

# Oregon Daily Emerald



## Weather forecast

Today Cloudy High 58, Low 43  
 Saturday Cloudy High 56, Low 47

## UO sends Aussies down under

The Oregon men's basketball team breezed past an Australian team 103-53 Thursday night / PAGE 9A

## Ducks vs. Sun Devils

Tony Hartley and the Ducks go for their eighth win against Arizona State / SECTION B



An independent newspaper  
 Volume 100, Issue 54

University of Oregon  
 Eugene, Oregon

## Lecturers to dispute crop circles

Oregonians for Rationality examines unexplainable phenomena in lectures once every quarter

By James Scripps  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

When crop circles started popping up years ago, there was an immediate onslaught of believers on one side and skeptics on the other. Some scientists claimed no plausible explanation for their creation, and the fascination grew. It was the beginning of an international scientific and social debate.

But Oregonians for Rationality, a non-profit group founded to question the legitimacy of "pseudo-scientific" phenomena, thinks the debate surrounding crop circles has gone too far.

Tonight's lecture and presentation, "Crop Circles — Graffiti of the Gods," will attempt to expose the truth about crop circles. It is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room.

Ted Clay, a statistical consultant and computer programmer from Ashland, has organized a presentation that will feature audio, video and slides that raise questions about the science behind the claims that surround crop circles.

"It's amazing the amount of evidence that disputes the legitimacy of crop circles," Clay said. "There are even Web sites for the people that make them. I even wonder if the frequency of their formation goes up on the weekends."

Since it was founded four years ago, the group has hosted numerous lectures in the Willamette Valley and hopes to expand further in the Northwest. Lectures usually take place once a quarter and feature a topic in the realm of unexplainable phenomena.

"It's about bringing rationality to the discussions of extraordinary claims that are becoming more and more frequent in our society," said Josh Reese, president of Ore-

