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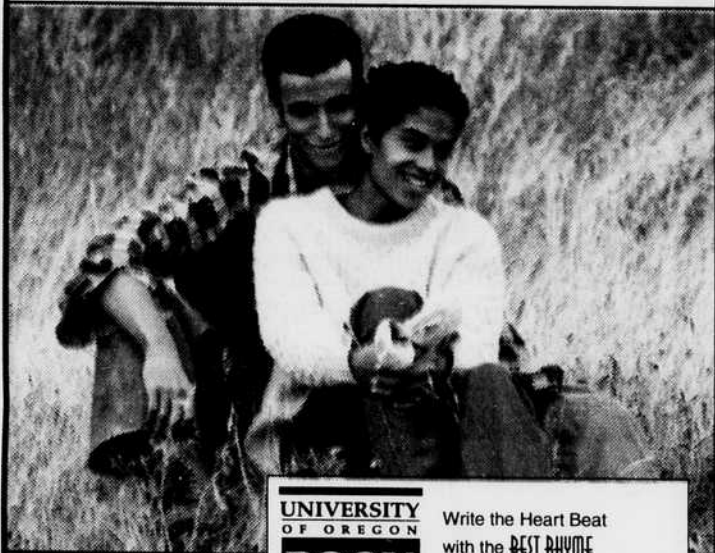
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**PLEASE RECYCLE**

## Y2K

Continued from Page 1

Some predict the bad data spewed out by confused computers will cause total economic collapse, while others believe the disruptions will be as minor as those caused by a thunderstorm. Loss of water, heat and electricity are some of the potential problems the Millennium Bug may bring.

The Eugene Water and Electric Board has budgeted more than \$2 million to repair or replace systems by June 30 that may be affected by the virus, said community coordinator John Mitchell. He doesn't expect the new year to bring any disruptions in EWEB's services, but the company has set aside a substantial fund for emergencies.

The City of Eugene has been working on the problem since 1997 and expects essential city-run systems to be Y2K compliant by July 1. The city has also set aside a \$250,000 contingency fund, said David Kelly, a computer software developer and recently elected member of the Eugene City Council.

But Sheri Morelli, instructor of a Y2K class at Lane Community College, stressed that people should not rely on the government to solve the millennium problem.

The way things stand now, one-third of federal government agencies will not be ready for the year 2000, according to a report card issued by the House Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology.

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has urged local governments and communities to prepare on their own for Y2K.

"Basically, they're saying, 'We

### Preparing for Y2K

For more information on Y2K, consult these Web sites:

- [www.y2knews.com](http://www.y2knews.com)
- [www.millennia-bcs.com](http://www.millennia-bcs.com)
- [www.y2knet.com](http://www.y2knet.com)
- <http://home.ica.net/~njarc/msa-lons/main.html>
- [www.utne.com/y2k/index.html](http://www.utne.com/y2k/index.html)

can't take care of you," Morelli said. "We are so used to having the government take care of us, and that is not going to happen this time around."

Individuals should prepare for the year 2000 by stockpiling food, water and supplies, she said, but opinions vary on how long to prepare for.

The American Red Cross suggests always being prepared for an emergency with enough food and supplies for 72 hours.

But Lane County Commissioner Pete Sorenson plans to compile two weeks' worth of extra food, while Morelli will have enough to live on for three months. Worland is looking at three to six months of food and supplies, while Cynthia Beal, owner of Red Barn Natural Grocery, believes individuals should be able to sustain themselves for one to two years.

Stockpiling food and supplies can be as simple as buying a few extra cans on each trip to the grocery store, Kelly said. The important thing is to begin now.

"Don't expect to waltz down to the community store on December 31 and buy a year's supply of toilet paper," he cautioned.

But many of the speakers at the Y2K forum agreed that while individual preparation is crucial, it is not enough. Community members need to be ready to band together and help each other out, they said.

"We need to take responsibility for our own needs in this community," Worland said. "Ultimately, that's the only way we'll get through not only Y2K, but other crises."

He cited his cooking box as a way community members can explore alternative ways of living together.

