

## Calendar

Tuesday, Jan. 11

The Solar Information Center presents "Diet for a New America," a video on the environmental impact of the meat industry. 7:30 p.m. 177 Lawrence Hall. For more information call 346-3696.

Programs Finance Committee hearing. 5-9 p.m. EMU Board Room, 1222 E. 13th Ave. For more information call 346-0623.

National Student Exchange Program sponsors the last orientation meeting for students seeking placement for the 2000-2001 school year. All students welcome. 3:30-4:30 p.m. EMU Umpqua room. For more information call Jessica Nelson at Academic Advising & Student Services center at 346-3211.

# Wet weather characterizes The Emerald City

■ The rain is once again upon us, or rather, all over us, soaking us to the core

By Sara Lieberth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's relentless. Stubborn. Crafty. It gets in your shoes, on your clothes, sneaks into your backpack unnoticed and onto the floors of classrooms and hallways throughout campus. And after days on end of waking and falling asleep to its pitter-patter on windows and roofs, it becomes ubiquitous.

Yes, the rainy season is upon us in Eugene, made only slightly bearable by the consequence of the city's emblematic title of The Emerald City. To appreciate our excessively green surroundings, residents live with gray skies and precipitation downfall more months of the year than not.

"It's miserable," said senior Biology major and Eugene native Brian Greenough. He said although living in one of the wettest areas of the country his entire life might have helped him get used to it, sloshing through campus on a day like Monday never gets any easier.

"After a workout it's pretty nice, but that's about it," he said.

More complicit in his response, Jason Amis said the incessant wet

weather conditions are par for the course in choosing to live in the Northwest.

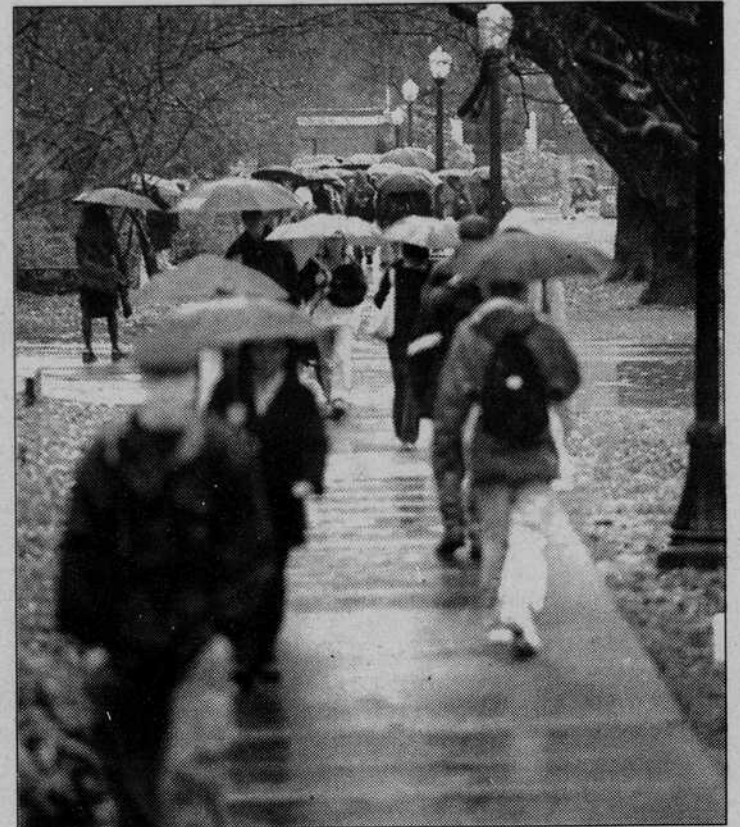
"It's just the way it is," he said. "I've been here for over four years and you get used to it. It's no big deal."

George Taylor, the state's official climatologist since 1991, said residents of the Willamette Valley should take comfort in the fact that the area actually does not necessarily get more rain than an average East Coast or Midwest city. The difference, though, is that west of the Cascade Mountains we experience a lot of rainy days each with a little bit of rain, relatively, as opposed to huge thunderstorms that characterize other parts of the country.

"Certainly we live in a wet valley," he said, "but Eugene is actually below normal in rainfall for the year to date."

