

Pulse

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Celtic culture

Scottish and Irish heritage will be revisited this weekend in a festival featuring authentic food, music and customs.

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Students' voices

"Speaking Through the Flowers" and "Ewen," two student-written one-act plays, make up "New Voices" at the Arena Theatre this weekend.

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Location: <http://www.itsaganble.com>

A bet with the Internet

Online gambling is increasing in accessibility and riskiness

By Josh Ryneal
Oregon Daily Emerald

Going to a casino used to be an adventure. In decades past, one would have to make a road trip to the hot, dusty gambling Mecca of Las Vegas, survive on all-you-can-eat shrimp buffets and hold out for the big score that would make it all worth it.

Not anymore.

Gamblers can now try their odds on the Internet, where countless online casinos and book-making operations have set up shop to bring the gambling experience to your computer.

The varied Web sites offer 24-hour access to casino-style gambling. Players can log on at any time, bet scads of money and most often shut down their computers poorer than when they logged on.

At a time when Internet usage is exploding and consumers are finding new ways to talk and shop online, it seems only natural that casinos would follow the scent of Internet cash. But gambling online is an often dangerous proposition that makes it even easier to lose money at casinos.

Luca Jacky, a biology graduate student, said that he dabbled in online sports betting and came out a loser.

"I lost money at generally every type of casino game I tried," he said. "I also bet on sports games and won some money, but it's pretty risky, and I don't do it anymore."

Jacky said he lost interest in online gambling because he found it difficult to collect some of his winnings and it was hard to place his trust in an online operation.

"It's unregulated, so I got the impression that it was a pretty questionable area," he said. "And it's kind of a pain in the ass to get your money when you've won. Once, I didn't get a check, but the place is in Antigua, so what are you going to do?"

Betting on casino games and sports events at unlicensed gambling operations is illegal in Oregon, and offenders face a stiff fine or even prison

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