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**Softball**

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Golden Bears in the conference standings.

"I think our chances are pretty good," Gustafson said. "But you never know what the committee will do. We've been playing tough opponents in our conference all season. Hopefully they'll take that into consideration because we've all knocked each other off all season long."

"Right now, we are the only team in the conference on the bubble. But if they take Cal, then they have to take us."

**The future**

With four important components of this year's team are leaving, three new players are ready to step up.

Danielle Haag, Lindsey Welch,

Robinson and Gustafson have provided the Ducks with steady production and will leave some gaping holes in both offense and pitching. Robinson and Welch are at the top of numerous categories in the school record book, while Gustafson is second on the team in batting average and Haag has provided some key pitching performances.

Freshman Alyssa Laux, Amber Hutchison and Andrea Vidlund have more than provided depth to this season's roster. They have all developed during the course of the season and earned spots in the starting lineup.

Vidlund leads the team in wins (16) and has been a constant offensive threat toward the bottom of the lineup. In Sunday's game she delivered a two-out single with the bases loaded to drive in two runs.

"I've seen her grow immensely," Gustafson said. "She had no confidence in the beginning. Her

second half of the Pac-10 season has been amazing. I can see a huge difference."

Laux has also had a admirable second half. Injuries plagued her for most of the preseason and in the beginning of the Pac-10 slate.

But now she is healthy, and she has moved into the starting short-stop position, batting behind Gustafson at the second spot in the batting order.

"She's done a great job," Gustafson said. "She's a really hard worker and will be a great player."

Gustafson is not worried about the team's future with quality players like Laux, Vidlund and Hutchison.

"I definitely see this year's class as the leaders down the road," Gustafson said. "They have the potential to lift the team to the level of a Washington or Arizona."

"When I saw Andrea get the hit to score Alyssa and Amber, I knew that the team is in good hands."

**Club Sports brief**

**Ducks water polo team places third in Corvallis**

The Oregon Club Sports water polo team continued its recent success with a third place finish at a tournament in Corvallis last weekend.

The Ducks went 3-2 in the two-day tournament, bringing their record to 12-7 overall. The team came one win away from the playoff finals only to be eliminated by the Portland Masters club

team 17-14.

Although the Ducks were able to keep up with Portland, freshman Anthony Tran said the team simply "ran out of gas at the end."

The Portland Masters went on to win the tournament.

The Ducks finished Saturday's pool play with wins over Tualatin Hills, Western Oregon and the Seattle Otters masters team, with the lone loss coming against the University of Washington.

Amanda Studdard continued her strong play at goalie, allowing only four goals in the victory. But the weekend success was a com-

bined group effort.

"We played some of the best water polo we've ever played," senior Ben Gottlieb said.

The Ducks hope to maintain that level of play in their last home game of the season against Oregon State University.

In what the team is calling its "own little civil war," the four senior players hope to go out as victors in their home water in front of a strong turnout.

The game is next Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. at Leighton Pool. Admission is free to students.

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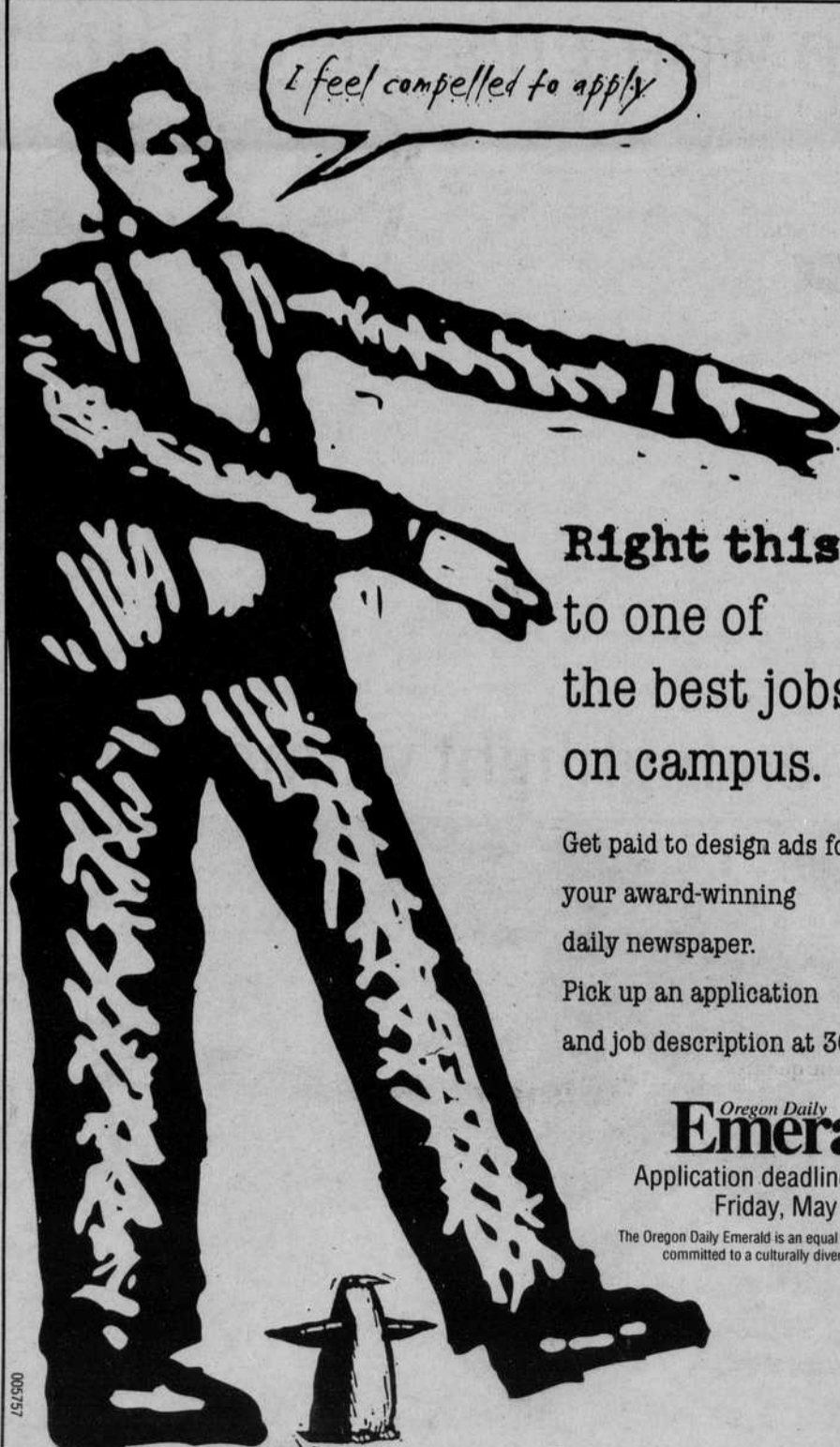
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