

# Oregon Daily Emerald

University of Oregon  
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**WEATHER**  
Today

RAIN LIKELY  
Friday

RAIN POSSIBLE

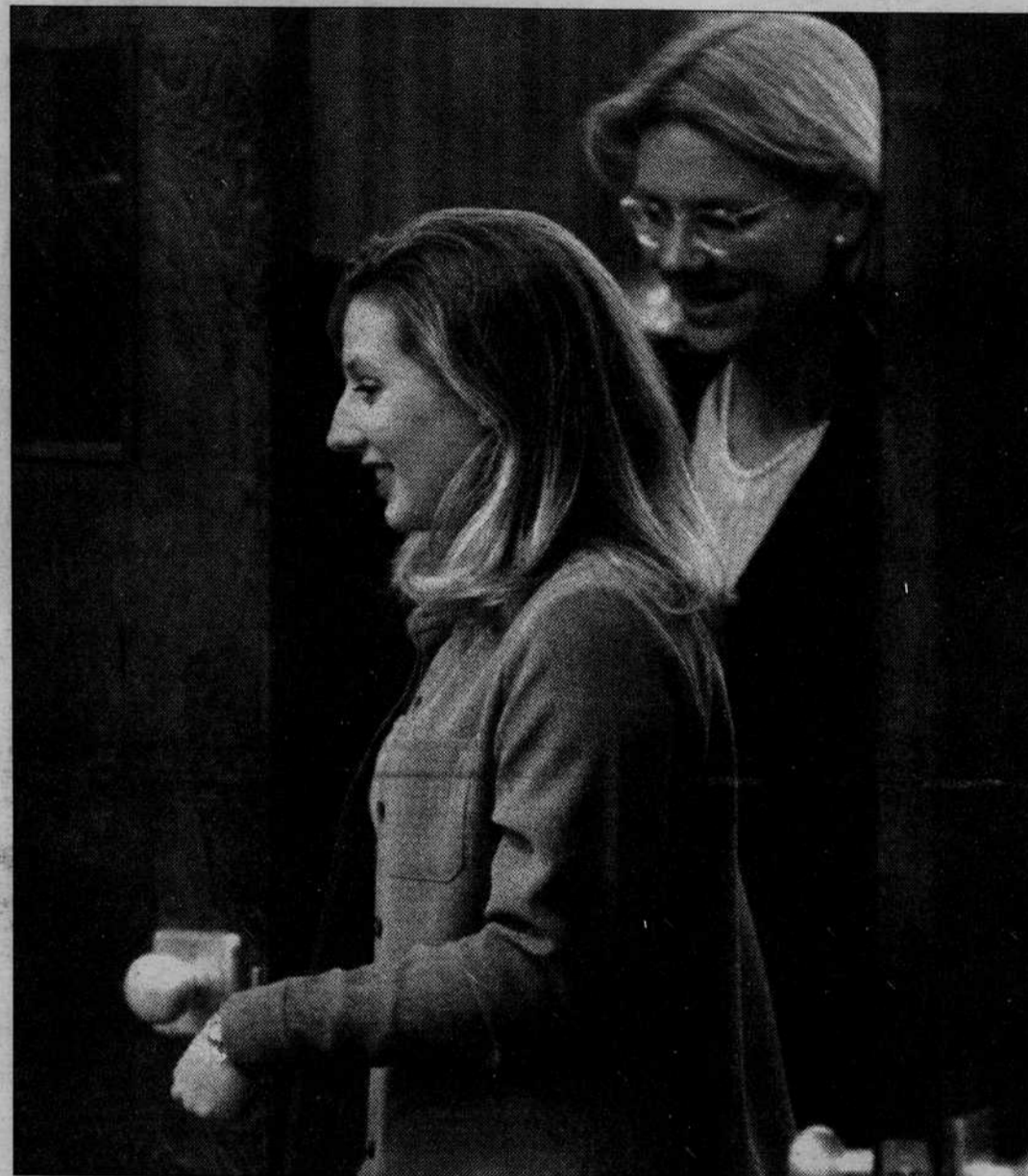
## Caesar transcending time

A updated version of Shakespeare's play about the politics of war starts this weekend at the University theater season starts up. Pulse



## Award winning documentary

University student Brian Hinderberger wins a 1999 Aegis Award for his documentary on the development of journalism. PAGE 4A



Brian Davies Register Guard

Kristen Kinkel leaves the courtroom Wednesday after giving an hour of testimony.

