

An independent newspaper Oregon Daily Emerald

Go out and play

With spring soon to come, students can find a number of ways to stay fit and have fun. **Inside**

Absorbing the Juice

Oregon senior Julius Hicks provides a presence to the Ducks that goes beyond the stat sheet. **PAGE 7A**

WEATHER TODAY



MOSTLY SUNNY
high 55, low 37

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Eugene chosen as site of new federal courthouse

City officials say acquiring the new building is a big step toward revitalizing the downtown area

By Aaron K. Breniman
Oregon Daily Emerald

The city's long wait ended Thursday when the federal General Services Administration announced the former Agripac Cannery, now owned by Chiquita Processed Foods in Eugene, will become the site of the area's new federal courthouse.

Eugene had been competing with Springfield for the new courthouse, on which construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2002 and be completed in 2004.

The GSA made the announcement Thursday morning in a jury assembly room at the existing courthouse on East Seventh Avenue in downtown Eugene. Following the announcement, city employees, city councilors, GSA personnel and media made the one-block walk to the new location, where Mayor Jim Torrey met with Chiquita workers and addressed the

crowd.

"I'm very pleased with the GSA decision," Torrey said. "I am convinced that this is the best thing for the city of Eugene."

While applauding Springfield's efforts, GSA officials said that the urban reality of the two communities led to the selection of Eugene. The GSA decided that the courthouse, planned to be eight stories tall, just wouldn't fit into Springfield's downtown.

The Eugene Urban Renewal Agency purchased the nearly nine-acre site from Chiquita for more than \$4 million. Four acres will be developed for the courthouse, with the remaining five acres slated to be redeveloped for private use.

"For a number of years, many of us in this community have talked about how we go about taking that Agripac site and bringing it to its highest and best use," Torrey said.

The city's acquisition of the new courthouse reflects the goals of the



Eugene mayor Jim Torrey, left, talks with workers from the Chiquita canning plant. The Eugene Urban Renewal Agency bought the nine-acre site from Chiquita, and it will be the home of a new federal courthouse.

Turn to **Courthouse**, page 4A

ASUO election outcome up in air until spring term

The Multicultural Center will appeal Wednesday's grievance, which has caused problematic election delays

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

As the ASUO election remains at a standstill, members of student government are trying to solve a number of lingering, unanswered problems and prepare for the damage already caused by rulings they said have hurt student voices on campus.

Even if the injunction that halted voting Wednesday night on candidate and ballot measures is lifted, an election probably won't happen until early spring term because it can't happen during Finals Week or

Dead Week, which starts Monday.

The Multicultural Center Board and interested MCC members met Thursday afternoon to decide how to proceed with the grievance filed against their ballot measure. After a half-hour of discussion, board members voted unanimously to fight the grievance.

"If this is something that we need and something that we want, then we need to fight it to the end," MCC member Dominique Beaumont said. "Basically, the MCC is a joke if we don't fight this."

The MCC has seven days from Wednesday to file a rebuttal to the grievance.

But Rob Raschio, the chief justice of the ASUO Constitution Court, said regardless of the outcome, the

disruptions will lower voter turnout and hurt campus democracy.

"The point is the damage is done," Raschio said. "I can't consider two days of voting, in this situation, a fair process."

The court first stopped the general election Sunday night only hours before it was scheduled to begin, so the court could hear a grievance from disqualified Executive candidates Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook. The ASUO Elections Board took them off the ballot after the pair distributed campaign fliers in residence halls.

But the court quickly changed part of its ruling Monday to allow voting on ballot measures for OSPIRG and the Multicultural Center. University President Dave Frohnmayer must receive a student fee total from the

ASUO by April 1. A vote on the OSPIRG and MCC ballot measures would be necessary before spring term to make that deadline.

Many members of student government, including Raschio, said they were surprised when Justice Alan Tauber enjoined the entire election again Wednesday night after five student senators filed a grievance challenging the legality of the MCC ballot measure.

Only one justice is necessary to enjoin an election, and the majority of the court needed to overturn it fell one vote short late Wednesday night.

Raschio said that since the court first stopped candidate voting but not measure voting, Tauber should have stopped voting on the MCC ballot only. He added that Tauber should

have communicated better with the court before making his decision.

"It was a mistake by Alan Tauber," Raschio said. "We easily could have met tonight. He decided to jump the gun and move in a hasty manner."

Tauber said he would not discuss the case.

But Mary Elizabeth Madden, one of the senators who filed the grievance Wednesday, said the court needed to act quickly because ASUO rules give precedent to ballot measures over court rulings.

She said a situation could occur in which the MCC measure passes and the court rules against it, but Frohnmayer could still approve the measure.

Turn to **Election**, page 5A

Gamblers may grow interested in women's basketball

As women's basketball becomes more popular, it may attract the attention of Las Vegas gamblers

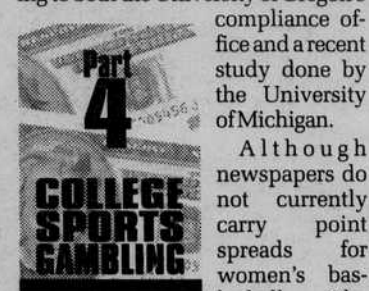
By Marty Toohey
for the Emerald

In the Latest Line section of most daily newspapers, one can find point spreads for nearly every sport: NFL, NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball, NCAA football and men's basketball.

NCAA women's basketball will not be found there, however. The Las Vegas gambling community has, for years, ignored women's basketball, and the sport was free of any influences associated with organized gambling.

That could change soon. With its rapidly increasing popularity,

women's college basketball could soon face the difficulties of being the subject of Las Vegas gambling, according to both the University of Oregon's compliance office and a recent study done by the University of Michigan.



Although newspapers do not currently carry point spreads for women's basketball, "the sport is certainly getting more popular, so there probably will be some (point spreads) someday soon," said Bill Clever, the athletics department's assistant director for compliance.

Last year, several Las Vegas sports

consulting agencies established odds for the NCAA women's Final Four.

A study by the University of Michigan on gambling among college athletes concluded that "the involvement of female athletes in gambling activities should not be discounted."

"Although our findings indicate a lesser involvement by females than their male peers, this should not provide false comfort to administrators. As media focus and professional opportunities increase, the temptations and problems that face male athletes are likely to be encountered by females. With women's basketball contests receiving more attention ... there is increased potential for problems."

The study found that female student athletes are less likely to participate in all forms of gambling

than their male counterparts, from casino gambling to point shaving. In most of the study's categories of gambling, the study found that at least 10 percent fewer women participate than the combined average of men and women.

University of Oregon women's head basketball coach Jody Runge said that to her knowledge, the women's basketball program at the University has not faced any problems from the gambling community, and she did not know if the increased popularity of the sport would lead to problems associated with gambling.

"I think that's hard to comment on," Runge said. "I think that it remains to be seen. I certainly would hope not."

She added that her friends in Las Vegas have never seen her team in a point spread.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Check out the fifth and final part of the college sports gambling series online at www.dailymerald.com. The previous four parts will also be available on the site.

"I think until you get national exposure and really get on the radar in Vegas, it's really just not an issue," she said.

There are more pressing issues surrounding the players, Runge said.

"I think you try to protect [the players] from people outside the program for a lot of reasons," Runge said. "I'm more concerned with inappropriate contact with agents and things of that nature, but I guess gambling is one of those things."