

# Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper



## Intent on finishing strong

Oregon is hoping to turn its season around with solid play in its final seven games. **PAGE 9**

## Under the table

A man crawling under tables disturbed students in the Lawrence Hall Library last week. **PAGE 6**

WEATHER  
TODAY



high 50, low 35

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

## Fundraiser kickoff



Eileen Beban, board chairwoman for Red Cross Lane County, looks forward to the future of the organization.

Tom Patterson Emerald

## Red Cross renews 84-year promise

The Red Cross kicked off its annual fundraising campaign on Monday night

By Lindsay Buchele  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Red Cross made a promise to Lane County in 1917 to always be there when disaster strikes. Monday night, the Oregon Electric Station hosted a dinner for the non-profit organization, which vowed to continue that promise as it kicks off its annual fundraising campaign.

Eileen Beban, chairwoman of the board for Red Cross, said the fundraising efforts will enable the organization to continue serving

the community. Red Cross officials hope to raise \$115,000 through this month's efforts.

Olympic athlete Marla Runyan made a special guest appearance at the fundraising kickoff, which was held to motivate Red Cross volunteers and employees to get out and raise money.

"I just want you all to know that I appreciate all that you do," said Runyan, who competed as a runner in the 2000 Olympic Games.

Most of this year's fundrais-

ing campaign was handled by Debbie Phillips, Red Cross financial development director, and University Public Relations Intern Melissa O'Connell.

Romania Toyota has raised \$8,000 for the Red Cross through a telemarketing campaign. Phillips said Steve Romania is paying the salaries of his employees who volunteered to take part in the telemarketing, and has said he will attempt to bring in \$15,000 through telemarketing.

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## Death prompts vaccinations

■ Freshman Jill Dieringer's death has caused hundreds of students to seek vaccinations and antibiotics for meningococcal disease

By Jeremy Lang  
Oregon Daily Emerald

After running on empty during the weekend, the University Health Center received its long-awaited shipment of meningococcal disease vaccinations, and a new wave of students headed for the health center to get their shots.

Bob Petit, medical administrator at the health center, said about 200 students have received the \$66 vaccination, most of them late Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

Petit said an additional 425 students have received the meningococcal antibiotic, which is less expensive and is meant to cure the immediate symptoms of the disease. The vaccination is a longer-term, preventive measure.

The concerns come after the sudden death of freshman Jill Dieringer, who died early Friday morning from the disease less than 72 hours after she visited the health center complaining of flu-like symptoms and doctors at the health center sent her home.

By midnight Thursday, she was in Sacred Heart Medical Center, and she died between 4 and 5 a.m. Friday.

Petit said the staff has not discussed the possibility that the health center could be liable for her death. Petit said he believes the staff is not liable. "The course of this disease is so difficult to diagnose," he said.

Housing Director Mike Eyster said Dieringer's parents have been in contact with housing officials, though they haven't mentioned taking action against the health center either.

The meningococcal bacteria, which can lead to meningitis, is transmitted

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“The course of this disease is so difficult to diagnose.”

Bob Petit medical administrator, University Health Center

The Lane County Bloodbank is asking students not to give blood today if they:

Had close contact with Jill Dieringer

Live in Cloran Hall or Kappa Delta sorority

Spent more than four hours with Dieringer in a confined space between Feb. 1 and Feb. 8

Source: Lane County Bloodbank

## Beta Alpha Psi to aid students with tax season woes

The campus fraternity plans to help students avoid tax frustration and confusion by offering filing services

By Beata Mostafavi  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Sour faces and frustrated grumbles caused by the piles of paperwork signal the arrival of the least favorite time of year for many people.

"Tis the season to file tax returns.

Students who find the world of W-2 forms, never-ending numbers, and other paper filings confusing and chaotic can get free help throughout the next month from Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honors fraternity.

This is the second year the society has offered free tax preparation for community members. Volunteers from Beta Alpha Psi, along with IRS experts, will work

with students individually and help them fill out their tax forms correctly.

The next services will be provided between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. March 3, March 17 and April 14 in the Chiles Center, Room 228.

Scott Rawitscher, the fraternity's tax preparation coordinator, said last year the group helped nearly 300 people file tax returns. He added that this service especially appealed to students because it took only 30-45 minutes, sometimes saving them hours of time and energy.

"Most students don't have the time or patience to do their own taxes," he said.

Tracy Fisher, an accounting

graduate student and Beta Alpha Psi member who used the service last year, said the program also gives students the option to "e-file," which processes tax forms electronically. This process allows people to receive tax refunds within 11 days, as opposed to the months it can take when filings are sent through the mail.

She said that e-filing would usually cost about \$50, but Beta Alpha Psi offers the service for free.

Fisher added that the fraternity's service helps prevent students from making errors. She explained that through IRS software, tax preparers can enter some general information that au-

tomatically goes into all the appropriate forms at one time. This way students can avoid the mistake of copying down the wrong information or making mathematical slips as they "go back and forth" between forms.

The fraternity prepares its volunteers with a crash course and provides training focused on common tax issues students come across. IRS experts are also on site to assist volunteers and answer more complex questions.

Julie Heidenreich, a returning volunteer who plans to go into the tax business, said one of the best parts of her job was helping students save money by telling

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What: Beta Alpha Psi will help students fill out tax forms correctly.

When: Saturday, March 3; Saturday, March 17; Saturday, April 14

Time: 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Where: Chiles Center, Room 228

Source: Beta Alpha Psi