

Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper



Men's hoops debut

The Oregon men's basketball team cruises, 102-59, in its exhibition opener. **PAGE 5**

Beyond cute

Artist Kelly Newcomer exhibits her latest works in the EMU Adell McMillan Gallery. **PAGE 4**

WEATHER
TODAY



MOSTLY CLOUDY

high 51, low 42

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Fairgrounds primed for Election Central 2000

Local candidates, organizers will converge on the downtown convention hall to watch as election results are reported

By Emily Gust
Oregon Daily Emerald

The tables have been set up, the chairs wiped down, and the red and white tablecloths are being placed. When the doors of the Lane County Fairgrounds' Performance Hall open at 6 p.m., everything will be ready to ring in the election results during Election Central 2000.

Election Central has been held for "probably close to 15 years," said Linda Roz Smith, sales and events manager for Lane County Fairgrounds. This year, 48 tables, two big-screen TVs and lots of concessions are highlights of the Fairgrounds' festivities.

"About 300 people are likely to attend, including representatives from political action committees and candidate supporters," said Thomas Markham, event coordinator for Lane County Fairgrounds.

Those scheduled to show up include members of the No On 9 campaigns, State Rep. Vicki Walker D-Eugene, who is up for re-election in District 41, and contenders for the District 40 representative spot, including Democrat Phil Barnhart and Republican Dr. Bill Young.

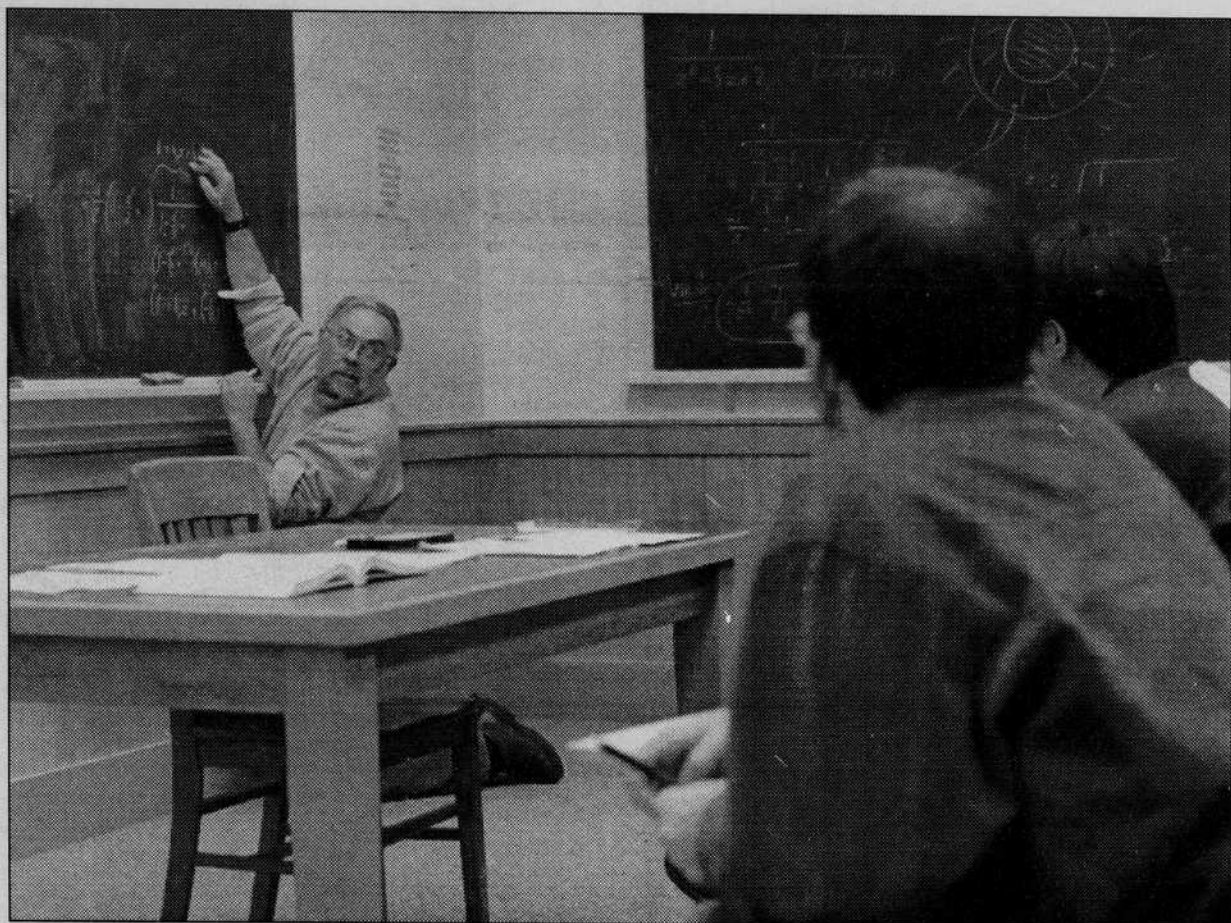
U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., and the Democrats have their own private room reserved, and because the group wants to watch Fox Re-

