

# Oregon Daily Emerald



## Weather forecast

Today Showers  
High 64, Low 49  
Weekend Showers  
High 65, Low 45

## Pre runs again

'Without Limits,' filmed in Eugene, hits Portland screens today / PAGE 15



## Volleyball match

The team looks to its four ranked players as they try for its second conference win / PAGE 23



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### Common horror legends

**The man in the backseat**—A woman driving alone at night stops at a gas station, where the creepy attendant tries to draw her out of the car. She resists, but when he finally does, he tells her he saw a man with an axe hiding in the back seat.

**The roommate**—A student returns to her dorm room late one night, and she leaves the light off so she as not to disturb her sleeping roommate. The next morning she awakens to find her roommate dead and the words "Aren't you glad you didn't turn on the light?" written on the wall.

**Kidney heist**—A student meets a girl at a frat party, and she invites him to another party at someone's apartment. She offers him a drink, and soon he passes out. The next morning he awakens in a bathtub full of ice with both his kidneys missing.

SOURCE: The San Fernando Valley Folklore Society (www.snopes.com)

By Nicole Garton  
Oregon Daily Emerald

**D**arkness. Silence. The flickering glow of a campfire — or a fireplace, or a flashlight shone on someone's face.

The storyteller speaks. "This is a true story. It happened to my roommate's boyfriend's sister. One night she was driving alone on Highway 99..."

Captivated, the listeners shiver as a tale of horror unfolds, grotesque but undeniably true in its detail. It happened nearby. It happened to a

## Campus tales

Made popular by movies and the Internet, urban legends abound on college campuses

friend of a friend. And the teller swears it's true.

Which means it's probably an urban legend.

Urban legends, made famous recently by the slasher flick of the same name, are contemporary folk tales that originate in the city and are told and

retold, with the names and places changing but the basic story left intact.

Although sometimes told as ghost stories, urban legends are often passed off as fact, said Sharon Sherman, director of folklore and an English professor at the University.

"An urban legend starts with, 'You

know, this really happened.' The teller tries to convince you the story is true, and they make aside remarks to make you believe it," she said. "It always happens to 'someone who knows someone you know.'"

Murder, marriage, mayhem and Disney all provide fodder for these tales, but one of the more fertile breeding grounds for urban legends remains college campuses.

At universities across the nation, classroom tales, dorm horrors and campus superstitions dominate the folklore scene. Some legends crop up

Turn to TALES, Page 7



## Police cite 86 minor students for possession of alcohol

During the first week of school, new students often test their limits, University officials say

By Michael Hines  
Oregon Daily Emerald

At least 86 students are still paying the price for partying a little too hard last weekend.

Police issued that many citations to minors in possession of alcohol last Friday and Saturday, according to the University Office of Public Safety.

University Student Conduct Coordinator Elaine Green said that this year's high number is not a shock for the first week of school.

"Some years it's a very busy week, and some years it's not," Green said.

Students who are cited on campus and at University events must go through the school conduct system.

"What I'm going to look at is the circumstances," Green said. "Do they have prob-

lems with [alcohol]?"

The student will eventually receive a sanction from the University that, according to Green, could range from a warning to community service. Currently, federal laws prohibit the University from notifying parents about students' conduct problems.

There are alternatives to drinking, OPS Lt. Joan Saylor said. The EMU recreation center, for example, is open late and offers a variety of activities, including billiards and foosball.

But often students choose to drink on campus, she said, and OPS officers have to intervene.

What does OPS do?

"The OPS officer is going to stop and advise them that it's illegal," Saylor said. If the situation is out of control, officers may call the Eugene police for assistance, and the

student will be issued an MIP, which comes with a \$115 fine and a court date.

If students cooperate, Eugene police are not always called in. However, students will probably have to go through the University conduct system. OPS has a contract with the Eugene police to have two officers available, so police are usually available if they are needed, Saylor said.

Saylor said the high number of MIPs handed out last weekend was "fairly typical."

"It'll probably drop off as the year goes on," she said.

Many students can consider themselves lucky.

"The city indicated they could have written a lot more tickets," Saylor said. High de-

"What I'm going to do is look at the circumstances. Do they have a problem with [alcohol]?"

Elaine Green  
Student conduct coordinator

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