

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## Get the hip-hop groove

University and Lane Community College students have formed a Hip-Hip Student Union, and they want more venues in which to groove. **PULSE**

## The Flash

### ASUO General Elections continue

The ASUO general elections continue today at 9 a.m. through 5 p.m.

This year's elections will be conducted entirely on Duck-Web. Students can submit their votes through any computer with Internet access. Several voting booths with computers will be stationed on campus for added convenience.

### Law conference begins Thursday

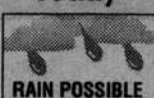
At the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference more than 3,000 environmental leaders and social activists will hear keynote speakers David Brower, founder of Earth Island Institute; forest activist Julia Butterfly Hill; animal rights activist Rod Coronado; Carrie Dan, executive director of the Western Shoshone Defense Project; and Bill Meadows, president of The Wilderness Society. More than 100 panels and workshops are set from Thursday to Sunday. For schedule, locations and costs, call 346-3828.

### Gunman kills two, wounds three

WILKINSBURG, Pa. (AP)—A gunman who reportedly flew into a rage over a broken door went on a rampage Wednesday, shooting a maintenance worker at his apartment and customers at two fast-food restaurants before surrendering to police during a hostage standoff. Two people were killed and three critically wounded. Ronald Taylor, 39, of Wilkesburg, was arrested in an office building after he kept police at bay for about two hours, holding four or five people in wheelchairs hostage at a senior hospice center.

## WEATHER

Today Friday



RAIN POSSIBLE

high 51, low 41



RAIN

high 41, low 35

# Making connections

The new Defazio Bike Bridge creates a new path for bikers and pedestrians to cross the river

By Brian Goodell  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Pedestrians and bicyclists got a preview of the new \$2.8 million DeFazio Bike Bridge Friday before the official dedication takes place in April.

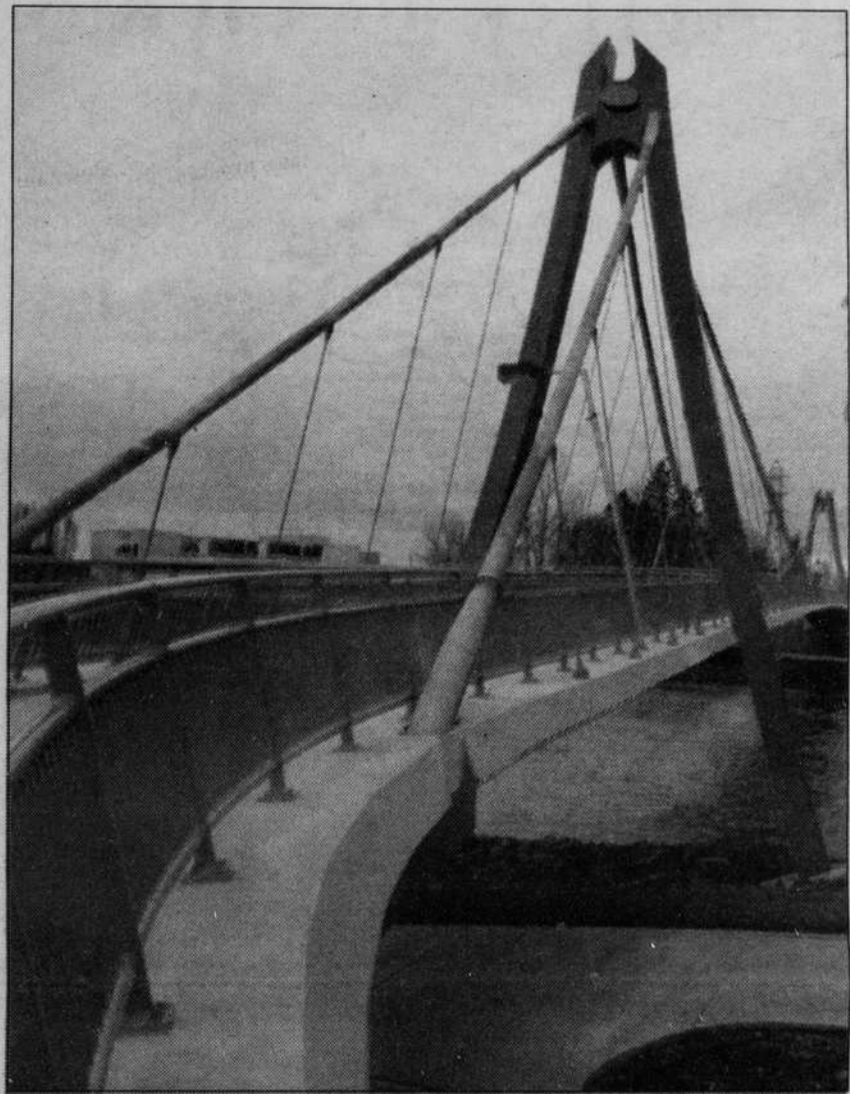
Located just east of the newly remodeled Ferry Street Bridge, the DeFazio Bike Bridge remained open for the weekend but will close occasionally for touch up and repairs prior to the dedication.

