

Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper



Duck soup

The Oregon men's and women's hoops teams lose heartbreakers to Washington State. **PAGE 7**

Earning accolades

Chemistry professor Geraldine Richmond was named the Outstanding Scientist for 2001. **PAGE 4**

WEATHER TODAY



MOSTLY CLOUDY

high 48, low 25

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Cocaine use is not out of style

■ A rising number of first-time cocaine users means the drug didn't go out with the '80s

By Rebecca Wilson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Author's Note: Students' names have been changed at their request to protect their privacy.

Courtnee Frier thought she knew just what to expect when she decided to stop by a friend's 21st birthday party. It would be just like any of a hundred parties she had been to in the past two-and-a-half years at the University: loud music, lots of people, cheap beer, hard liquor and maybe some pot.

When Frier got to her buddy's apartment on Kinsrow Avenue, the party was in full swing.

"I walked in the door and there were all these people sitting around a table playing drinking games," she said. "There was music playing. It seemed like a normal party."

But then Frier noticed something strange.

"People would just get up from the table and randomly go upstairs and come back down and sniff their noses," she said.

At first, Frier didn't pay much attention. She considered the possibility of a fast-acting cold, but "they were really jittery and super-full of energy. [They had] super-dilated, wide eyes. [They were] bouncing off the walls."

Frier began putting the facts together and realized that "these people were high out of their minds on cocaine," she said. "I have never seen anyone on cocaine before," she added, "but it was interesting because it was completely obvious they were high."

Frier's description sounds as if it were lifted off any B-movie about 1983 — the year Frier and most of her friends turned three. Now it's 2001, and cocaine may be the new drug of choice among the social elite at the University.

In the 1980s, cocaine was associated with wealth and success. Beautiful actors with big cars and multiple divorces routinely underwent treatment in posh clinics. This image contributed to Frier's surprise at seeing her friends on cocaine: "Everything I have ever associated with cocaine has been with CEOs," she said. "It puts you on this pedestal of untouchableness."

But by the 1990s, most white Americans associated cocaine use with urban minority groups that smoke crack; "white lines" were associated with the 1980s. But according to statistics, law enforcement officials and students, cocaine did not disappear with Reaganomics, parachute pants and Vanilla Ice.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration, overall cocaine use has not actually increased over the last six years. However, the number of first-

time users increased by 63 percent from 1991 to 1998. A 1995 study conducted by the DEA showed 74 percent of powder cocaine users were males between the ages of 18 and 25. If these statistics are accurate, then cocaine use is declining among people of every age group except those between the ages of 18 and 25 — the age group of most people who attend the University.

Jan Power, a programs specialist for the city of Eugene, said that 125 people under the age of 21 were arrested between 1997 and 1999 for the possession or manufacture of cocaine. While the numbers do not necessarily indicate an increase or decrease in the actual use of cocaine, they offer concrete evidence of the drug's presence among young adults in Eugene.

Regardless of the consequences, more and more people continue to try cocaine.

Jessica Smith is a soft-spoken 19-year-old sophomore at the University of Oregon. Smith used cocaine on a recreational basis during high school, but she said she doesn't like being associated with the drug or the culture that surrounds it.

Smith said she enjoyed using cocaine because of the high. "It's basically like being wired," she said. "Like you've gone out and smoked tons of cigarettes. It is a very good feeling — very hyper, very wild."

Unfortunately, what goes up must Turn to **Cocaine**, page 5

UTSAV 2001 features food, entertainment

■ With dances and traditional dishes, the festival will give visitors a taste of Indian and other cultures

By Steve Ewing
For the Emerald

Students of the Indian Subcontinent will hold its third annual cultural night on Saturday. Similar to the Japan or China nights held earlier this year, the event will feature a dinner and entertainment.

But don't call it "India Night," because SIS includes participants from countries neighboring India and islands off its shore. The event is called UTSAV 2001, which comes from the Hindi word for "festival." Previous UTSAVs have drawn between 400 and 500 people.

A dinner of traditional Indian food will be served in the first part of the evening. Many parents of the student participants will be coming to prepare the traditional dishes in order to give them a home-cooked flavor. Previous UTSAVs have hired caterers from local Indian restaurants.

"There is more to India than mild chicken curry," said Aashim Tyagi, a pre-journalism major. Tyagi said he realizes that the extent of most people's exposure to Indian culture is the food.

"There will be curry there," he said, "but in our culture, a [whole] home-cooked meal is a symbol of love and respect."

The sentiment is echoed by other members of SIS. Pre-business major Edwin Prasae said, "I enjoy my culture and

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Candidates stand for renters' rights

■ ASUO Executive candidates Eric Bailey and Jeff Oliver discuss their views on housing, diversity and student voice

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

Presidential candidate Eric Bailey is an undeclared sophomore and the vice president of the Student Senate. His running mate, Jeff Oliver, is a junior political science major and the ASUO Housing Advocate.

Q: What is your platform?

A: Renters' rights is our number one issue. We think Eugene definitely needs a housing code. Most major cities do. We think there are some steps already being taken in the ASUO office toward that, and we'd like to continue that process and hopefully have it implemented with student say — student voice needs to be included in this — sometime next year.

This is the first in a series of Q & A interviews with the candidates for ASUO Executive. One interview with each ticket will appear each day in the Emerald until the primary election begins Feb. 26.

Diversity — not just bring diversity to campus, but we have to foster that growth when it gets here. We have to have positions for people to be able to speak. We have to encourage them to use that voice once they get here. Sometimes diversity doesn't only mean ethnic background and gender background, but it also means political background too, and we feel the ASUO office doesn't necessarily have the student voice totally represented there. It has a lot of one-sided issues, and it needs to be more diverse in the political sense as well.

Students need to feel safe on campus, but also when they come to and from it. It's a big issue especially for



BAILEY



OLIVER

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