

# Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper



## Back to work

Rashad Bauman and the Ducks are back in action for spring football drills. **PAGE 7**

## Someone to account on

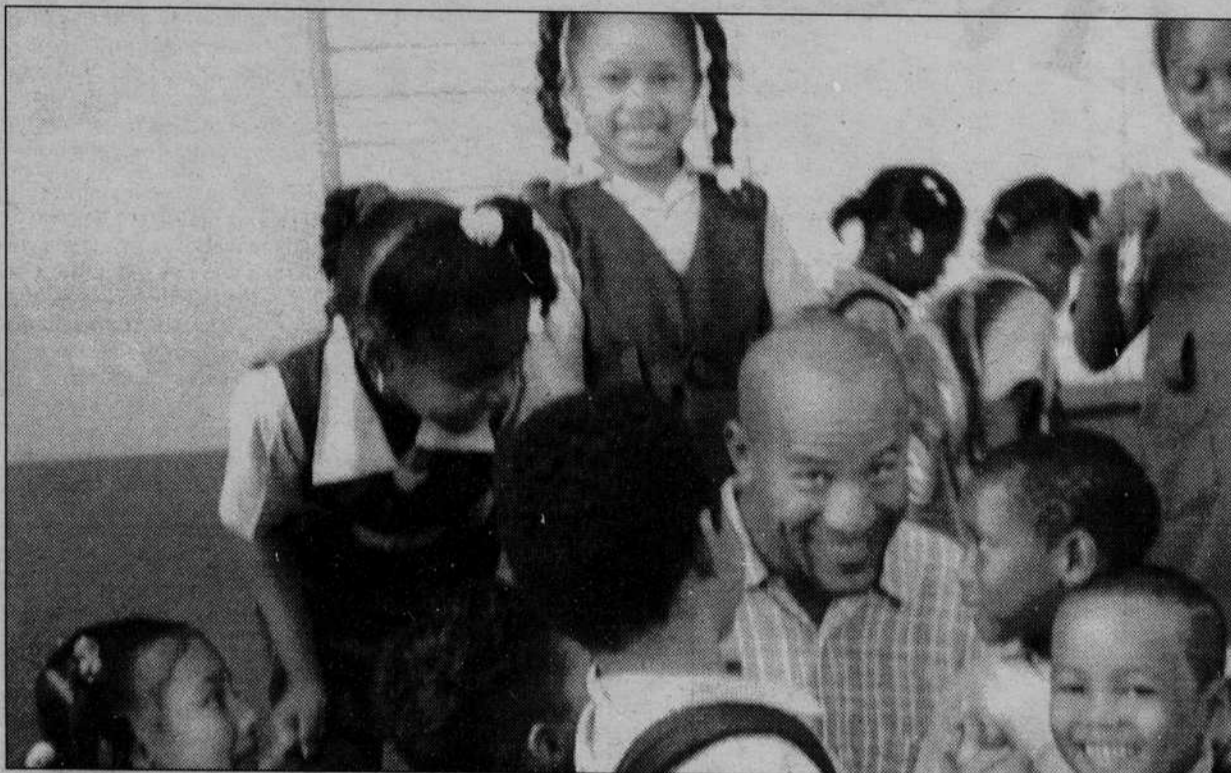
ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton provides her experience to help students. **PAGE 4**

WEATHER  
TODAY



RAIN  
high 50, low 35

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON



Peace Corps Urban Youth Development volunteer Jay Minert gathers a crowd of children in Belize, South America. Photo courtesy of Peace Corps

## Students travel to OUS hearing

■ The ASUO will offer transportation to Salem for students who want to speak before the Oregon Legislature about the higher education budget

By Jeremy Lang  
for the Emerald

Wednesday will be the first day of a showdown in Salem, not just over the Oregon University System budget during the next two years, but the future of the incidental fee at the University of Oregon, which pays for student groups, the EMU and athletic tickets.

Wednesday is the only day students can testify before the Oregon Legislature about the OUS budget, which is facing cuts that could lead to an 8 percent tuition increase during the next two years. "Bottom line, we need bodies there," ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Brian Tanner said.

