, advo-

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Some campus religious groups welcome gay worshipers

Representatives of Hillel and the Wesley Center say the organizations welcome gays and lesbians

By Amalie Young
Higher Education Reporter

If Lisa Finkelstein is in a room filled with lesbian women, she said her identity is defined by her Jewish perspective. But in a room filled with Jews, she said her lesbian perspective takes over.

"I identify as a Jewish lesbian — but I identify first as a Jew and then as a lesbian," she said.

Finkelstein is programming president and women's chair at Hillel, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that has branches around the nation. The primary purpose of the group is to serve the Jewish campus community.

While some religious organizations may not be perceived as welcoming to homosexuals, Finkelstein said Hillel provides "a safe place for gays and lesbians because it hon-

ors diversity."

Hillel is not the only campus religious group that welcomes diversity. Janet Cromwell, campus pastor at the Wesley Center, a United Methodist Church located on Kincaid Street across from campus, said the center is "particularly open and welcoming to gay and lesbian students."

She leads a weekly discussion group for students interested in exploring issues of human sexuality and the Christian church. Topics of concern for students have been the ordination of gays and lesbians into the church and what the Bible "really says" about homosexuality and sexuality in general, she said.

Although in many ways the University community is liberal and supportive, some students who are homosexual or religious may find it difficult to publicly express

their orientation or beliefs, Cromwell said.

"These days it seems like it is much easier to come out as a gay or lesbian than to come out as a Christian," she said.

It is especially difficult for students who are both religious and homosexual, said Jason Wicklund, who is active in the University's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance and who has chosen not to get involved in any of the campus ministries.

"God and I had a falling out when I was 11," he said, "and it really didn't have anything to do with my sexuality."

For Wicklund and other students who do not choose to be involved in community-sponsored religious activities, sexuality and spirituality are separate. Unless a student is specifically looking to be involved in religion, such groups do not necessarily

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Janet Cromwell
Wesley Center pastor

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