gional News during the event, cable had to be installed. Republicans had a room reserved but later decided against it, though Markham said he wasn't really sure why.

Most of the action, however, will take place in the large hall, where 33 of the 48 tables are reserved by campaigns and committees, said Sharon Kimball, operations lead worker for Lane County Fair Board. That leaves about 15 tables for the public.

Even though the deadline to reserve tables at the event was Oct. 23, about a quarter of the calls came in just last Friday.

Turn to **Elections**, page 3



Tom Patterson Emerald

Knee-deep in a complex Newtonian proof, Professor Richard Koch holds the attention of his Mathematics 411 class asking, "Isn't that pretty?"

'Saint in residence' makes math fun

Math professor Richard Koch's enthusiastic approach to teaching keeps students' interest multiplying

By Kristy Hessman
Oregon Daily Emerald

Some students may not think the words "math" and "fun" belong in the same sentence, but those students have never taken a math class from professor Richard Koch.

"He is always asking questions aloud like, 'OK, Richard, what does that mean, repeat it again,'" said Gulden Karakok, graduate teaching fellow for Koch. "Sometimes, he hits his head and call himself stupid, he runs from one part of the blackboard to the other. He is really full of energy."

Karakok added that students appreciate Koch's enthusiasm.

"He can easily see places where students are struggling," he said. "They like to be in his class no matter what grade they are getting."

Koch joined the University staff in 1966, after teaching two years at the University of Pennsylvania. Currently, he's teaching Math 231 and 411. His research specialty is geometry.

"A colleague of mine had come to Oregon and told me that there were jobs," he said. "It was almost a fluke that I came, but I am so glad I did."

Koch's happiness with Oregon has also been revealed in his dreams.

"I keep having a recurring nightmare where I have just received my degree and the only job openings are in the Midwest," he said.

Koch originally planned to go into the field of physics, but ended up taking a math class with an inspirational teacher at Harvard, who made him decide to study math. Koch went on to graduate from Princeton with a Ph.D. in mathematics.

According to Koch, people go into teaching because it is a challenge, and the next step for people who are fascinated with math is to teach it.

"I don't dance or sing, well, sometimes sing," Koch said. "I just tell the mathematics and it's history and the math speaks for itself. Mathematics is far more interesting than people imagine."

It is this enthusiasm which students like Peter Dolan say keeps them interested in math.

"He is very interactive and always cuts to the essentials," he said. "He will also offer you money if you can prove something — and he gives it to you if you do."

Turn to **Mathematics**, page 3

OSPIRG keeping active, focussed

Due to a membership boom this year, OSPIRG focuses on making their events visible

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's been a busy term for OSPIRG activists — jamming the White House switchboard, encouraging students to register to vote and dressing up as corn for a Halloween press conference on genetically engineered food.

OSPIRG is the Oregon student chapter of the national Public Interest Research Group, which handles issues involving the environment, public safety and health, among other public concerns. The group has been more active this year compared to last year, due in part to the wide variety of projects and issues it's tackled so far this term.

Chapter Chair Michelle Ternus said the group is more active this year in making their events visible on campus and addressing a broad range of issues, because of their increase in membership.

Most recently, the group donned Halloween costumes Oct. 31 to discuss the dangers of gene enhanced produce. Organic food experts and OSPIRG activists met outside Johnson Hall to warn people that some genetically engineered foods pose as a health hazard because they are not safety-tested.

"We wanted to educate people and make them more aware of what they are actually eating," Ternus said.

But the group has always made the environment its biggest focus. This year is no exception: OSPIRG has focused attention on educating students about the National Heritage Forests Campaign.

"The goal [of the campaign] is to get [President] Clinton to protect the forests from logging, mining, road building, drilling and to have a strong roadless policy," Ternus said.

Research is currently underway on the environment and endangered species at the Fall Creek site in the Willamette National Forest. The site is known for tree-sitters who protest the cutting down of old growth trees.

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