

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast

Today Mostly Cloudy High 50, Low 39
 Thursday Cloudy High 46, Low 35

A sense of place

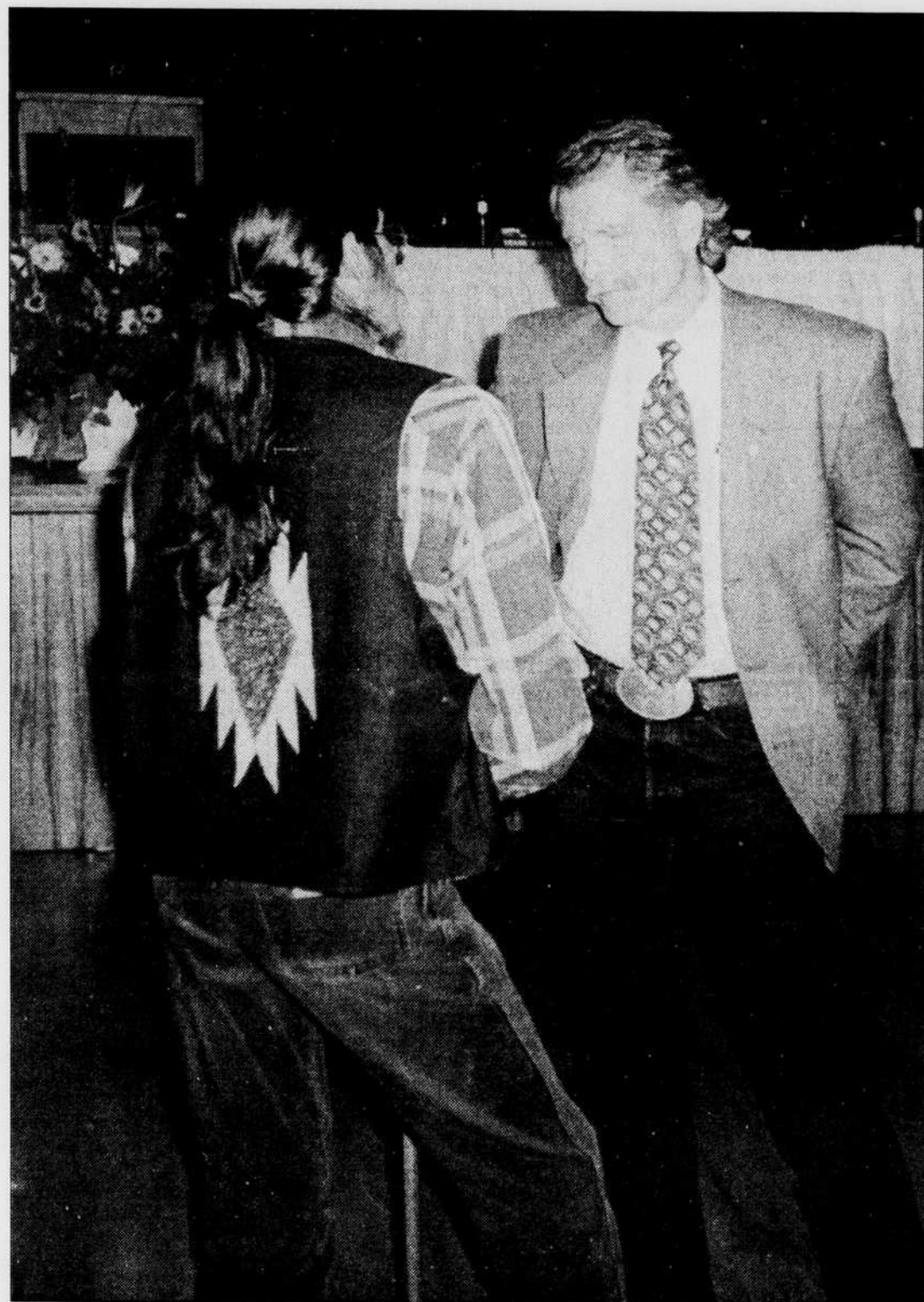
National Geography Awareness Week brings a focus on technology as a new tool for geographers / PAGE 6

Basketball preview

The men's team may revive the excitement of the days when coach Ernie Kent was a player / PAGE 9

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Gov. John Kitzhaber talks with an audience member after the Government-to-Government conference in the EMU Ballroom.

