

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast

Today Rain High 48, Low 37
Wednesday Rain High 49, Low 45

Men's Basketball

The Minnesota Golden Gophers came back from a halftime deficit to give the Ducks their first loss of the season / PAGE 9

Millrace improvements

Landscape architecture students worked to restore the eroded waterway across from the Onyx Bridge / PAGE 6

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Asian crisis burdens UO students

An economic crisis has made it more difficult for international students to attend the University

By Erin Snelgrove
Oregon Daily Emerald

Leo Harten is a senior taking 18 credits. He works 38 hours a week and hasn't slept in two days.

Harten is only one of hundreds of international University students affected by the Asian crisis. With the changing global economy, many international students are forced to work, apply for scholarships and take out loans in order to continue their education in the United States.

"My daily life has definitely changed," Harten said. "I feel like I don't have a life anymore. I spend all my time working, studying and going to class. Having a nap, to me, is the closest I get to having fun."

Since the economic crisis, countries in Asia have experienced lowered stock prices, bank failures and plummeting real estate values. The currency exchange rates for Asian countries began to rise dramatically. The cost of living for international students is now as much as six times more expensive than it was a year ago.

The currency for Harten's country, Indonesia, is the rupiah. In March, 1997, 2,000 rupiah equaled \$1, but today, 15,000 rupiahs are equal to one U.S. dollar. So, for example, if rent used to be \$200 a month, it would now be equivalent to \$1,200, he said.

Since last year, the total number of international students enrolled at the University has dropped significantly, with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand showing the greatest decrease in enrollment. This year, there are 83 less international students compared to the 1997 fall term.

Ginny Stark, assistant director for the Office of International Education and Exchange, believes this decrease is directly linked to the Asian economic crisis. Stark acknowledges that international students

Turn to CRISIS, Page 4

Storms bring leaks, damage



The University suffers from minor storm damages, and prepares for more rain

By Felicity Ayles
Oregon Daily Emerald

When it rains, it pours. Especially in Eugene, and the University is sticking a plug in leaks all over campus.

So far, the University has sustained only minor storm damage, University Facilities Manager Dana Winitzky said.

"With all the rain, the drains are working overtime," he said. In the EMU, the second floor of the Skylight Lounge has experienced some flooding, and there are a few leaks in the roof on the EMU main floor, he said.

For the past week, Oregon has been pounded with a series of storms that continued through the Thanksgiving weekend. These storms have brought uprooted trees and downed power lines but the University has remained intact, for the most part.

"There is only minor damage to the EMU so far, and there is the potential for the amphitheater to flood, but the University is in good shape this year," Winitzky said. "There have been much worse storms in the past."

Greta Pressman, campus relations manager, said the University is doing all it can to prepare for and prevent flooding. It can become a real challenge, she said.

Before the Thanksgiving weekend, a drain became blocked in front of the Bowerman building, causing a large water backup that University storm crews were unable to fix.

The University then called in the City of Eugene, which used its equipment to dislodge a 17-inch ball of tree roots that were blocking the storm drain, Pressman said.

The last week and a half has been pretty stormy, and it is encouraging that the University didn't lose any trees, she said.

Pressman attributed the lack of up-

The second floor of the EMU gets a clean up after rain soaked its floors this past weekend.

Scott Barnett/Emerald

Turn to RAIN, Page 4

Tree serves as memorial to AIDS victims

In conjunction with World AIDS Day, the health center will plant a tree and set up jars to collect money for the HIV Alliance

By Peter Bredan
Oregon Daily Emerald

A tree will be planted at the University Student Health Center as a memorial for students at the University who are suffering from AIDS. The planting is part of several activities on campus that recognize World AIDS Day.

"It serves as a living reminder of the AIDS epidemic and that we need to do something about it," said Mariah Bowden, a peer health educator at the Student Health Center.

During World AIDS Day, the health center hopes to collect money for the HIV Alliance and the commemorative tree in jars placed around campus.

The "Change for Change" jars haven't collected much money yet, but she hopes the activities around campus this week will

bring awareness to the seriousness of the issue, Bowden said.

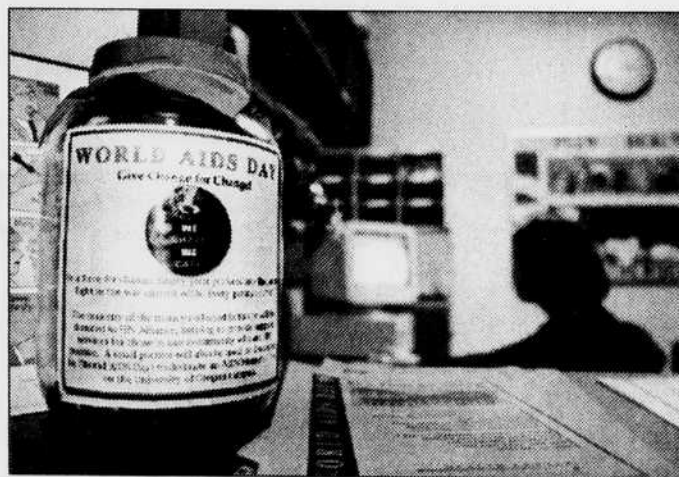
The HIV Alliance is a local group that provides HIV education and prevention services.

The health center's activities begin at noon in the EMU Amphitheater where ASUO President Geneva Wortman is scheduled to deliver a speech. There also will be a performance by the University Gospel Choir from the main stage in the amphitheater.

World AIDS Day is a chance to learn about HIV and to help build awareness, said Joanne Frank, director of health education.

"About 20 minutes is all we ask," Frank said. "People want to know how they can get on board and what they can learn."

Turn to AIDS, Page 5



Peer Health Educator Holly Morrison Works in the Health Center along side a near empty donation container.

Scott Barnett/Emerald