

Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper



A welcome addition

Swedish cross country runner Hanna Smedstad's many travels have led her to Eugene. **PAGE 7**

Our house is your house

All students are welcome at the Multicultural Center Open House on Oct. 6. **PAGE 5A**

WEATHER
TODAY



high 70, low 41

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON



Erin Swanson-Davies Emerald

First-term students in Human Anatomy classes are learning about bones and the muscle structure of the human body before they move on to the more hands-on experience of studying cadavers in the spring.

Anatomy students get hands-on

With scalpels at the ready, undergraduates in Human Anatomy 1 prepare for autopsies on real cadavers later in the year

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

This isn't an ordinary room — it's full of dead bodies.

You're instantly aware of the odor emanating from the tissue fluids keeping the bodies moist — masking the more powerful stench of other fluids that leak from the corpses during dissection.

Human bones cover the tables while charts of body systems and skeletons line the walls.

Human Anatomy 1, taught by orthopedic surgeon and instructor Dr. Gregory Strum, is offered this term to undergraduate students through the exercise and movement science department. Strum's class offers students a chance to learn about the structure and function of the human body with some real teaching aids.

While the students won't dissect the bodies this term, they will observe their laboratory

teaching assistants in the process of examining the structures of the cadavers.

By the spring, Strum will teach and supervise them as they pick up the scalpel themselves.

Strum said the course is challenging because the students have to identify the many human structures and systems for the midterm and final.

"It's like learning a foreign language," Strum said. "What I

Turn to **Cadavers**, page 3A

Abortion foes find pill hard to swallow

■ Is mifepristone (RU 486) a blessing or a curse? Strong emotion has risen since the FDA's approval of the controversial abortion pill

By Rebecca Newell
Oregon Daily Emerald

Women's rights advocates hail Sept. 28 as the day women's reproductive rights took another giant step.

On that day, one of America's most debated issues was thrust onto the private citizen when the Food and Drug Administration approved the controversial pill mifepristone, known as RU 486. Now physicians, as well as abortion providers, can offer patients abortions.

The pill, a two-step process, is primarily administered in a doctor's office and is followed with a second dose taken at home. The risk of using the pill is significantly less than that of surgical abortion, with less chance of infection or damage to the uterus, and is six times less hazardous than carrying a child to term, according to recent studies.

Marie Harvey, professor of public health and director of research for the Center for Study of Women in Society, said studies show that women want another option.

"[RU 486] allows women to have an abortion in the privacy of their own doctor's office, rather than at a clinic," Harvey said. "Clinics are targeted by pro-lifers. At a doctor's office, people don't know you're going there for an abortion."

However, the reality of widespread availability of the pill will not be achieved overnight. It will be up to individual practices and medical service

Turn to **Abortion**, page 6A

“Clinics are targeted by pro-lifers. At a doctor's office, people don't know that you're going there for an abortion.”

Marie Harvey
director of research
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The disease of mathphobia has a number of cures

Mathematics is one of the University's most intimidating subjects, but it doesn't have to be

By Brooke Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

The thought of scientific calculators and linear equations causes many students to flee in terror. Those who suffer from math anxiety often let their insecurities hold them back, but there are a number of resources to help students make it through the academic adventure awaiting them at Deady Hall.

"Every field has its own disease," said Richard Koch, director of undergraduate studies for the University math department. "Unfortunately, math's disease is that some students end up feeling like idiots."

Students tend to feel anxious about math for different reasons. Anna Seeley, a sophomore majoring in pre-journalism, said math intimidates her.

"There's a large margin of error and a big chance for you to screw up," she said. "There are a million and one steps you have to do to get to the end of the problem. It's scary."

Whether it's due to fear or insecurity, mathematics tends to be low on the list of students' favorite classes. For some students, high school math did not adequately prepare them for higher education. Others often feel behind their peers in class and choose not to ask a question for fear of looking less intelligent.

"Someone can be good at math in high school, but it gets harder later and that's natural. Everyone has to spend more time on it," said Marie Vitulli, a University math professor.

Students devote a lot of study time to math classes. Doug Hintz, a math specialist at Academic Learning Services, said there are more students who come to the center's math lab for tutoring than its writing lab. Students in lower-level classes usually need more help.

"The class sizes are large, and that can be intimidating to a student," Hintz said.

Some classes that commonly give students trouble include Math 95, Math

Turn to **Math**, page 4A



Adam Amato for the Emerald

Professor Marie Vitulli, an enemy of mathphobia, speaks to her Abstract Algebra class.