

# Oregon Daily Emerald



## Road woes

The Oregon women's basketball team drops both games in the Bay Area. **PAGE 7**

## Love makes the grade

Faculty share their stories of making relationships work on campus. **PAGE 3**

WEATHER  
TODAY



high 45, low 25

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

# Student's death incites sorrow and fear

■ Friends mourn the loss of Jill Dieringer, who died only days after contracting symptoms of a disease

By Emily Gust and Jeremy Lang  
Oregon Daily Emerald

University officials are still uncertain how freshman Jill Dieringer contracted the meningococcal disease that killed her early Friday morning.

But her friends and classmates have begun the mourning and healing process as the 19-year-old's funeral arrangements are planned, and students who lived with her flock to the University Health Center for meningitis antibiotics.

Dieringer, a member of the Kappa Delta sorority who also lived in a single room in Cloran Hall, went to the health center with a sore throat Wednesday. At that time, health center physician Victoria Skellcerf said her conditions did not appear serious or life-threatening.

By the time she admitted herself to Sacred Heart Medical Center shortly after midnight Thursday, Dieringer had a severe headache, fever and a sore throat. But she was in stable condition, Skellcerf said.

Dieringer died Friday morning at Sacred Heart between 4 and 5 a.m.

"That's fairly typical [of this disease]," Skellcerf said. "Once you get very sick, it progresses very rapidly."

Skellcerf said blood tests showed meningococcal bacteria in Dieringer's bloodstream, but it was not narrowed down to meningitis, a form of meningococcal disease affecting the

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**DIERINGER**



Jennifer Crossen, a sorority sister of Jill Dieringer's from the campus Kappa Delta chapter, mourns the death of a beloved member. Dieringer died suddenly Friday of meningococcal disease.

■ Students flock to the health center, requesting vaccines and information about meningococcal disease

By Lisa Toth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Friends who knew 19-year-old freshman Jill Dieringer, who died early Friday morning from meningococcal disease, spent the weekend overcoming the shock and fear of catching the disease themselves.

In response to the news of her tragic death, University Housing director Mike Eyster said the University Health Center dispensed about 500 doses of meningitis antibiotics Friday, and Bob Petit, health center administrator, said about 60 doses were given Saturday.

Although health center officials stress that they don't expect to see other cases of the disease appear, they said anyone who had been in close contact with Dieringer during the last week should receive the antibiotic.

"Students who were in close contact with her should be concerned," Eyster said. He added that during his 10 years as the director, this was the first time he had seen such a tragic death in the residence halls.

But as health center officials worked to make treatment available, some students decided not to wait and went to Sacred Heart Medical Center to try to get the vaccination.

Nick Bogen, a freshman and member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, was one of many members in the Greek system worried about being exposed to the disease and headed to Sacred Heart on Saturday for the vaccine. But Bogen was redirected to the health center for the meningitis vaccination.

"It didn't seem quite real. I came here yesterday and saw people crying," Bogen said, referring to the Kappa Delta sorority sisters who lined up Friday outside the Health Cen-

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# ASUO hopefuls embark on 2001-02 campaigns

■ Among a number of candidates for other positions, six diverse tickets will vie for next year's Executive office

By Jeremy Lang  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The posters have popped up across campus, the Web pages are running, and the student election season has officially begun, with about the same number of candidates as last year.



But Matt Swanson, office manager for the ASUO Elections Board, said there are fewer people running uncontested for Student Senate and committee positions this year, which will mean more campaigns. The filing deadline was 5 p.m. Friday.

Swanson said he hopes the increased number of campaigns will help students become more aware of what student

government does.

"The turnout is good. There are a few open seats, but so many people filing will make for an intense elections season," Swanson said.

But the closest-watched campaign is always the one for president and vice president: the ASUO Executive. This year, six very diverse tickets will compete during the two weeks leading up to the Feb. 26 primary election. The top two tickets will advance to the general election, beginning March 5.

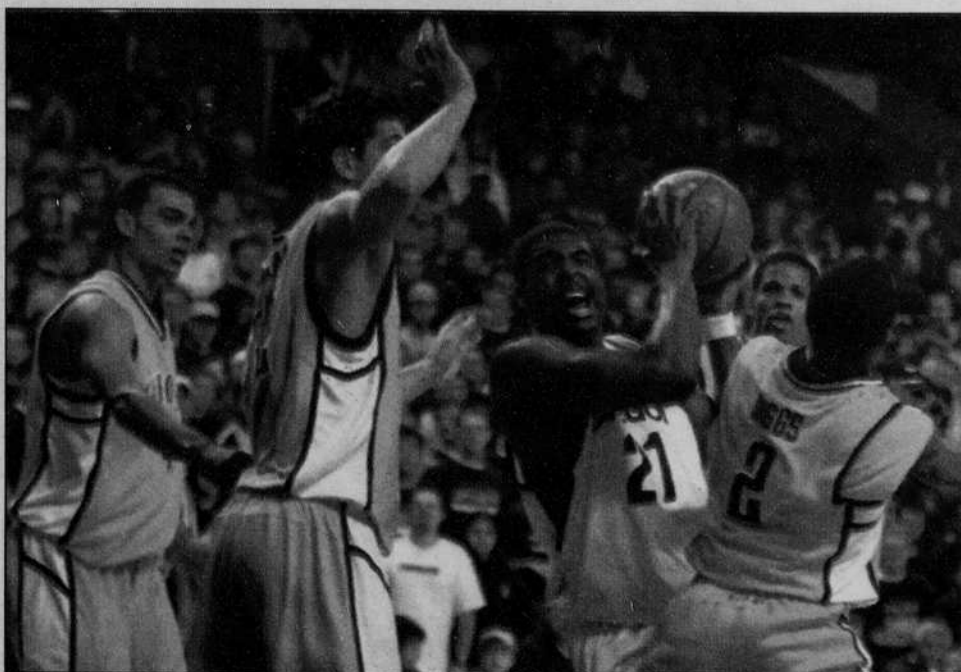
The candidates have said that so far, they are in the early planning stages, getting their word out with fliers and posters and lobbying student groups for votes.

Two of the tickets are filled by current members of student government.

Nilda Brooklyn, ASUO multicultural advocate, and her running mate, Joy Nair, ASUO recruitment and retention director, are both sophomores. Brooklyn said some of her friends suggested last year that she run, but she only decided to

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# Stuck in the middle of the Pac



Oregon center Julius Hicks (21) has a tough time penetrating the California defense in the Ducks' 65-56 loss Saturday afternoon. The defeat was Oregon's seventh in its past nine games. For more information, turn to **PAGE 7**.

Chrystal McConnell Emerald