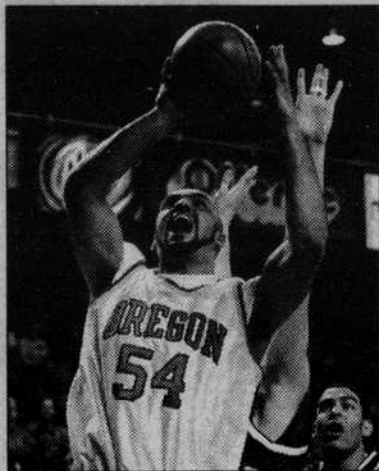


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Ducks in first!

Oregon moves into a four-way tie for first after avenging last season's last-second loss to USC, stopping the Trojans down the stretch in a nail-biter at the Pit, 68-67. PAGE 7

The Flash

OSPIRG meeting kicks off winter term

A group of about 45 students attended a meeting Thursday that marked the beginning of the Oregon Students Public Interest Group's campaign for this term.

OSPIRG will focus their energy on campaigns concerning renter's rights, hunger and homelessness, clean water, earth day and eliminating ATM surcharges. PAGE 3

Clinton delivers his last State of the Union

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton proposed a \$350 billion tax cut, big spending increases for schools and health care and photo ID licenses for handgun purchases Thursday night as he offered the final agenda of his presidency. "The state of our union is the strongest it has ever been," he boasted.

At the start of an election-year, Clinton rebuked Congress in his last State of the Union address and called for action. "For too long this Congress has been standing still on some of our most pressing national priorities," he chided.

The president noted that next month the United States will achieve the longest period of economic growth in the nation's history, and called on Americans to "set great goals."

Another step taken in attack on AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists at drug giant Merck & Co. have opened a long-awaited target in the hunt for new ways to attack the AIDS virus.

It will take years of additional work to create a usable medication from the finding, experts cautioned.

But Merck's research with an enzyme called integrase gives scientists a long-awaited new place to aim against HIV, at a time when many researchers are frustrated in the hunt for novel AIDS drugs.

WEATHER

Today



PARTLY SUNNY
high 40, low 31

Saturday



PARTLY SUNNY
high 40 low 33

Prevention pays off



Catharine Kendall Emerald

Lane County's John Serbu Youth Campus, located at 2727 Centennial Blvd., is the future sight for a new juvenile offenders processing center.

Lane County juvenile crime declines

Intervention services are partly responsible for the overall drop in juvenile crime since 1999

By Sara Lieberth
Oregon Daily Emerald

The juvenile crime rate for Lane County appears to be on a steady, though slight, decline, according to preliminary figures released this week by the Department of Youth Services.

Some agency officials believe the decrease can be substantially attributed to identifying at-risk youth before their behavior turns criminal.

Both violent juvenile crime and overall crime committed by juveniles including those against property decreased in 1999. Total juvenile crime dropped 7.6 percent last year, contin-

uing a downward trend begun in 1996.

Violent crimes, which include assaults, homicides and sex offenses, decreased only slightly from 480 to 477 reported in 1999. Property crimes, involving arson, burglary, robbery, shoplifting, auto theft and trespassing, are the most prevalent among young offenders. These infractions experienced the greatest overall decline, dropping 11.7 percent from 1,955 to 1,726 in 1999.

Other crimes such as disorderly conduct, weapons possession and drug and alcohol offenses dropped as well by a margin of 4.1 per-

cent.

As the director of Youth Services for Lane County, Steve Carmichael stressed that although these recent statistics show a definite improvement, when viewed over a longer period they also indicate a need for continued work.

"If you look at the numbers year to year, it's encouraging," he said. "But over the last 15 years, for instance, we've seen some higher levels."

Carmichael also cited the specific attention being placed on at-risk youth by county agencies in the last few years. He said the last

Turn to **Crime**, page 6

“If you look at the numbers year to year, it's encouraging.”

Steve Carmichael
Lane County
Youth
Services
director

Executive, child care budgets approved

Programs Finance Committee members also approve three other budgets Thursday night

By Edward Yuen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Tears and shouts of frustration characterized the second to last of almost a month of emotion-wrenching Programs Finance Committee meetings Thursday night.

After more than three hours of argument, with an hour interruption to hear the tabled budget of the ASUO Childcare Subsidy Program, PFC members approved a budget of \$222,197 for the ASUO Executive, only 2.01 percent of the executive's requested 16.01 percent increase. "The PFC has done the students a disservice today, by not supporting the

executive budget ... The executive budget was created to support the entire student body," ASUO Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani said. More than 40 students, including representatives from other Oregon Student Association schools, attended the PFC meeting and supported the ASUO Executive.

The ASUO Executive proposed a budget of \$252,684, which includes the funding for a part-time executive coordinator position. However, PFC members did not support funding for this staff addition.

"It is just a tough decision that PFC had to make," PFC chairwoman Shantell Rice said. "And we did the best we could. Basically we were asked to fund a brand new position for something that would ap-

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Gay Day to place issues on table for discussion

Organizers hope talking about homosexual issues and concerns will strengthen gay communities

By Cathlene McGraw
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Bridges program held Thursday at the YWCA aimed to promote awareness of issues within the homosexual community, a theme that will be further examined during the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance's Gay Day on Saturday.

The Bridges workshop provides a way for people to become more visible and a way for allies of the homosexual community to show their support.

"It's hard to build a community when its members are invisible," LGBT volunteer

Nina Thompson said. "There is no way for me to tell just by looking at you if you are queer or straight."

Bridges participants share their coming out stories with audience members interested

in coming to terms with their sexuality or dealing with their homophobia.

LGBT members

and supporters participated in a coming out panel discussion during the workshop. Billy Solis, a Bridges workshop participant and biochemistry major, said he feels heterosexuality is more accepted in society and that straight people have more freedom to discuss their sexu-



Turn to **Gay Day**, page 4