

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast

Today Rain High 54, Low 40
 Friday Showers High 52, Low 39

Desert dreams

The Ducks enter tonight's game against Arizona State looking to continue a three-game winning streak / PAGE 7

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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ASIA-HELP loans relieve students' financial stress

The program's goal is to provide interest-free loans to students from Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia

By Erin Snelgrove
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Because of the failing economies in Asia, thousands of international college students are forced to leave the United States each year and abandon their pursuit of a college degree.

Responding to this crisis, the Institute of International Education is launching the Asian Students in America - Higher Education Loan Program.

With a \$7.75 million grant from the Freeman Foundation, a private grant making organization, ASIA-HELP's goal is to provide interest-free loans to students from Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Applications for the interest-free loan for the 1999-2000 school year are now available in the Office of International Education and Exchange.

"When the Asian crisis first hit last year, these countries were the most severely affected," said Hilary Lord, an international coordinator for OIEE. "So in response to that, the IIE decided to offer aid to students

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Spill sparks discourse on effects of pollution

The clean-up techniques used in Coos Bay leave students and professors with mixed feelings

By Amy Jennaro
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The recent oil spill at Coos Bay has prompted intense dialogue among University staff and students about how environmental disasters should be handled and how to minimize the effects of pollution after a spill has occurred.

The New Carissa, a 173-ton freighter, ran aground Feb. 4 after dropping anchor during a storm. Authorities have burned most of its fuel to prevent a large-scale disaster on the beaches.

But the remaining oil in the ship, now in two pieces just offshore, is still a problem.

Opinions are divided on whether burning the oil aboard the New Carissa was the most effective action authorities could have taken to minimize the spill's effects.

"I think it was the best they could have done under the circumstances," said Lynda Shapiro, professor of marine biology.

But Meilani Clark, a graduate student in environmental studies, said she thinks the situation

could have been handled better.

"I think that there needs to be some plan so when something like this happens, we could go ahead with an action instead of waiting a few days," she said.

The jury is also hung on what the long-term effects of the spill might be.

Janet Hodder, associate professor of marine biology and a specialist in birds, sees some potential effects on the bird population in the area.

Hodder noted that 45 birds have already died after being oiled by the spill, including 14 snowy plovers, an endangered species.

"There is a potential for long-term effects," she said.

Hodder, who is on sabbatical, also cautioned that it is premature to jump to conclusions of how extensive those effects might be.

