

# Oregon Daily Emerald



## Weather forecast

Today Partly Cloudy  
High 68, Low 39

Wednesday Sunny  
High 71, Low 43

## DDS requests more funding

The ballot measure would raise more funds to cover unforeseen expenses that arose this year / PAGE 3A

## Aliotti returns to Oregon

The founder of the Gang Green defense is returning as the defensive coordinator for the Ducks / PAGE 7A

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## Students suggest PRIDE hall options

They propose grouping gay students within the residence halls

By David Ryan  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University administration rejected an idea to create a residence hall for students interested in homosexual issues last January, but University housing plans to have two unofficial "clusters" of homosexual students next year.

At a town hall meeting Monday, PRIDE (Providing Residents Interested in Development and Education) Hall committee member Heath Hutto announced to the over 20 audience members the committee had made a tentative compromise with University housing.

Also speaking at the meeting were Dan Williams, vice president of administration, Mike Eyster, director of housing and Nina Thompson, co-chair of the PRIDE Hall committee.

The meeting was designed to air the reasoning behind both the PRIDE Hall proposal and the University administration's decision to turn it down.

In January, Williams said the administration felt a PRIDE

Hall, a hall specifically set aside for students interested in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered issues, would segregate students and provide a target for homophobic attacks.

The PRIDE Hall debate captured national attention, with people across the country debating on one of two sides of the issue.

Some felt a hall for LGBT students was the answer to the problems of on-campus homophobic living situations while others sided with the University administration and felt it segregated students.

A handful of Universities spread throughout the nation have housing programs for LGBT students.

On Monday, Hutto said homosexual students with roommate problems or worries about the homophobic climate of their residence halls could be placed in a hall with a cluster of students with similar problems.

"When safety was an issue, there was a sort of critical mass [before] LGBT students could feel safe," Hutto said. "This is a place where people would know they would be safe."

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## New state higher-ed budget introduced

Meanwhile, students unite to lobby in support of a tuition freeze

By Tricia Schwennesen  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon legislators began discussing the funding of higher education and the Oregon University System budget Monday.

The money issue hit the conference table with a historical overview focused on where funding has come from and where Oregon schools can grab a fistful more.

State Board of Higher Education chairman Tom Imeson and

former board chairman Herb Aschkenasy introduced the new budget and instigated a conversation about the shift from obtaining money through the state financed general fund to schools soliciting funds from other sources.

"They didn't whine a lot, they just talked about what happened," said Ed Dennis, spokesman for the Oregon Student Association.

The Oregon University System is asking for \$116 million to fully fund the new budget model. The model will help

Turn to OUS, Page 4A



Senior Chris Gillis and Junior Scott Hansen look through photographs and speak with panel member Bill Bromley (above.) Donny Durrant, a member of the Victims of Impact Panel, speaks at Harris Hall (below.)

Catherine Kendall/Emerald

## Busted

A panel of drunken driving victims educates students about the possible dangers of drinking

By Tricia Schwennesen  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Seated in the front row, two University students watched a graphic slide show in grim silence.

The images of drunken driving accident scenes strewn with broken glass, mangled metal and emergency health officials were missing one thing — survivors.

Chris Gillis, a senior biology and Spanish major and Scott Hansen, a junior business and history major, were more fortunate than most of the audience.

They were the minority in a crowd of 200 people convicted of drunken driving in Lane County and the surrounding area.

The crime scene was a Jan. 23 party at their house on 19th Avenue and Agate Street. Police arrived after neighbors complained about noise. The party had gotten

out of hand and included guests that were younger than 21, the legal drinking age.

They were cited for a noise violation and supplying underage guests with alcohol.

Both students had been ordered by a judge to attend the Victims of Impact Panel last week as part of a diversion program, an alternate punishment for people convicted of alcohol-related crimes.

The format of VIP combines a slide show and speakers who discuss their personal experiences with drinking and driving.

Donny Durrant, the final speaker at last week's meeting, is confined to a wheelchair because of a drunken driving accident.

His message entailed a powerful first-person dialogue about how it was cool to drink and drive when he was a college student at the University.



He said as a young man he was convinced that he was invincible because he had survived several accidents and arrests by police without serious injury or doing any jail time.

"I learned I'm not invincible, and I don't have a chip on my shoulder," Durrant said. "It's been knocked right off."

Barbara and Walter Stoeffler, the founders of VIP, said the solution is to change people's attitudes about drinking and driving.

"We don't mind if you drink," Walter Stoeffler said; "just don't drive."

Kathy Dodge, the coordinator for VIP, said more than 10,500 people have attended the court-mandated meetings since 1990.

"At any given time, on any given day, one in 10 drivers on the road is impaired," Dodge said.

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## ASUO Executive Debate

Candidates for next year's ASUO Executive are participating in a public debate today at 7 p.m. in Room 100 in Willamette Hall.

Students can vote in the election primaries Wednesday and Thursday. If one candidate receives a majority of the vote in the primary, he or she will win the election. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates with the most votes advance to the elections next Wednesday and Thursday when students will vote on the executive again.