## Psychologist testifies Kinkel is mentally ill

Kinkel's sister recalled during an hour of testimony how she remembered her brother's personality before the shooting

By Sara Lieberth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

During the second day of Kip Kinkel's sentencing hearing in Lane County Circuit Court, defense attorneys presented the first phase of their witness list, including a child psychologist and a compelling hour of testimony from the defendant's sister, Kristin Kinkel. On Sept. 24, Kinkel pleaded guilty to four counts of murder and 26 counts of attempted murder. Lane County Circuit Judge Jack Mattison will decide whether or not Kinkel will serve his sentences consecutively — 25 years or 220 years.

Kinkel killed his parents, Bill and Faith, on May 20, 1998, before going to Thurston High School the following day and opening fire in the cafeteria, killing two students and wounding 25 others.

The morning began with a cross-examination of Lane County Sheriff's Detective Pamela McComas, who testified on Tuesday. McComas was asked to read aloud the letter found on the coffee

table of the family home when investigators arrived at the scene May 21, 1998.

In part, the letter read, "I have just killed my parents, I am so sorry. I am a horrible son. I wish I had been aborted. I destroy everything I touch. My head just doesn't work right...but I have to kill people. I have never been happy. I hate everything."

The defense then called Kristin Kinkel, 22, to the stand. She testified about memories of her 17-year-old brother when they were growing up and the nature of his relationship with their parents.

"He was fun, funny, really sensitive, really sweet, a hard worker," she said. "I remember him just being a regular old kid."

Later she read from a letter she'd addressed to Mattison on her brother's behalf.

Through quiet tears, Kristen Kinkel detailed how for several weeks following the tragedies, visits with her brother were characterized by lots of crying, but that he didn't speak to her, and usually placed his head on the table to avoid looking directly at her.

"It took weeks for him to make eye contact with me, and even longer to say something," she said. "When he finally did, it was, 'I'm so sorry.'"

As during the proceedings the day before, Kinkel spent much of Wednesday with his head resting face-down on the table before him, intermittently straightening up to stare plaintively at the court-

Turn to **Kinkel**, Page 6A

## College students reach a new age

■ There are about 3,600 students over the age of 25 attending the University

By Simone Ripke  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Chuck Whittington, 42, is married and the father of a 10-year-old boy. Whittington takes care of his 98-year-old grandfather, his house and his five-acre yard. He is also a junior applying for the integrated licensure program at the College of Education and one of about 3,600 non-traditional students currently attending the University.

According to the ASUO Women's Center office assistant Kristina Armenakis, graduate and undergraduate students over the age of 25 are classified as non-traditional students. The Women's Center acts as a resource for non-traditional female students.

Whittington enjoys being a student and interacting with younger peers, but he also feels there are aspects that set him apart from the younger student population.

"I have a lot more responsibilities," he said.

Whittington decided to pursue a higher education after he was laid-off four years ago, due to budget cuts at his job for Lane County.

"I feel like I have been given an opportunity," he said.

The Springfield native did not consider college after graduating from high school because higher education had never been a topic in his family.

Now, being a student gives him the opportunity to learn while tailoring his schedule to his family's needs.

After achieving a comfortable

### Who are non-traditional students?

Non-traditional students are graduate and undergraduate students over the age of 25.

### How many non-traditional students are there?

Last spring there were 3,591 non-traditional students enrolled in classes at the University.

life, he said he wants to give back to the community by becoming a teacher.

"I'm here to learn. It's a desire that's within me," Whittington said. He said he takes his studies seriously and tries to be efficient.

He said non-traditional students generally look for each other and "pick each other out."

According to statistics published by the University Office of the Registrar, the non-traditional student population, contradictory to popular belief, has been declining slightly over in the past few years. While there were 3,869 non-traditional students fall term of 1994, there were only 3,591 last spring.

Michele Rutheiser, 42, is a junior majoring in journalism and said she feels that the University does not particularly welcome older students. She hopes the University will become more accepting to non-traditional students and accommodate their needs better in the future, especially when it comes to scholarships. Rutheiser, who has a 4.3 GPA said she has applied for numerous scholarships without success.

Rutheiser held an administrative position with an oil company in California for many years.

Turn to **Students**, Page 6A

## Frohnmayr returns to Eugene



FROHNMAYER

University President Dave Frohnmayr will return home from Bethesda, Md., today. Frohnmayr left Suburban

Health Care Systems in Bethesda Wednesday morning after being hospitalized for a heart arrhythmia, which he suffered while attending a National Institutes for Health

conference Oct. 22.

"He is grateful for the extraordinary care, pleased to know that there is no permanent damage of any kind, grateful for the 'little paramedic' that has been implanted in his chest and is looking forward to his return with great enthusiasm," according to a statement from the Frohnmayr family.

On Monday, doctors implanted a cardio-defibrillator in Frohnmayr's chest that will monitor the heart's rhythm and deliver an electric shock if another arrhythmia occurs.

It is still unclear when Frohnmayr will return to his post at the University.

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