

News briefs

U.S. House bill establishes hotline for travelers

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill with an amendment from Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Eugene, establishing a national hotline for angry air passengers. The Transportation Appropriations Bill sets aside \$720,000 to hire staff and set up the toll-free number for travelers to call when they become disgruntled by delays, lost baggage or other problems.

EWEB pays for computing center's new water system

The Eugene Water and Electric Board rewarded the University Computing Center Monday for its water conservation efforts to the tune of \$4,500. The computing center uses about 1 million gallons of water a month for its cooling system, and the center recently connected its water supply to the Physical Plant, creating a system that recirculates water instead of pumping a fresh supply from the city.

EWEB covered the \$4,500 cost to build the system, which is predicted to save the University about

\$1,000 a month in water costs and ease the squeeze on EWEB's water reserves after a winter and spring with less-than-average rainfall totals.

OUS budget awaiting Kitzhaber's approval

The Oregon University System budget needs only Gov. John Kitzhaber's stamp of approval to go into law after the Senate and House approved the \$722 million, two-year package during the end of last week. The budget would increase tuition 4 percent for next year and 3 percent the year after that.

Oregon briefs

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collectors under a bill that won House approval Sunday.

Currently, federal rebates are considered taxable income under Oregon law and must be reported. President Bush's tax cut package could send up to \$300 back to single people, \$500 to single parents and \$600 for married couples.

"Unless we pass HB 2550, Oregonians will have to include this money as taxable income in next year's tax returns," said Rep. Tom Butler, R-Ontario.

Butler's bill would save Oregonians

from shelling out \$27, \$45 or \$54 respectively in state income taxes for the \$300 to \$600 in federal returns they could receive. And because the state hadn't anticipated having those extra taxes when calculating the 2001-03 budget, giving people this tax break wouldn't adversely impact government services, Butler said.

But opponents said those extra dollars the state collects could be vital to the current budget and future budgets.

With a 49-11 vote, the measure goes to the Senate, which recently approved a similar effort to protect Oregonians' federal rebates.

The Associated Press

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Fourth

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joy big fireworks shows, the Eugene Emeralds game against the Yakima Bears, starting at 6:35 p.m., is the place to be.

"Twenty minutes after the game concludes, we let everybody onto the field and begin the fireworks," Emeralds spokesman Brian Rogers said. "It's a forty-five minute show crammed into twenty minutes. We're firing things off left and right. It's a spectacular show."

"Twenty minutes after the game concludes, we let everybody onto the field and begin the fireworks."

Brian Rogers
spokesman,
Eugene Emeralds

For a romantic and free view of the fireworks show, you can bring blankets and a flashlight to the soccer fields behind South Eugene High School, which can be accessed via Patterson Street.

If you're a music fan, the Eugene Symphonic Band will be holding a free concert at Washburn Park at 6:30 p.m.

"We have twelve concerts in all, and this begins the series," Director Orval Etter said. "We're moving back to the old pre-Depression tradition of weekly band concerts in the park. That's something we lost in the thirties."

Audit

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heads, he remains certain every expense investigated by auditors had a justifiable reason.

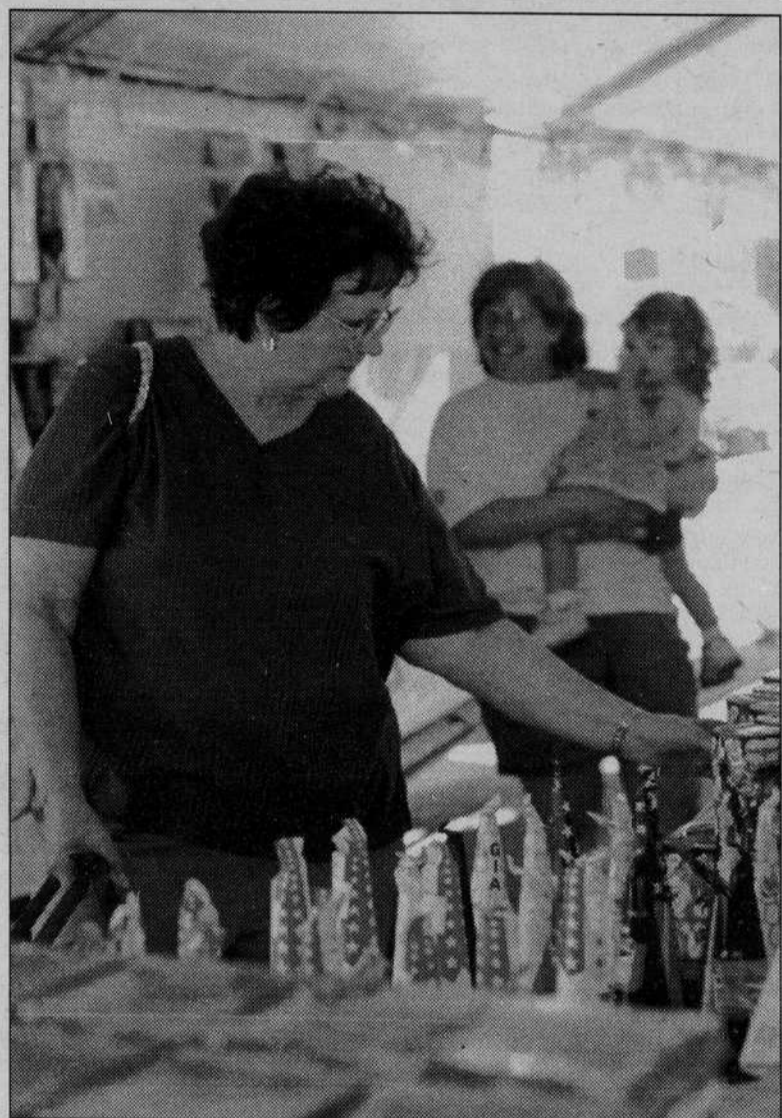
"Nobody used anything inappropriately," O'Fallon said.

Marty Kaufman, the dean of the College of Education, said the department's spending was in accordance with University policy.

He said it is part of any dean's responsibility to meet with benefactors at University-sponsored events in order to encourage them to continue to donate to the school. He added that without the money such donors provide, many of the programs and scholarships offered to students would not be possible.

The dean and the associate dean of the business school were out of town and unavailable for comment.

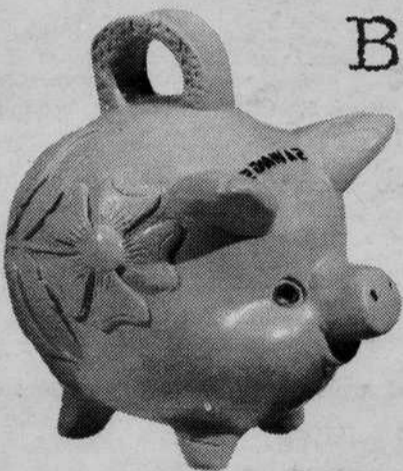
Auditors also questioned departments' use of University credit



Jessie Swimeley Emerald

Peggy Grantham of Eugene checks out the fountains at the Bachmeier Family Fireworks stand in the Fred Meyer parking lot. The Bachmeiers have been running a fireworks stand for more than 12 years.

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Associate editors: Peter Hockaday, Jeremy Lang
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