

Oregon Emerald

Weather forecast

Today Mostly Cloudy
High 54, Low 43

Saturday Rain
High 46, Low 37

Two to tango

The Wiersma twins, Chassie and Cherrith, double-team as starters on OSU's women's basketball team/ **PAGE 11**

Luck o' the Irish

A small Irish town seeks a pot of gold in 'Waking Ned Devine' / **PAGE 7**

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Beautiful beer brewed by Venus

University student Sean Venus has made beer his life as the head brewer at Fields

By Leigh Ann Cyboron
for the Emerald

Sean Venus is frustrated because his dog, Brewster, doesn't live up to its name. The yellow labrador doesn't like beer and never has.

Most dog owners wouldn't mind such an aversion to alcohol, but for Venus, beer is more than recreation.

It's a way of life.

Venus is the head brewer at Fields Restaurant and Brewpub in Eugene, doing "everything that's related to beer production," he said, from purchasing raw materials and ingredients to brewing and kegging the beer.

Venus, a 22-year-old business major originally from Ridgefield, Conn., became interested in brewing four years ago while in high school in New Hampshire. His physics teacher demonstrated the process and Venus was hooked.

"I was just intrigued by it," Venus said. Being "18 years old and not being able to buy beer, brewing beer was the only option."

Still, Venus had never been to a brewpub until he came to the Northwest soon after graduation. "I didn't realize that there were people out there that are making money brewing beer," he said.

Once in Eugene, he became serious about brewing at home. A year later, Venus knew he wanted to pursue a career in making beer and wrote letters to local breweries in search of apprenticeships.

"Just so I could get my foot in the door, I was looking to go down to brew school [in California] and needed practical experience for it," he said.

Luckily, the head brewer at West Bros. BBQ & Eugene City Brewery agreed to take him on. The apprenticeship evolved into a job a few months later.

The fact that Venus was only 20 at the time didn't come up immediately. And



Scott Barnett/Emerald

Sean Venus, head brewer at Fields Restaurant and Brew Pub, cleans the huge fermenting vats.

Turn to **BREWERS**, Page 5

University urged to go racism-free

The Racism Free Zone program involves an area for students to go and get help or talk

By Felicity Ayles
Oregon Daily Emerald

Bahati Ansari has had to deal with racism every day of her life.

When her son was offended because his teacher put up a student's drawing of a black man being hung from a tree, Ansari took her children out of school.

Ever since then, Ansari has dedicated her life to the creation of the National Racism Free Zone project. She spends her time traveling to schools throughout the country and visited the ASUO Multicultural Center Thursday to speak with about 20 student leaders and faculty about racism.

The Racism Free Zone program involves a racism-free area in which students can go and get help or talk. The zone's members write a declaration, illustrating their dedication to the program.

ASUO President Geneva Wortman and ASUO Women's Center Director Lisa Foisey were among those in attendance.

"I want to institute this program on campus and I hope [students] will take this with [them] when they graduate," Ansari said.

Ansari said she developed the program because she is tired of dealing with racism and is ready to "become part of the universe."

"I'm tired of convincing people that I belong here," she said. "I'm tired of running into the walls of racism, sexism and all the other '-isms' out there."

The idea for a racism-free zone came out of the idea of a nuclear-free zone, Ansari said. The anti-racism program has grown considerably since then, and many schools in the Eugene area are already taking advantage of the program, she said.

Ansari asked people in the audience if they felt there is a racism problem at the University. She made all the participants answer definitively.

Turn to **RACISM**, Page 6

Meditation group to offer students chance to learn new ways to relax

The session will teach how to clear the mind and reduce stress in daily situations

By Amy Jennaro
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students who are stressed about papers and homework can find an alternate way to deal with their problems tonight in the EMU.

The Know Thyself As Soul Foundation will conduct a meditation session from 6:30 to 10 p.m. tonight in the Ben Linder Room.

The foundation stresses the importance of gaining an understanding of people's place in the world and in their communities.

"When people meditate, they fulfill their true purpose in the world," said

Joseph Kram, the foundation's president. "The reason for being is to be in contact with the world."

The foundation, which is headquartered in Umpqua, travels around the state conducting programs and sessions for anyone interested.

"We offer a chance for people to get the overall picture of what we are about," said group member Susan Mansdors.

The sessions offer attendees a chance to listen to speakers, watch informative videos and learn the process of meditating.

According to Mansdors, every session is free and is structured to benefit both beginners and more seasoned meditators. The group's focus is to make their sessions available to everyone who is interested.

"We want to get the message out to as many people as possible," Kram said.

His message is to promote meditation and bring it to the community.

Meditation has been used for centuries in Asian countries as a way to reduce stress and bring peace to those who practice it.

The activity involves clearing the mind and focusing on one idea or thought. Eventually, the process is supposed to give those who practice it a heightened view of reality and a greater perspective on the world and what is in it.

University students also have the opportunity to learn meditation through a physical education course. Students in the class learn how to focus their energy and use the activity to reduce stress in their daily lives, said Marjorie Woollacott, the university

meditation instructor.

"We teach relaxation and how to quiet the mind about quizzes or tests coming up," Woollacott said. "The activity involves focusing the mind so you can be more efficient in what you do."

The members of the Know Thyself As Soul Foundation see the best part of the activity as being the sense of calm it gives to those who practice meditation.

"Meditation is done by people to provide a look within themselves and find peace," Mansdors said.

Kram hopes that the group's message of peace will elicit a strong response from University students.

"If a lot of people come, we will definitely try to do this again," he said.