In 1997 the Eugene City Council voted unanimously to approve former Mayor Ruth Bascom's recommendation to have the bridge named after DeFazio. The three-year-old project comes from the same \$23.7 million in federal money that Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Springfield, helped acquire to improve transportation in Eugene, which is why the new structure now bears his name.

The bridge got mixed reviews Friday. Cyclists and pedestrians marveled at the unique design, but some wondered why it was built so close to an existing bridge. Although a trek across the Ferry Street

Turn to **Bridge**, page 4A

## Bike bridge



Ryan Starkweather Emerald

The newly built DeFazio Bike Bridge is now open for public use, but its grand opening isn't until April.

# Mexican strikers determined to prevail

Mexican protester Margarita Diaz Lara spoke to the University and Lane Community College last week regarding labor in Mexico

By Serena Markstrom  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It has been 224 days since workers at the Congeladora del Rio (CRISA) frozen fruit plant in Irapuato, Mexico, went on strike. On that hot July day 200 workers were fired. Now those workers are trying to form an independent labor union.

This issue has risen to complicated legal levels at the cost of more than 150 jobs filled by workers from another town.

The legal complication lies in Mexican labor laws and the laws governing the right to form a union.

Margarita Diaz Lara is one of those workers who has been in limbo since the strike began — five days before her 21st birthday. Tuesday she returned to Mexico after touring the Northwest to raise awareness of the struggle. Lara's visit was sponsored by the Mexican Solidarity Network in conjunction with

the Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People. Lara visited the University and Lane Community College last week.

The workers' demands are threefold: They want the fired workers reinstated, they want the right to freely associate with the union of their choice and they want better working conditions.

Lara had worked at the

Turn to **Strike**, page 6A

“If I have to die for it, I will die.”

Margarita Diaz Lara  
worker on strike

# Support services available for assault victims

Sexual Assault Support Services and the EPD are working to combat problems of sexual violence

By Darren Freeman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Sexual violence is one of the state's most punishable offenses, but it's also one of the most commonly unreported crimes.

Measure 11, passed in 1994, intended to crack down on sexually motivated crimes by requiring minimum sentences ranging from 75 to 100 months imprisonment. Most sex crimes, however, go unreported to the police.

“Out of any ten women we work with, probably only two or three report to the police,” Teri Gutierrez, advocacy services coordinator for Sexual Assault Support Services, said.

While 3,439 people, some repeat callers, contacted SASS in 1998, the Eugene Police Department

charged only 286 people that year with sex offenses.

**INSIDE**  
A concerned mother speaks out for support for rape victims.  
PAGE 8A

only 32 people with committing sexually motivated crimes in the University area.

SASS community education coordinator Elizabeth McCravy said victims of sexual assault often refuse to file reports because they fear public scorn, are wary of the criminal justice system and sometimes blame themselves.

“When someone comes forward to say they've been abused as an adult or a child, a lot of the focus and blame falls on the victim,” McCravy said.

SASS strives to ensure victims that attackers are to blame for the assault, no matter where victims were, what they wore or who they were with.

“We try to convince victims that there's no such thing as a rape-able offense,” McCravy said.

Many crime victims, however, refuse to press charges because they're apprehensive about the justice system and public criticism on the witness stand, SASS spokeswoman Janet Fiskio said. “The whole reporting process can be very

ard to say they've been abused as an adult or a child, a lot of the focus and blame falls on the victim,” McCravy said.

Turn to **Services**, page 7A

This is the second installment of a three-part series about sexual assault.

**Today:** Advocacy efforts for victims and prosecution of offenders

**Friday:** Women empowering themselves through prevention and counseling.