Turn to **CROP CIRCLES**, Page 4A

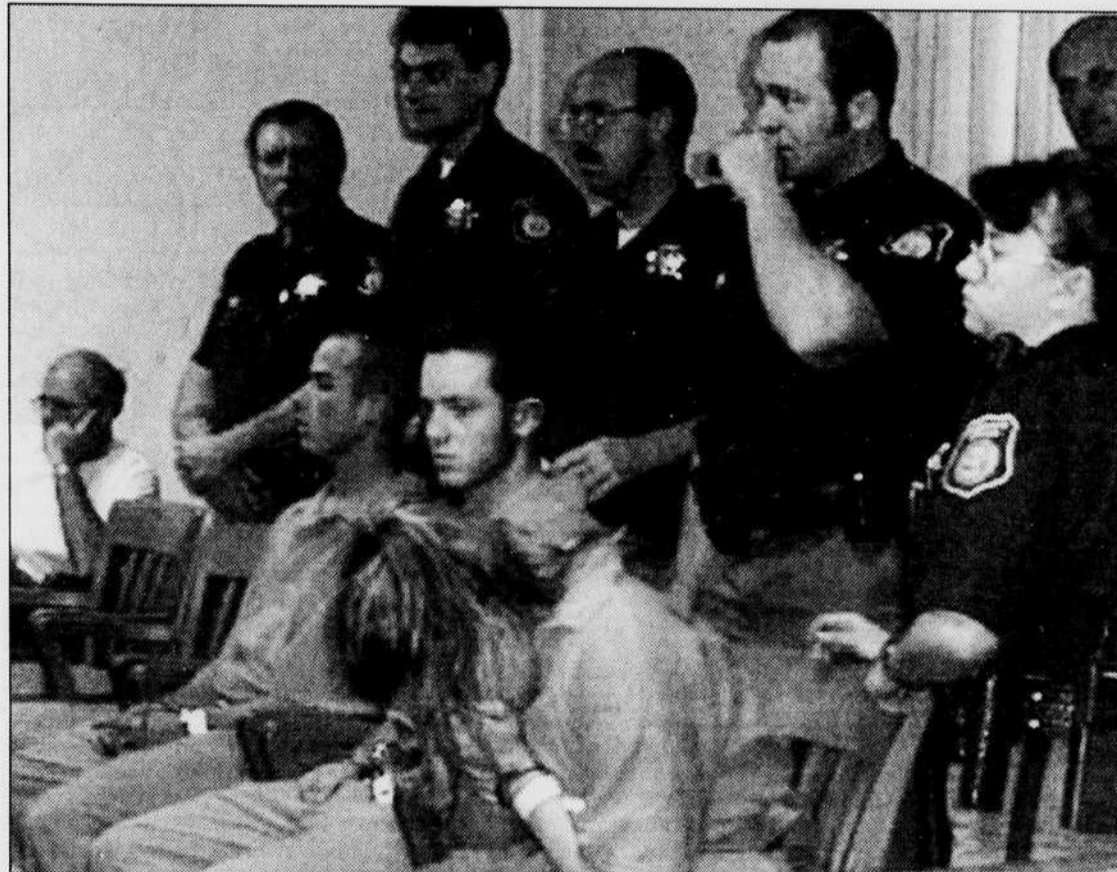
### Moshofsky dies at 78

Former University of Oregon football player and long-time supporter Edward W. Moshofsky, who provided the lead financial contribution toward the construction of the recently completed Ed Moshofsky Sports Center, died Wednesday night due to heart failure.

The 78-year-old Moshofsky, who was a 1943 business graduate of the University, donated \$2 million toward the Ducks' \$14.6 million indoor practice facility, which was officially named in his honor in June 1997.

"We at the University of Oregon are deeply saddened by the loss of a dear friend, Ed Moshofsky," athletics director Bill Moos said Thursday.

## HATE CRIMES



"We know the incidence of hate crimes in society is at an unacceptably high level."

Dominick Vetri  
 UO law professor

The suspects in the murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student, appear at their arraignment. Wyoming has repeatedly refused to pass laws against hate crimes.

University of Wyoming Branding Iron

## Anti-hate laws combat prejudice

Although hate crimes are still on the rise, the laws are a step in the right direction, some say

By Nicole Garton  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

When Joel Corcoran heard about Matthew Shepard's death on a Wyoming fence several weeks ago, the image triggered an old memory.

A native of the Midwest, Corcoran remembered a practice among ranchers of

ridding their property of varmints.

"If a wolf has been bothering their sheep, they will shoot it and string it up on their fence to impart two messages: first, to boast to their neighbors that they're getting rid of the pests, and second, to serve as a warning to other wolves," he explained.

"By tying Matthew Shepard to that fence, I can't help but think the two guys were trying to send some signal."

The murder of Shepard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming, has

sparked national attention both because of its brutality and because it is believed to be related to his sexual orientation. His death on Oct. 12, one day after National Coming Out Day, signifies for many a tremendous lack of tolerance in a state that has repeatedly refused to pass anti-hate crime legislation.

To Corcoran, president of the University's Student Bar Association, the murder demonstrates why hate crime laws are im-

Turn to **HATE CRIMES**, Page 3A

## University pays tribute to its ninth president

Family and friends mourn the passing of former president Owen Meredith Wilson, who died Nov. 7 of a brain tumor

By Teri Meeuwssen  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

When late University president Owen Meredith Wilson arrived at the Eugene Airport with his family on March 5, 1954, his youngest daughter, Margaret, was clutching a stuffed yellow duck as she and the rest of the family walked off the plane.

Some of the others in his family saw the plane ride as an adventure because it was their first time flying. But all of them, including his wife Marian, his three sons and three daughters walked in front of Wilson toward his term as the University president.

The same family, friends and many others from the University will be saying their

goodbyes to their father, their friend and their late University president on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 3 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge in Gerlinger Hall.

Wilson died Saturday, Nov. 7 of a malignant brain tumor. He died peacefully at his Eugene home at the age of 89.

Wilson was the ninth president of the University from 1954 to 1960.

"Meredith Wilson was one of the University of Oregon's greatest presidents," University President Dave Frohnmayer said. "His tenure at this institution was marked by significant growth and distinction. He was loved by faculty, staff and students alike."

And Wilson loved the University in return, said his son, John Wilson.

"I believe he felt there was a great deal of potential in the University," he said. "During his term, I think Father felt it became an outstanding University and that he helped

move it in the right direction."

Wilson must have enjoyed Eugene as well, John said.

"It's very telling that he and Mother chose to retire here," he said.

While he was University president, Wilson was credited with transforming the graduate school to emphasize the combination of research and graduate education. He also imposed stricter tenure requirements for faculty, created the Institute of Molecular Biology, opened the Museum of Art to the public and mandated the integration of fraternities and sororities on campus.

When Wilson stepped down from office in 1960, he became the president of the University of Minnesota, where he served seven years before becoming the director of the Center for Advanced Studies of Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, Calif. He re-

Turn to **WILSON**, Page 4A