



Reading for play
A new multicultural theater group brings diverse plays to light. **PAGE 3**

Dunkin' Ducks
The men's basketball team opens its season today with an exhibition game. **PAGE 5**



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It ALREADY looks a lot like CHRISTMAS

■ The holiday season replaced Halloween even before kids took off their costumes

By Marcus Hathcock
Oregon Daily Emerald

On Oct. 30, not a single costume, mask or trick-or-treat bucket was in sight at Valley River Center's J.C. Penney. Though it was the day before All Hallows' Eve, the store's appearance could have easily been mistaken for mid-December. Green pine swags with red and gold bows were draped over the store, hovering above various gift boxes with red ribbons. A lone table of small, discounted Halloween-themed toys stood hidden in the masses of holiday gifts.

Forty-nine days remain until Christmas. And with nearly two months to go, companies are scrambling to earn consumers' attention. Whether it's looked at with delight or disgust, many people are noticing the early promotion of holiday goods.

"They're just trying to make a buck," University senior Geoff Britton said.

By making their stores "Christmas-y" as early as October, Britton said companies "are just trying to extend the season longer to weasel some more money out of something that's good."

Britton said the holiday promotion blitz begins too early in Oregon, but at least it doesn't start in September like it did when he lived in California.

"The holidays have been getting earlier and earlier consistently for the past ten years," said University junior Kristen Campbell-Schmitt. The international studies major said she's not even thinking about Thanksgiving yet, much less Christmas.

Campbell-Schmitt said the early commercial blitz is anticlimactic to the season's atmosphere.

"It takes away the holiday spirit in my mind. It becomes marketing, not a holiday," she said.

The reason for such early promotion is economic strategy, said Del I. Hawkins, University marketing professor.

"When and how much you need to promote is an important and risky decision," Hawkins said. "If a lot of businesses promote early, then what it might do is boost sales and boost the economy."

That, in turn, could move people back into a more "normal" economy to survive the "emotional hang-

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Adam Jones Emerald

Seeming to show up earlier and earlier each year, Christmas displays, like these at J.C. Penney, are popping up just as Halloween merchandise is marked down.

University sends out Internet warning

■ The University's Network Services has investigated nearly 400 cases of copyright law violation this year

Marilyn Rice
Oregon Daily Emerald

Consider yourselves warned.

In response to the increased number of University Internet users downloading and duplicating copyrighted software, the administration sent out an e-mail Monday reminding them of the Computing Center's acceptable use policy.

The e-mail, sent by University Provost John Moseley, the senior vice president for academic affairs, also said that all students, staff and faculty should stop using peer-to-peer file sharing applications to download and distribute copyrighted materials.

"It is unacceptable to download and Turn to **Internet policy**, page 4

ASUO court turns down 2 measures

■ The ASUO Constitution Court ruled against the ballot measures because they lacked clarity

By Kara Cogswell
Oregon Daily Emerald

Two proposed ASUO ballot measures — including one that would have barred student groups from going to the ballot for funding — won't be voted on in the November special election.

On Oct. 28, the ASUO Constitution Court ruled that two of the four ballot measures submitted by ASUO President Nilda Brooklyn did not meet the ASUO Constitution requirements for clarity.

It was the second time the court had denied the measures. ASUO first submitted them for review Oct. 23.

The deadline to submit ballots for the special election, which will be held Nov. 13 and 14, was Oct. 29. ASUO executives will have to wait until the ASUO spring election to try to put the measures on the ballot again.

Both of the rejected measures proposed changes to the Clark Document, a section of the ASUO Constitution that governs use of student incidental fees.

One of these would have prevented groups from putting funding requests on the ballot.

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GTFF begins contract negotiations with University

The local union is heading into contract talks with hopes of obtaining better pay and benefits for University GTFFs

By Leon Tovey
Oregon Daily Emerald

Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation Local 3544 began contract negotiations Thursday with the University administration in the hopes of securing higher wages and better benefits for the University's 1,200 GTFFs.

The union's current contract expires March 31, and according to GTFF President Ashley Overbeck, negotiations will probably continue at least until early March.

The GTFF, which is affiliated with

the American Federation of Teachers, estimates nearly 30 percent of total academic instructional time at the University is provided by GTFFs. GTFFs also provide research and administrative assistance for many professors and programs on campus, and Overbeck said she expects negotiations to go well.

"(The negotiating process) is adversarial by nature," she said, "But we feel like the administration is coming to the table ready to work with us."

The average take-home wage for first year graduate teaching fellows was

\$7,315.20 for nine months in 2000-01. According to the GTFF, that number is only 62 percent of the average pay at comparative universities.

However, Richard Linton, vice president for research and graduate studies, who is handling the negotiations for the University, said that the issue was more complicated than simply raising the minimum wage for GTFFs.

"Many departments already pay more than the minimum," he said. "With money that comes in for re-

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