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Weather forecast

Today Showers
High 53, Low 42
Tuesday Cloudy
High 48, Low 42

Great American Smokeout

The Health Center hosts a number of workshops recognizing the American Cancer Society's annual event / PAGE 4

Men defeat Coppin State

The Ducks dominated their first regular-season basketball game with a 77-62 victory / PAGE 9

Effects of one-time matriculation fee incite debate

Administrators and the ASUO Executive disagree about the cost-effectiveness of the fee

By Laura Cadiz
Managing Editor

Order a college transcript — \$5. Drop a class — \$10. Apply for a degree — \$25.

University students have complained for a number of years that "every time they turned around they were paying a fee," said Jim Buch, associate vice president for student academic affairs.

The University responded last spring by placing such costs under a one-time matriculation fee that was implemented this fall. But the ASUO Executive contends that the fee may end up costing students more money.

The matriculation fee will arrive on students' bills this month. The fee, which was passed by the state Board of Higher Education in July, requires returning students to pay \$45 and new undergraduates to pay \$150.

After a two-year phase-in to even out the costs between returning and new students, entering undergraduate students will pay a \$200 fee starting in the year 2000.

The fee replaces such costs as the Introduction fee, \$100; official transcript fee, \$5; re-enrollment fee, \$15; degree application fee, \$25; and drop/add penalty fee, \$10.

"It felt to us that we were nickel and diming students at every turn," Buch said.

Buch said the administration came up with the fee amounts based on enrollment and the average amount of those fees collected each year, which is usually about \$800,000 per

year. He said the administration set the fee higher than that average because it didn't want to have to raise the fee in a few years.

ASUO President Geneva Wortman, however, is worried students may not get their money's worth because students who never use any of the services are still required to pay the fee.

She said she feels many students would rather pay a small amount of money for each service than the one-time fee.

But Buch said he doesn't expect many students will lose money.

"When we look at it on an individual student basis that may be true, but when we start looking at what students pay, they are probably paying [the cost of the fee] or more," he said.

He added that another benefit is that the fee

is now covered under financial aid, whereas in the past, each individual cost was not.

However, state board member David Koch of Eugene is worried the fee may cause students to graduate with a higher amount of debt. Koch voted against the fee because he was concerned that it, tacked on to the tuition rate, would negatively affect students' ability to afford school. This year's resident undergraduate tuition is \$3,681.

"All these additional fees beyond the instruction fee are very expensive nickels and dimes that are being charged to students," said Koch, a graduate student in environmental studies at the University.

Silenced voices

ASUO representatives contend that stu-

Turn to FEE, Page 3

VICTORY!



Defensive ends Terry Miller and Saul Patu celebrate the Ducks' 51-19 victory over Arizona State on Saturday.

Amanda Cowan/Emerald

Officials discuss riots nationwide

Experts examined strategies for avoiding alcohol abuse at a teleconference in Pullman, Wash.

By Peter Breaden and David Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

Seated in a room at the Instructional Media Center on Friday, representatives from the University and Eugene police joined officials from 112 universities across the United States and Canada to participate in a teleconference about student riots and alcohol abuse.

The teleconference aired from Pullman, Wash. and was sponsored by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. The program included the expert panel and a live audience in Pullman.

University officials touted the merits of their plans while researchers and student representatives from riot-affected colleges said a college culture of alcohol and violence lives on.

Washington State University President

Turn to TELECONFERENCE, Page 6

Decrease in crime rate attributed to increased police presence

Calls that have led to investigation have gone up as crime has fallen by 16.5 percent

By Felicity Ayles
Oregon Daily Emerald

Despite a stabbing at a party near campus two weeks ago and the occasional riot problem, crime in the West University Neighborhood has actually decreased by 16.5 percent since 1997.

City and University public safety officials attribute the decrease to a constant police presence in the area.

The cooperation of the Eugene Police Department and the Office of Public Safety is creating a better sense of safety and security in the

neighborhoods that surround campus this year, OPS director Stan Reeves said. He also said the eyes and ears of student patrol officers help in reducing campus crime.

"All those things together work towards empowering the campus environment," he said. "There is not one isolated approach."

The introduction of a constant police presence to the campus area began with a foot patrol officer assigned to the West University Neighborhood several years ago, Reeves said.

"We started to see an improvement almost immediately with an officer assigned to that particular corridor," he said.

But Reeves said that although OPS works with the Eugene po-

lice, it has no jurisdiction off campus, even if the problem deals with University students.

"I'm not aware of any school that has that ability," he said. "Those students are dealt with the same way anybody else would be."

Bev Mason, station manager for the police substation at 13th Avenue and Alder Street, said even though the crime rate has fallen, the calls for service have increased. These are the calls that actually cause the police to go out into the community and investigate a problem, she said.

Crimes such as theft, burglary and assault have gone down, and that can be credited to the officers working there and the people who live in the area, she said.

The EPD campus substation has helped maintain a police presence near campus, Mason said. She said even if the station is closed, there are officers there working with their cars parked outside.

The new permanent police substation near campus has also helped the EPD to be more accessible to students, Mason said. Students come in every day to report suspicious activity or to just learn how to host a responsible party. Four students came in before Halloween weekend and notified the officers at the substation that they each would be holding parties, she said, and none of these parties got out of control.

"We're here to tell them how to have a safer party and help them if it gets out of hand," Mason said.

"If too many people show up at a party, we can help remove the uninvited people."

Mason said crime prevention is the key to crime reduction. The biggest crime problem in the West University Neighborhood is with drug and alcohol abuse, she said.

"From that comes assault, sexual assault and theft," Mason said. "If you could take out the core of drug and alcohol abuse, you wouldn't see these crimes."

This is exactly what happened on 13th Avenue. Eugene police placed a foot patrol officer in the area and cracked down on drug use, Mason said.

The drug problem virtually went away, and now the crime is almost gone, she said.