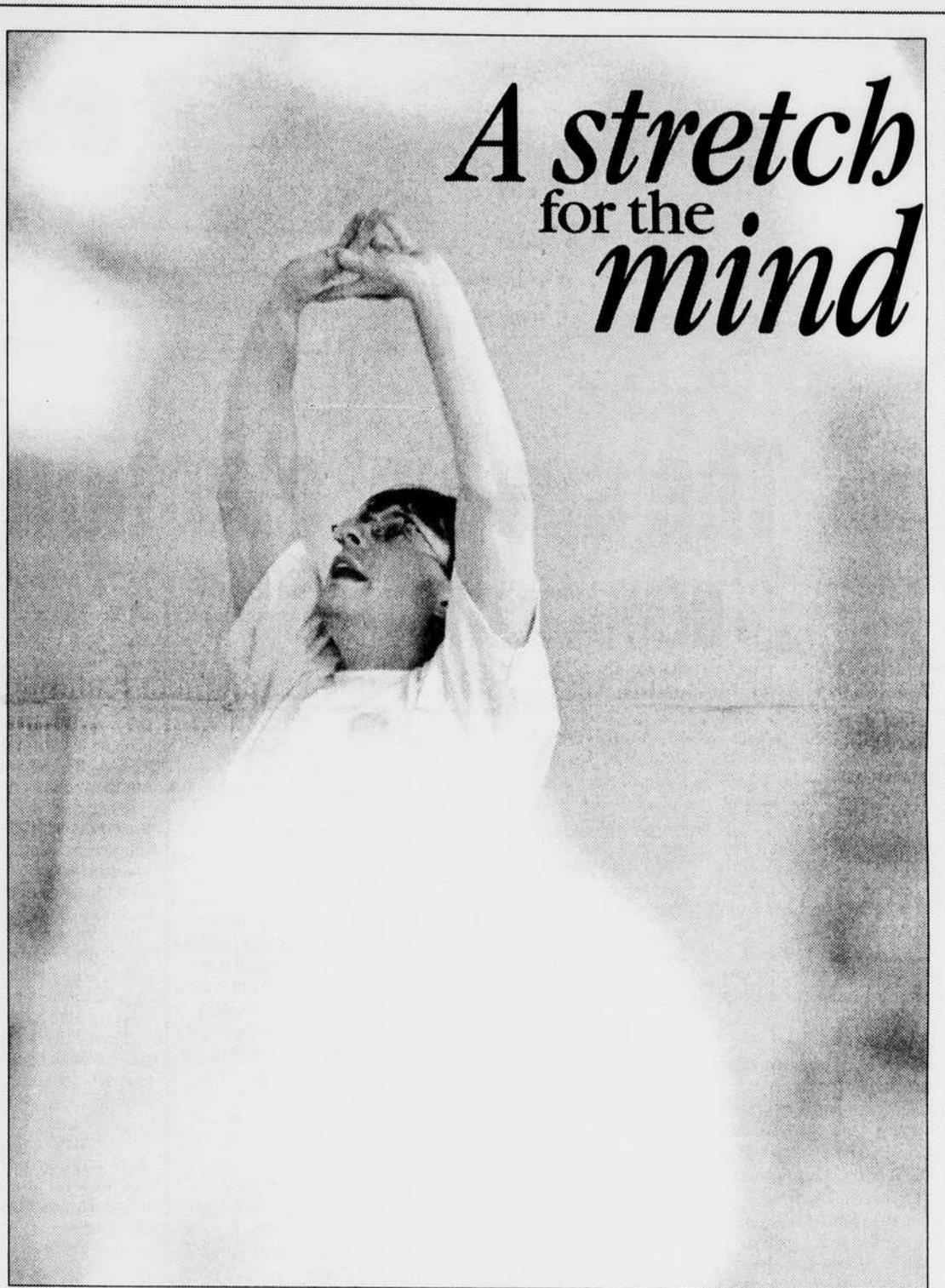
Other professors are less optimistic.

Paul Engleking, professor of chemistry, sees a slow recovery time for the area.

"I would say five years out there will be effects from this, based on what I have seen in previous spills," he said.

Shapiro, whose office at the marine biology department is only five miles from the spill,

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A stretch for the mind

Nick Medley/Emerald

Kevin Ott demonstrates a chi kung exercise called "Holding Up the Sky" Tuesday afternoon during the HEAL Conference at the Lane County Fairgrounds. Ott is scheduled to teach the Chinese form of exercise spring term at the University.

Chi kung, a 5,000-year-old Asian exercise, is the focus of a one-credit class

By Amanda Schultz
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Relaxation, attracting vital energy and cleansing the pathways through which your energy flows are all skills that can be gained in a new physical education class being offered spring term.

Chi kung, a 5,000-year-old Asian exercise, is the focus of a one-credit class making its first appearance on the University schedule. Officials decided to offer the class after local instructor Kevin Ott "came to our doorstep."

"He was interested in teaching the class," said Peg Rees, director of Physical Activity and Recreation Services. "We lis-

tened to his presentation and decided to offer it."

Ott, who has also taught the class at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, describes the exercise as "Chinese yoga or yoga from a Chinese perspective."

By exercising every joint in the body, chi kung can relax the mind while exercising the body, Ott said.

"It really is tai chi internalized," he said. "Instead of focusing on the outside of the body, you concentrate on the energy on the inside of the body."

In Chinese hospitals, chi kung has significantly improved the prognosis of patients with chronic diseases and reduced stress-related dysfunctions, Ott said.

The exercise's movements move joints and tendons, stimulate blood and lymph flow and relax muscles and the mind.

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"Instead of focusing on the outside of the body, you concentrate on the energy on the inside of the body."

Kevin Ott
 Chi kung instructor