The ASUO and members of the Oregon Student Association lobby group have seen the OUS budget battle coming since last fall, when Gov. John Kitzhaber released his proposed state budget. The Legislature will debate each section and come to a final number before the end of the session.

But concerns about the incidental fee arose last Thursday during a legislative work session for the OUS budget. ASUO President Jay Breslow, who testified with University President Dave Frohn-mayer, said the discussion suddenly changed from the budget to the fee, its size and how it's allocated.

Breslow said some legislators questioned the fee's validity when roughly only 10 percent of the students vote each year for the groups and people who will decide who gets the money.

"It raised some red flags," ASUO Legislative Organizer Melissa Unger said. Unger added that the Legislature first allowed schools to have a fee and has the authority to put a cap on the size of the fee or eliminate it completely.

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“They can do anything. Whether the fee thing goes down or not, Wednesday is an incredibly important day.”

Melissa Unger  
ASUO  
Legislative  
Organizer

## Peace Corps celebrates 40 years

The University ranks fifth in the nation among large schools in the number of graduates currently volunteering with the Peace Corps

By Kara Cogswell  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's been 40 years, but faculty member Georgeanne Cooper still remembers the day former president John F. Kennedy announced the creation of a new international service program called the Peace Corps. Although she was just 16, Cooper knew that one day she wanted to join.

"As soon as I heard about that I thought, 'That's what I want to do,'" said Cooper, the coordinator for the Academic Learning Services Teaching Effectiveness Program.

Upon graduating from college in 1968, she did exactly

that, and in doing so, she joined the ranks of the more than 161,000 Americans who have served in the Peace Corps since it began on March 1, 1961.

As the group celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, Peace Corps campus supporters have something to celebrate as well: The number of volunteers from the University has increased significantly during the past year.

According to a list released March 9 by Peace Corps Acting Director Charles Baquet III, the University now ranks fifth in the nation among large universities for the number of graduates in the Peace Corps, with 67

members currently serving.

The University made the largest leap in the rankings, moving up from 15th place last year with 56 graduates serving.

Career Center Director Larry Smith said the University's high ranking reflects an internationally aware campus and student body.

"The long-standing, high involvement of University of Oregon graduates in the Peace Corps represents the outstanding qualities that the University develops," Smith said.

With 7,300 people serving in the Peace Corps, volunteer involvement is the highest it's

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## ELF issues statement denying involvement with arson

■ The Earth Liberation Front's statement says an anonymous group is responsible for the local fire

By Aaron K. Breniman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Earth Liberation Front released a statement to several local media outlets Sunday that said an anonymous group opposed to "gas-guzzling SUVs" and "the techno-industrial state" had taken responsibility for an arson that destroyed several sport utility vehicles Friday at a Eugene Chevrolet dealership.

The ELF received a communiqué from an unidentified group that claimed responsibility for Friday's fire. The communiqué suggested a link between

the fire and an arson that occurred at the dealership last June.

In the statement, released Saturday, the ELF said there was "no indication" that this action had been committed by members of the ELF, "but rather one claimed by an anonymous group of unidentified individuals."

Police said Friday's fire, which began shortly before 3 a.m., damaged 34 vehicles at Joe Romania Chevrolet, located at 2020 Franklin Blvd. Eugene Police Department spokeswoman Pan Alejandre said that "incendiary devices" placed throughout the lot were filled with gasoline. However, many of the devices failed to ignite and the damage to the dealership, neighboring houses and businesses could have been much worse, Alejandre said.

The EPD, which is directing the investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are continuing to investigate the fire and plan to pursue the ELF information to determine its validity, Alejandre said, adding that the EPD has received more than 100 leads in the case so far.

The communiqué received by ELF makes several references in support of Jeffrey Luers and Craig Marshall, respectively known as 'Free' and 'Critter.'

"The fire that burns within Free and Critter burns within all of us and cannot be extinguished by locking them up," the communiqué said.

Both Luers and Marshall were charged with multiple counts of arson, criminal mischief and other

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Jason Peterson, an employee at Joe Romania Chevrolet, sweeps up the debris left from Friday's fire, which began about 3 a.m. The arson damaged 34 vehicles at the car dealership. R. Ashley Smith Emerald