

# Oregon Daily Emerald



## Weather forecast

Today Rain, wind High 42, Low 42  
 Thursday Showers High 45, Low 35

## Town hall meeting

State legislators Sen. Susan Castillo and Rep. Kitty Piercy meet with an open agenda in Eugene / PAGE 5

## Last defense

Senior guard Lisa Bouyer foils opponents by being aggressive and wanting it more / PAGE 7

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## Special election starts today

*A single measure remains on the ballot: streamlining the process for bringing elections grievances*

By Sarah Skidmore  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

After generating extensive controversy, campus-wide rumors and a court hearing, the special election is finally being held today.

Only one ballot measure will appear on the ballot.

Students can vote on the measure to alter the elections grievance hearing process outside the ASUO office on the ground level of the EMU Breezeway from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Thursday.

Absentee ballots are available in the ASUO offices. Absentee ballots must be turned in by 5 p.m. on Thursday.

The ballot measure was submitted by ASUO President Geneva Wortman and Vice President Morgan Cowling.

The measure, if passed, would alter section 12.5 of the ASUO Constitution with regard to regular elections.

As the Constitution currently stands, the ASUO Elections Board may interpret the elections rules on request but only the Constitution Court can hear complaints of violations.

Any interpretations of the election rules made by the elections board committee may be appealed to the Constitution Court.

The ballot measure seeks to alter this distribution of power. Under the proposed amendment, the elections board would have the right to hear complaints of violations as well as the right to interpret the elections rules on request.

Additionally, members of the elections board could act as hearing officers and form a hearings committee that could make decisions on the complaints.

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## Strong winds knock down trees



Crew members from Facilities Services cut up a grand fir that blew over at the corner of University and 13th during Tuesday night's bad weather.

Nick Medley/Emerald

*Crews labored to remove toppled trees at the EMU and elsewhere in Eugene*

By Teri Meeuwse and Rob Moseley  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Undeclared freshman Brian Lee was getting ready for his 6 p.m. class when he peered out the window of the Kappa Sigma fraternity house on 11th and Alder and saw one of the oldest trees on the property crack and fall onto the back porch roof.

"I just saw this mammoth of a tree swaying, and it just came down," he said. "It sounded like thunder and the whole house shook. It's kind of scary because we're always on that back porch."

Wind gusts of 40 mph and average winds of 25 mph blew trees and downed power lines all over Eugene on Tuesday night. The Eugene

Police Department, public works crews, the University Physical Plant and EWEB were kept busy most of the night.

The National Weather Service issued a high-wind warning for late Tuesday night and early this morning. The storm's strongest gusts of 70 mph were expected before about 6 a.m. today, said meteorologist Miles Higa.

River Road, Washington, City View, Charnelton, Norkenzie, Olive and Alder streets are only a few of the roads affected by the winds.

No one was injured at the fraternity house, but the 75-year-old tree split at its trunk, sending more than half of the tree into the roof of the house. The large branches split the

ceilings of a couple of the second-floor rooms, leaving one resident roomless for the night.

"We heard creaks and stuff, so he doesn't get to sleep in there tonight," Lee said.

The tree also pulled rain gutters down and landed on a power line that stretched across Alder Street.

The accident probably couldn't come at a better time, said Dominic Gatta, a senior journalism major.

"We were planning on making some major renovations anyway in the same place it fell," he said. "It wasn't bad timing — that's for sure."

Their next door neighbors at the Sigma Nu fraternity house got a

Turn to **TREES**, Page 6

## Higher education bills include loan restructuring, waivers

*Strong support for the state's university system exists in the Legislature, but funding and priorities vary*

By Michael Hines  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon's higher education lobby has jumped off the roof of a 20-story building in Salem.

With each floor it whips past on the way down, the lobby says to itself, "OK so far."

According to Grattan Kerans of the Oregon University System, that's just where higher education is in the Oregon Legislature — OK so far.

"We don't know how the final crunch is going to come down," Kerans said.

The final crunch likely won't come for the Legislature until near the end of the school year, but higher educa-

tion lobbyists in the state are keeping busy anyway.

Oregon's Secretary of State Phil Keisling recently backed Senate Bill 104, which would allow all Oregon students to attend a state university through loans, regardless of their income.

In addition, the bill would structure loan repayments to be made based on an income scale after graduation. In other words, the more a graduate makes, the more he or she is required to pay back on their loans.

There are two other bills currently before the Senate, 538 and 469.

Senate Bill 538 would allow 40 tuition waivers for University, Portland

State and Oregon State students based on merits such as sports, music, drama or dance.

Senate Bill 469 would start a college savings program for residents allowing \$2,000 each year in tax-free investments for their children's educations.

Sen. Susan Castillo (D-Eugene) said she supports the intent of all three bills.

However, like many other legislators, she has reservations about 104, which is currently structured as a pilot program to serve 2,000 students over the next two years.

"Some people think the last thing students need is to acquire more loans," Castillo said. "We were also

told that there are some people who don't go to college because they just can't afford it."

Kellie Shoemaker of the Oregon Student Association said the organization's board of directors is refusing to take a definite position.

"Our position basically is it's an innovative idea, and any idea that helps higher education is great," Shoemaker said. "We're watching it and we're interested in it, but we're not taking a position."

Despite how many legislators feel about 104 now, it was sent into a work group headed by Tom Hartung (R-

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