

# Oregon Daily Emerald



## Weather forecast

Today Sunny High 75, Low 36  
 Thursday Fog High 71, Low 42

## Jewish renaissance needed

Edgar Bronfman says a Jewish renaissance would solve the crisis in America / PAGE 3

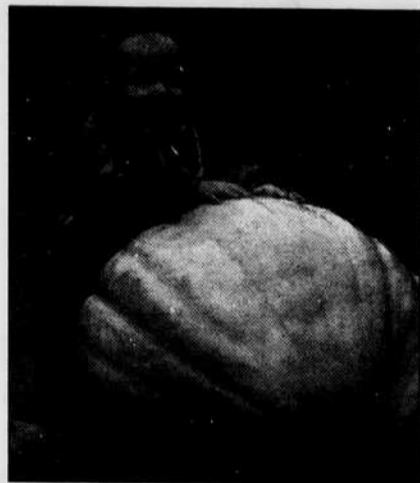
## Linebacker anchors defense

Chris Claiborne tries to live up to the Trojans' legendary No. 55 against the Ducks this Saturday / PAGE 9

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# Plump Pickings



(Top) Chase Brennan, 1, plays with one of the six pumpkins his family picked Sunday at the Herrick Farms pumpkin patch in Springfield. (Bottom) Marshall, Marion, Coral and Denise Kanafsky gather around a potential jack-o'-lantern Sunday.

Photos by Matt Garton/Emerald

## A local farm offers students the autumn delights of hayrides and pumpkin picking

By Nicole Garton  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The crisp air carries only the occasional bleat of a goat until the faint roar of a tractor engine approaches. Moments later, a hay wagon pulls up to the rustic scale at Herrick Farms in Springfield, and autumn revelers spill out, their arms stretched around plump, orange vegetables.

Pumpkin season is ripe for the picking, and patch-goers have begun the search for those Halloween diamonds-in-the-rough.

This weekend will be one of the busiest of the season, says Jennifer Wallstrom, a Linfield College student and helper at the farm. The best time to find the perfect pumpkin is in early October, when the field is full and not picked over yet, she says.

But the patch is still bursting with plenty of shapely selections to meet the

strictest criteria, and pickers all have their own standards by which they choose.

Springfield resident Jeanette Balthrop and her family pile pumpkin after pumpkin onto the old-fashioned scale, barely finding room for all 15 of their future jack-o'-lanterns.

"We have four kids," she explains. "Everybody gets a big one, and then each of the kids picks a little one."

After a morning spent wading through the orange-speckled patch, the Balthrops found plenty of pumpkins that meet their criteria — just the right size with a shape good for carving — and they weigh in at 152 pounds.

Not a bad yield, but Wallstrom, who mans the scale, has seen bigger.

"I think the most I've seen is up in the 200s. One of the big ones once weighed about 250 pounds," she says. "Those ones can get pretty big."

Bend resident Mandi Brennan will vouch for that. Her biggest prize, a 219-

*"It wouldn't fit in anyone's trunk, and I wasn't going to leave my pumpkin. We had to seat belt it in."*

Mandi Brennan  
 Bend resident

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## Window open to consolidate loans

New federal legislation allows combining loans into single-lender loans with lower interest rates

By Teri Meeuwse and Kristina Rudinskas  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Students can now consolidate their loans during a four-month window and pay less interest when they pay off their loans after graduation.

"It's really frustrating to students to have to pay back so much," ASUO Vice President Morgan Cowling said. "I'll have \$20,000 of debt when I leave, and now I can save up to \$1,000. I haven't [consolidated loans] yet, but I plan on it."

When the Higher Education Act passed earlier this month, it included dropping the federal aid interest rate from 8.25 percent to 7.46 percent. ASUO and OSPIRG worked last year to extend the lower interest rate to apply to old loans as well as new student loans.

"We all worked really hard to get this," said C.J. Gabbe, ASUO federal affairs coordinator. "It was really a fight, and we're

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### Direct Loan Consolidation

**When:** The deadline for applications is Jan. 31, 1999. Processing applications generally takes 60 to 90 days.

**What:** An opportunity to combine some or all of your student loans for a lower interest rate. OSPIRG estimates the lower rate will save students \$50 for every \$1,000 of debt.

**Why:** Consolidating loans gives students one monthly payment, may extend the repayment period, eliminates dealing with multiple lenders and can give student loans the 7.46 percent interest rate.

**Who:** Students must have one direct or FFEL loan included in the consolidation request.

**Where:** Students can apply for loan consolidation through the U.S. Department of Education or private lenders participating in the department's government guaranteed (FFEL) loan program. Call the Direct Loan origination Center at 1-800-557-7392 or check it out on the web at [www.ed.gov/DirectLoan](http://www.ed.gov/DirectLoan).

## Kitzhaber, Sizemore agree on higher ed

The governor and his Republican challenger want a tuition freeze and accountability

By David Ryan  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

In the wrestling match of the campaign for governor, some of the issues set the Democratic and Republican contenders clutching at each other's throats, but higher education is not one of them.

Both leading candidates for governor, Democrat incumbent John Kitzhaber and Republican challenger Bill Sizemore, want more funding for higher education. Both candidates feel increased taxes are not a way out. Both candidates want changes in the way universities are managed.

"I do know that [Sizemore] wants to hold down tuition," said Kathy Eply, press secretary for Bill Sizemore's campaign. "He thinks higher education is the one area of government that is underfunded."

Sizemore was unavailable for comment.

Eply said Sizemore knows

where he can get the money to fund higher education without raising taxes.

"[Sizemore] believes there's already enough money in the general fund and enough money to pay for a tuition freeze," she said. "We're flushed with cash."

Gov. John Kitzhaber, like Sizemore, planned on putting a tuition freeze through the Legislature, but he had concerns about the way Oregon's budget is increasingly dependent on in-



KITZHABER



SIZEMORE

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