

An independent newspaper Oregon Daily Emerald

The best of the best

Seven Oregon wrestlers travel to Iowa to compete at the NCAA Championships. **PAGE 9**

Walk on the wild side

Need some relief from stress? Put on those hiking boots and get out of town. **PULSE SECTION**

**WEATHER
TODAY**



high 55, low 35



SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Straight-up VOCALS

The all-male a cappella group, "On the Rocks," treats students to weekly performances

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

Take away the musical instruments. Take away the speakers, lights and microphones. And what's left echoing through the EMU Amphitheater every Wednesday afternoon are the voices of "On the Rocks," a 10-member male a cappella group.

The student-run choir group puts school and work aside two times a week — for anywhere from five to seven hours — to do what they said they love and do best.

Peter Hollens and Leonardo Silva, the

founders and co-presidents of the group, started "On the Rocks" spring term last year. The group expanded from the original six members to 10 at the beginning of this school year.

The guys bring music to practices, including popular songs they hear off the radio, songs they have sung before in other choirs plus their own arrangements of music. Some of their crowd pleasers include a Britney Spears medley arranged by Ben Emerson, who sings tenor I and II, along with Johnny Nash's "I Can See Clearly Now," Van Morrison's "Brown-Eyed Girl" and Rockapella's "Change in My Life."

The group sang their own arrangement of the national anthem at the men's Arizona basketball game. They have also performed at the Youth Against Hate Crimes Convention and in the EMU Breezeway.

And when the sun came out Wednesday, the EMU Amphitheater filled with laughter and applause of delighted students listening to the guys perform.

Hollens, a junior who sings tenor I, said the members of "On the Rocks" are working on trying to interact more with their audience. The group is also becoming more comfortable entertaining in public.

"The more we perform, the more we get into the act," Hollens said.

Omar Qutub, who had heard the group perform in the past, came back for more this week.

"Their sound is totally original," said Qutub, a junior biology major. "The guys are original, and they have a good variety of music."

Joanna Chan, a sophomore sociology major, said she saw the crowd and started listening.

"It just sounds good, and it's all natural. There's nothing helping them. It's all their voices," Chan said. "This was officially the highlight of my day."

Silva, who sings baritone, came to the United States two years ago from Brazil expecting to find an a cappella group he could join. But



According to junior Peter Vomocil (center), singing group On the Rocks was formed in 1999 because "there was nothing on campus to satisfy the hunger for singing." The band performed a rip-roarin' rendition of Britney Spears' anthem, "...Baby One More Time" Wednesday in the EMU Amphitheater.

Tom Patterson Emerald

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Student brandishes gun at Eugene middle school

Police believe the boy was just showing off and not intending to shoot anyone

By Aaron K. Breniman
Oregon Daily Emerald

A 13-year-old boy was taken into custody Wednesday after officials at Kelly Middle School reported the student had brought a Glock 9 mm handgun to school and brandished the weapon in a bathroom, police said.

After conducting interviews with the student and others in the bathroom at the time, school officials and police said they have no reason to believe the student intended to threaten or injure anyone. Police haven't released the name of the student who was taken into custody.

"We don't know if the gun was loaded during the showing," said Pam Alejandre, public information

director for the Eugene Police Department. "We believe it was motivated as a show-and-tell situation. Apparently, he had no intent to harm anyone."

The gun scare comes on the tail of a nationwide string of school shootings and narrowly averted attacks, reminding many locally of the 1998 Thurston High School shooting.

The student has been charged with unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm in a public building and for pointing a firearm at another person. He was taken to the Juvenile Justice Center off Centennial Boulevard in Eugene.

School officials said the student displayed the gun in a bathroom during the first period of the day. During the break following that period, one of the students who was present in the bathroom went to the principal and told her what he had seen.

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To fee or not to fee



ASUO President Jay Breslow (top right) and Oregon Commentator editor in chief William Beutler (bottom) debated the student incidental fee before an Honors College colloquia, "Politics and the University," on Wednesday afternoon. After the two spoke, others joined the discussion, including political science and business junior Mary Elizabeth Madden (left of Breslow) and sociology senior Amanda Rogers (left of Madden). The class debated the mandatory nature of incidental fees and the role fees play as part of a college education, but generally seemed to favor the use of student money. The colloquia is taught by Professor Joseph Fracchia.

Katie Miller Emerald

