

Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper



The nation's best

John Stiegeler used to be an OSU football player, but now he's setting records for UO track. **PAGE 7**

Hoops for a good cause

Raising money and awareness for Parkinson's Disease, the Warsaw Classic hits Mac Court. **PAGE 9**

WEATHER TODAY



high 59, low 41

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

The 2001 Edwin Coleman Conference

APRIL 19

Holocaust readings, Affirmative action debate

William W. Knight Law Center, 7 p.m.

APRIL 22

Earth Day celebration

Multicultural Center, 11 to 3 p.m.

APRIL 21

Reach for Success and performances

EMU Ballroom, 3 and 8 p.m.

Workshops featuring Aya De Leon, Tim McMahon. Live musical performances by Latin pop singer Christina

The Affirmative Action debate will feature speakers Tim Wise (right) and Dinesh De'Souza



WED THURS FRI SAT SUN

APRIL 18

Speak Out, Zero Awards, Holocaust readings

EMU Amphitheater, 11 to 3 p.m.



APRIL 20

AIDS awareness benefit dinner and keynote speakers

EMU Fir Room, Columbia 150, 6 to 7 p.m.

Elaine Brown (left) and Amiri Baraka are the keynote speakers

Brooke Mossell/Katie Miller Emerald

Weapon used in latest attack

■ Authorities may be closer to finding a suspect in the recent string of attacks in the campus area

By Lindsay Buchele
Oregon Daily Emerald

Police say the attacks against female University students have escalated to a more dangerous level, but authorities may be closer to finding a suspect.

Another female student was attacked Friday near the Willie Knickerbocker Bike Bridge in Alton Baker Park, now the fifth attack since February. All of the attacks have involved either a female University student or a female of similar age.

Sgt. Scott McKee of the Eugene Police Department said Friday's attack was similar to the other attacks, but differs significantly because the assailant was carrying a knife and attacked the student around 5 p.m., while the other attacks occurred well after dark.



COMPOSITE OF SUSPECT

Turn to Attacks, page 6

8 DPS officers get new powers

■ The Department of Public Safety hopes the commissioning will increase officers' efficiency

By Andrew Adams and Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Pledging to serve in their best capacity as public safety officers for the University, eight Department of Public Safety personnel received a formal commission Tuesday that increases their powers on campus.

Concluding a process that began in early January with DPS Director Tom Fitzpatrick's announcement that he would begin screening officers for commissioning, the final oath-taking ceremony took place in the Bowerman Building before a crowd of about 30 that included administrative staff, other officers, friends and family.

"This is quite a special day for the Department of Public Safety," Fitzpatrick said. "This is the highest law enforcement status for University officers."

The commissioned officers will now be able to detain people on campus and make probable cause arrests. They still do not have the authority to carry firearms.

Fitzpatrick said the move to commission officers is not in response to more threats on campus or to make DPS a more

Turn to DPS, page 5

MCC gears up for activism, diversity

■ Today through Saturday, the Dr. Edwin Coleman Conference brings awareness to campus

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

As Dr. Edwin Coleman spoke with a longtime friend some three weeks ago, his friend said something to an approaching acquaintance that caught his attention: "I haven't seen you in a coon's age."

After the conversation ended, Coleman told his friend that "coon" is a racist term about blacks hailing from the South during the time of slavery.

"She was so embarrassed and

apologetic," Coleman said, and she explained that she would have never used the expression in an intentionally derogatory manner. Although he understood that his friend did not understand what she was saying, Coleman said people still have a responsibility to educate themselves about the issues they are unfamiliar with, such as civil rights. The fourth annual Dr. Edwin Coleman Conference begins today to offer participants exposure to issues such as labor rights, environmental racism, student activism, AIDS awareness and cultural diversity. Through "Reawakening: Remembrance and the Radical Reality," the Multicultural Center hopes to recognize Coleman for his accomplishments at the

University while sharing with students, faculty and community members an awareness of activism and diversity.

"I hope people come away energized and ready to make a difference in their campus and community," said Bola Majekobaje, one of the coordinators for the event.

Majekobaje, who also serves as the networking advocate for the MCC, said Coleman's commitment to activism and diversity on this campus makes him worth recognizing. Coleman has been a professor at the University for nearly 40 years.

"He has the power of moving people and uplifting people of all races

Turn to Coleman, page 4

Bill proposes lowering age requirement for state legislators

Proposed constitutional amendment seeks to lower the minimum age for state legislators from 21 to 18

By Lindsay Buchele
Oregon Daily Emerald

Secretary of State Bill Bradbury is attempting to give more rights to 18-year-old Oregonians by proposing House Joint Resolution 16, which would amend the Oregon Constitution and lower the age requirement for service in the Legislature from 21 to 18.

Bradbury said if 18-year-olds can vote and die for their country through service in the armed forces, they should be able to serve in the Legislature. Seventeen states

and the District of Columbia already allow 18-year-olds to run for legislative positions.

Bradbury began work on HJR 16 after holding a forum last spring at Portland Community College. A student at the forum asked Bradbury why he could vote but not become a legislator.

Bradbury said he had no idea that the Oregon Constitution restricted the age to 21, and he had always assumed the service age matched the voting age.

"This sends a terrible message to

voters," Bradbury said.

Last week, Bradbury testified before the Rules, Redistricting and Public Affairs Committee, which is reviewing the bill before it goes to the House floor for a vote. To make his point, Bradbury enlisted the assistance of two of the country's younger elected representatives, Montana Rep. Jesse Laslovich, D-Deer Lodge, and Vermont Rep. Jason Barney, R-Franklin and Highgate.

Barney, who was elected to Vermont's legislature at the age of 21,

said having young legislators will increase voter turnout.

"Young legislators are appealing to voters of all ages," Barney said. "Anyone who sees a young, appealing candidate will want to vote for them."

Laslovich, who was elected when he was 19, said he gains respect from his fellow legislators because he's more in touch with bills dealing with younger issues and because decisions made by the Montana Legislature will affect his

Turn to Minimum age, page 6

Young legislators are appealing to voters of all ages.

Jason Barney
Montana State rep.