

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast
 Today Showers High 59, Low 40
 Thursday Partly cloudy High 65, Low 38

Spring fever
 Warm weather may bring students outside, but allergies caused by windborne pollen could drive them back in / PAGE 5A

Power player
 Miguel Arriaga has transformed from skinny freshman into the men's tennis team's winningest player / PAGE 7A

An independent newspaper
 Volume 100, Issue 136
 University of Oregon
 www.dailyemerald.com

GRASSROOTS



Amanda Couvan/Emerald

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader speaks to dozens of students at the EMU Amphitheater Tuesday morning.

Nader champions OSPIRG at rally

The consumer advocate also railed against big business Tuesday

By David Ryan
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The Committee to Re-establish the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group got a pre-election boost from one of OSPIRG's creators Tuesday.

Ralph Nader, the 65-year-old consumer advocate most well-known for calling the 1960s Chevrolet Corvair "unsafe at any speed," urged more than 150 students in the EMU Amphitheater to support and get involved with OSPIRG.

Twenty-seven years ago, Ralph Nader and a group of University students founded OSPIRG with the object of promoting environmental concerns and consumer rights. In 1996, Nader was the presidential candidate for several environmentalist parties across the country.

OSPIRG was the first student group of its kind in the country. Today there are 70 college campuses in 16 states with a student PIRG. The Committee to Re-establish OSPIRG is now given money to run its programs by the state OSPIRG board.

Today and Thursday, the future of OSPIRG will be determined by student votes in the general election. OSPIRG is asking students to

give them back student incidental fee funding denied them by last year's student voters for the first time since OSPIRG's creation.

ASUO President Geneva Wortman, a former OSPIRG member, and the Earth Week Committee brought Nader to campus and paid his speaker's fee.

"We had to do some creative budgeting," Wortman said.

In his speech, Nader criticized corporations' effects on government and society and supported the use of student incidental fees for the PIRGs.

"Students are using their own

Turn to **NADER**, Page 4A

Chen team regains ASUO Executive

The Constitution Court rules in favor of the team's appeal and reaffirms primary results

By Sarah Skidmore
 Oregon Daily Emerald

In a flurry of decisions by the Constitution Court, ASUO Elections Board and candidates, the status of the general elections is revamped. Wylie Chen and Mitra Anoushiravani will reclaim the ASUO Executive, which they won in the primary elections. And Duck Web will not be used in the general elections, despite ASUO support.

The court decided in favor of Chen and Anoushiravani in their appeal requesting a dismissal of the Elections Board's decision to annul the primary election results that automatically gave the team the ASUO Executive.

Election rules state that any candidate team that receives more than 50 percent of the primary vote is automatically elected, taking the vote for the Executive off the general election ballot.

The annulment came after a grievance was filed alleging Chen and Anoushiravani distributed campaign fliers in residence halls. Anoushiravani is a residence assistant.

As a result of the Constitution Court ruling, the result of the primary election for ASUO president and vice president stands.

Also, rule 6.10, which was used against the team in the Election Board's decision, was declared unconstitutional. The rule states that campaigning done in support of a campaign is the responsibility of the candidates.

The Constitution Court incorporated case information and arguments from a brief filed by Reid and Swanson and a brief filed by Scott Austin and Brian Wise. Neither of the briefs will be considered by itself.

Chen said he was pleased with the Con-

Turn to **ASUO**, Page 6A

Voting

The general elections begin today for students to vote on two ASUO student representative seats and six ballot measures.

Students may vote at any of the four polling booths from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The polling booths are located in the courtyard in front of Gilbert Hall, in front of Chapman Hall, in the lobby of Carson Hall and in the EMU Amphitheater. Although voting via Duck Web was approved in the special elections, the ASUO decided to withdraw this option. ASUO President Geneva Wortman and ASUO Elections Coordinator Taylor Sturges said they have complete confidence in the accuracy and safety of the system, but the large number of grievances from the students persuaded them to limit voting to the traditional polling booths.

1601 students voted in the primaries, approximately 9.5 percent of the student body. Of these students, 907 voted at the polling booths and 694 voted through Duck Web.



Colorado high school shooting leaves many saddened, confused

Local community members are drawing unfortunate parallels from Tuesday's massacre in Colorado to last year's tragedy in Springfield

By Felicity Ayles
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., Tuesday afternoon joined Thurston High School and other schools around the country that have become victims of shootings.

In an eerie coincidence with Thurston, the suspects entered the school and began shooting in the cafeteria. They then continued shooting throughout the school, killing several students.

The shooting comes near the anniversary of the Thurston High School shooting, which left two students dead on May 21, 1998. Springfield Mayor Maureen Maine met with city Police

Chief Bill DeForrest, school superintendent Jamon Kent and McKenzie-Willamette Hospital administrator Roy Orr on Tuesday to discuss the Colorado shooting and its similarity to the Thurston tragedy.

Maine said her heart went out to the people of Littleton.

"We know firsthand the pain and fear being experienced by students, teachers and school staff and literally hundreds of parents and school children in Littleton," she said.

While the incident was still unfolding in Littleton, Maine said the most immediate concern was for the safety of the children involved and the "quick conclusion" of the tragedy.

Maine offered Springfield's assistance to the mayor of Littleton.

"We stand ready to help," she said.

Maine said the city of Springfield is saddened by the Colorado event and redoubled her pledge to work with the federal and state government to bring an end to violence in schools.

"I know all of Springfield joins me as I tell the people of Littleton our hopes and prayers are with you," she said.

Springfield Police Captain Jerry Smith was one of the first officers on the scene at the Thurston shooting and said his first priority when faced with the situation was to get the children away from the shooter.

But Smith said the problem in Col-

orado is much greater than that in Springfield.

"As they are doing their job they have to keep focused, and they will," he said before police had secured Columbine High School. "Otherwise people get hurt."

After the immediate crisis is over, Smith said, police will look at the number of victims and suspects, the location, the weapons used and the hostage situation.

"They undoubtedly already have a team interviewing the students," he said.

Then the police will attempt to an-

Turn to **SHOOTING**, Page 4A