Tricia Schwennesen/Emerald

Tribal, state leaders meet

The meeting between Native American and state agencies addresses shared problems and ideas

By Tricia Schwennesen
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Building stronger economies, retaining the quality of life, improving education and preserving natural resources are concerns shared by everyone, including Oregon Native American tribes.

"The issues that confront the sovereign tribes are the same issues that confront everyone," Gov. John Kitzhaber said. "These are common challenges, and we have a shared responsibility to meet them."

Kitzhaber addressed about 150 people yesterday from state agencies and Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes at the second annual meeting of Govern-

ment-to-Government yesterday in the EMU Ballroom. The meeting continues today.

Government-to-Government is the result of executive order 96-30, which was passed by Kitzhaber in 1996. The purpose of the order was "to establish a process which can assist in resolving potential conflicts, maximize key inter-governmental relations and enhance an exchange of ideas and resources for the greater good of all Oregon citizens whether tribal or not."

"I'm pretty impressed with what they are doing and the purpose for the gather-

Turn to TRIBAL, Page 8

UO accommodates deaf students' needs

By Sarah Skidmore
 Oregon Daily Emerald

It begins in the morning when Chris Sherwin usually sleeps through his alarm. He can't hear it. A likely story for many University students, but Sherwin only has 6 to 8 percent of his hearing and does not wear his hearing aid to bed.

"It's not a problem. It is more like an adventure," said Chris Sherwin, a senior majoring in Landscape Architecture.

After waking up, the daily adventures of University students who are deaf can include not absorbing all of the information from lectures, having trouble communicating with others and not hearing fire alarms.

Although the obstacles can be bothersome and frequent, the ramifications of deafness are an everyday reality for many students. The University Office of Academic Advising and Student Services tries to do everything within its power to help students, counselors Hillary Gerdes and Molly Sirois said. However, many

students say the power of the University can only reach so far to help them.

"I am used to having to deal with this. I have done it all my life," said Natasha Nowakowski, a first-year MBA student who is deaf.

The University Office of Academic Advising and Student Service currently helps 12 students with hearing loss. Gerdes estimates there are other students who might be eligible for University assistance but don't seek it out.

The Americans with Disability Act requires the University to accommodate students' needs so that they can have equal access to all programs, activities and institutions.

Some of the services the University offers include providing note-takers and sign language interpreters and help with accessing any other services students may need for University-related work.

The individual needs of each student depend upon his or her academic activities and

Turn to DEAF STUDENTS, Page 3

Packets share ratings of courses, instructors

Free packets detailing the ratings are meant to help in choosing classes

By Peter Breden
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Professor evaluation packets are now available right next to winter term class schedules at the University Bookstore and in the EMU. This is the second year the ASUO has published these free packets that contain students' ratings of course quality and instructors.

The ratings are determined on a scale of one to 10 — 10 being the best. Students can pick up packets in the EMU at Erb Essentials, the EMU convenience store.

"A lot of people have been picking them up. They say 'Cool! Great,'" said Luz Cisneros, who works at Erb Essentials.

The evaluation program was initiated last year by the ASUO to provide more information for students choosing classes.

"You shouldn't have to be the great Esmerelda, seer of the future, in order to decide if a certain class fits your needs," said Ben Unger, the 1997-98 ASUO

vice president. "Information should be readily available."

The program also was intended to allow students to communicate with each other about classes and instructors, Unger said.

"Professor evaluations were seen as the first step for ASUO to be an advocate in the classroom and out," he said. "It's exciting to see that this will be something that will prove to be useful for a long time."

ASUO Vice President Morgan Cowling said the student evaluations are becoming more popular at other colleges and universities.

"It's something that's going on in other universities that we wanted to start up here," Cowling said.

The process is one that is valuable to students and professors alike, she said.

"I can only speak for myself," Cowling said. "But it's a really great process and a time for students to express their feelings about the course and to give constructive criticism. At every part of the process, students should have a voice and this is a way to get it out there."

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