Taylor referenced the average to be 22.7 inches of rainfall measured from Oct. 1 through Monday. So far, a mere 15.96 inches have graced the city since last fall. The long-term average for Eugene is 49.36 inches per year of rainfall.

Decreasing temperatures often result in the valley of green being transformed into a valley of white, as snow dusted the tops of South Eugene and Coburg hills



Scott Barnett Emerald

Students hurry to class under a sea of umbrellas outside of Knight Library.

around the city Monday. Over the last few days snowfall has increased dramatically, according

to Taylor, and numerous traffic advisories are in effect throughout the state.

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## CRIME WATCH

(Reported Jan. 2 through Jan. 9)

Jan. 2, Burglary I, 1800 block of Alder Street, apartment burglarized, window broken.

Jan. 6, Burglary I, 1800 block of Harris Street, items stolen.

Jan. 7, Assault IV/Attempted Rape, 1400 block University Street, female assaulted.

Jan. 8, Criminal Mischief II, 700 block of East 16th Avenue, tires slashed.

Jan. 8, Burglary I, 3100 block of Kinsrow Avenue, items stolen.

Jan. 9, Disorderly Conduct/Criminal Mischief II, 700 block of East 16th Avenue, residents threatened with axe handle.

## ASUO voting

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open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Duck Web is open all hours and students can access it from the computer lab or from their dorm room at midnight if they want," Best said.

Best also thinks Duck Web will make the elections more fair and make sure voting remains accurate, which has caused problems in previous years.

"With paper ballots, we could swipe students' cards to see if they can vote. But with Duck Web we can also make sure that science majors don't vote for the law school [Student] Senate seat, for example," Best said.

The tentative polling locations will be the Knight Library lobby, the UO Bookstore lobby, the Carson Hall lobby and in the EMU.

"We're hoping to please both

crowds for those who want to vote on-line and those who want polling booths as part of the voting experience," Best said.

As a trial of the system, students were able to vote on Duck Web for last year's primary election only. Although Best said the computer option didn't increase voting excessively, he thinks the convenience of and confidence in the system will boost voter turnout this year.

Junior journalism major Brian Boone agreed. He said he used Duck Web to vote in last year's primary for the convenience and will definitely use it this year as well.

"It's a good way to get those who don't ordinarily vote, vote. Whatever it takes to increase voting," Boone said.

However, sophomore sociology major Erika Oreskovich said she worries about the problems that could arise by using a computer

system and said she'd rather have a paper ballot system, which she feels would be less impersonal.

"I didn't vote last year, but being able to vote on-line isn't going to get me out there. I'd rather see more information about the candidates and what they stand for," Oreskovich said.

Best said he thinks students will have increased confidence in Duck Web once they see how it works this year.

"I liken it to absentee voting, which has become more and more popular in the state. A huge amount vote absentee now because they don't want to go to the polls," Best said.

The deadline to file as a candidate for office is Friday, Jan. 21. Students interested in running for office need to pick up an elections packet in the ASUO office or call the ASUO Elections Board for more information at 346-3724.

## Scholarships

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ple who don't bother to spell check," he said.

The deadline for most University scholarships is Feb. 1, 2000, a date Buch said is not negotiable. Buch stressed the need for students to apply immediately for scholarships, as well as for federal financial aid.

"I would do it today," he said. "There is nothing to be gained by waiting."

Jim Gilmour, the associate director of student financial aid, echoed Buch's statements, noting that the majority of University students receive federal and state fi-

nancial aid.

"It's important for them to apply right now for those," Gilmour said.

Deadlines are strict, and students who wait until the last minute are likely to be left without any options, he said.

"There's always a small group of people who put a great deal of energy into trying to get us to accept a late application," he said. "They could have spent that [energy] working on getting it in on time."

To simplify the scholarship search process for students this year, the University created an on-line database of scholarships, which is accessible through the University's home page, Buch said.

## Malfunction

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to those messages, but I can't.

"Communication is vital to what we do. That's why we make such a big investment in the Audix system," he said.

"Once in a while when the system goes down we realize how important it is."

The failure was "absolutely not" related to any kind of Y2K problem, Tarlton said.

There was no clear reason for the failure of the two computer chips. "It's a mechanical device subject to failure," he said.

This was the first problem of its kind in the entire history of the OUS use of Audix systems. Audix systems are in use at seven universities across the state.

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