Beal urged people to ask their neighborhood leaders when the next Y2K or emergency preparedness meeting will be.

"Invite your neighbors over for coffee this week and chat about how you can take care of each other," Morelli said.

Lisa Cassidy, a west Eugene resident and organizer of the forum, said she hopes people will realize "how important it is to work with a small group — whether it's your family, church or neighborhood — to support one another."

City Councilman Bobby Lee added that students as well as other community members should be thinking about how to prepare for Y2K.

"Everyone needs to be prepared, whether they're students or not," Lee said. "At home or on campus, we're all going to face some constraints."

Students who will be at home during winter break should talk to their families about the year 2000, Lee said. He also cautioned against making travel plans for Jan. 1.

Most important, Cassidy advised, is to avoid panic.

"Stay calm and grounded," she said. "Keep your sense of humor."

## Cybersisters

Continued from Page 1

ity time together, Roth-Vinson said. "It let me see a field I don't see much of," Reed said. "I got a chance to meet people in the field. Science will definitely become one of the first fields I want to explore when I'm older."

Reed and Smith created a Web page that detailed different types of Hepatitis.

"I learned a little about building Web pages before we got together," Smith said. "Then I taught her a little and then she was off. It turned out beautiful. She's very bright. She's a cut above the cut above."

Mentors and the middle school students are required to keep in contact via e-mail during the program and are encouraged to participate in activities outside the classroom, such as painting ceramic tiles at Brushfire on Fifth Street.

The projects created by the 21

### Cybersisters

For more information about the Cybersisters program or about becoming a mentor, call Cerise Roth-Vinson at 346-3256 or check out the Cybersisters Web site at: [www.efn.org/~wistec/cybersis/](http://www.efn.org/~wistec/cybersis/).

twosomes were presented to family and friends two weeks ago. Projects ranging from research on sea turtles to the periodic table to wild horse migration were displayed on posters, computers or brochures.

A future goal of the program is to expand to other Oregon universities, Roth-Vinson said. This can be done because "we're a highly productive, low cost program," she said.

But she won't know if the program can expand until it gets funding in the spring.

The program is primarily funded by a grant from the Lane Gender Equity Council and is administered through the Willamette Science and Technology Center, a hands-on science museum next to Autzen Stadium. The Symantec Corporation is another local sponsor.

A current goal for the program is to make a difference in young women's lives, Roth-Vinson said.

"I don't know if the protégés will still know their mentors 10 or 15 years from now," she said, "but when she picks biology as a major, she'll remember that she had a mentor that might have gotten her interested in the science."

Reed and Smith are already planning to keep tabs on each other.

"We both have an interest in classical music so we are going to try to get together at the Hult Center sometime when we both aren't so busy," Smith said.

## Metro TV

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in the recycling process," Cuyler said.

The video's approach is popular with some on-campus recycling groups.

"The video was something that relates to everybody," said Karyn Kaplan, the University's recycling program manager. "It helped people to broaden their understanding of the process of recycling."

Kaplan, who said she hasn't seen the video, but has read the script, applauds the video's desire to "take recycling beyond the garbage can" and teach citizens how they can reduce their waste and use recyclable products.

Lewis said he decided to put the video in the competition for the Communicator Awards because of the his staff's excitement over the video.

"This stands out from all the things that we've done, and we've won national awards before," Lewis said.

Cuyler was pleased with the success of the video

as well. "It was very well received," he said.

The recycling video won't mark the end of the partnership between the SWRP and Metro Television. Cuyler said there has already been some discussion on doing a video on compost waste, although he said the video is still in its developmental stage.

Lewis said he is happy with the relationship he formed with SWRP.

"There was this synergy between the two groups that made an outstanding video," he said.

In the future, Lewis said Metro Television will be taking on two major video products; one on the 911 system and the other on a new safety law for bus drivers. But Lewis said he doubted that either project would elicit as much attention as the recycling video.

"The recycling video was exciting," he said. "It had great appeal to the general public."

Metro Television will air the video at 7 p.m. each evening through Feb. 3 on TCI Cable channel 11. Copies of the video are available at the Eugene Public Library.