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LGBTQA supporters go skating for solidarity

■ Whether Skate World's reaction to two men hugging was due to a bias or a rule, many students responded with a show of support

By Diane Huber
Oregon Daily Emerald

About 30 members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Alliance and supporters laced up their roller skates and reminisced about grade school birthday parties at Skate World on Saturday night.

But they were also representing visibility and support in response to discrimination several members faced the previous Monday at Skate World in Springfield, LGBTQA Director Chicora Martin said.

Six or seven members of the 18- to 25-year-old LGBTQA community youth group went skating Monday night, she said. Two of the men were hugging, they told Martin, when a manager came up to them and told them they needed to stop or leave. Skate World management said a family had complained the couple was kissing, she said.

Skate World Assistant Manager Angus Laird said Skate World is a "G-rated" establishment, and doesn't allow anyone to kiss in the building.

The incident had "absolutely nothing to do with any bias — it's a rule," he said.

"Otherwise we'd get kids cuddled up in the corner making out," he added.

But Martin noted that the company policy wasn't posted in a noticeable location.

She said she doesn't think Skate World has a discriminatory policy, but that doesn't eliminate the possibility that the complaint could have been instigated by bias.

"I've been verbally harassed at Gateway Mall in the past. It's more than likely that it was an instance of bias, whether it was management, an em-

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Cold, Cruel World



Jonathan House Emerald

A lone snowperson stands outside Knight Library on a frigid Sunday afternoon. Although perhaps not the most resplendent sculpture that has graced the University's campus, it represents the quarter-inch of snow the National Weather Service recorded in Eugene on Saturday night. The forecast for this week indicates an increase in temperatures for the southern Willamette Valley, with Eugene seeing highs in the mid-40s with some light rain.

Local bars watch for minors, fake IDs

■ 'Minor decoys' are frequenting bars and liquor stores to ensure that the drinking age is enforced

By Brook Reinhard
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission is stepping up efforts to keep alcohol away from minors this year, and University-area bars and liquor stores are ready for the increased scrutiny.

"We're trying to make places mindful of what it takes to not sell to minors," OLCC spokesman Ken Palke said. The commission, which regulates alcohol sales in Oregon, offers training to liquor vendors across the state, and checks up on stores through the use of "minor decoys."

The agents are 18- to 20-year-olds who go to liquor stores and bars and attempt to purchase alcohol.

"They'll pick up a bottle of wine or beer," OLCC campus intervention specialist David Green said. If asked to show ID, they show real identification.

Most stores and bars pass the test — 70 percent card the minor decoy and refuse to sell the liquor. That number jumps to 90 percent on subsequent visits, Green said.

When Willamette Plaza Liquor Store was tested last year, "We passed with flying colors," manager Ken Coldeen said.

"I asked, 'How old are you?' He says '20.' They can't lie to you," he said. Coldeen estimated that 30 percent of the store's customers are students, and said that local studies have indicated that 10 percent of students visiting stores in the Eugene area are underage.

"I don't think (underage) students are old enough to make decisions around alcohol," Coldeen said. "When I was young, I thought I was 10 feet tall and bulletproof."

Palke said OLCC is focusing on underage drinking because alcohol is the

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PFC reviews largest proposals of year, sets \$1.9 million in budgets

■ Hearings were held for the Student Recreation Center, the Oregon Daily Emerald and the Women's Center

By Kara Cogswell
Oregon Daily Emerald

During the third week of budget hearings, the ASUO Programs Finance Committee set budgets for some of the largest programs to go before the committee this year, including the Student Recreation Center and the University Career Center.

Final 2002-03 budgets for eight groups with hearings last week totaled more than \$100,000.

PFC increased the Recreational Sports budget by 28.07 percent on Jan. 22 — setting it at \$136,670 for 2002-03. PFC Chairwoman Mary Elizabeth Madden said the group received a large increase because some line items that had previously been in the SRC budget were moved to the Recreational Sports budget. Recreational Sports is also adding an assistant director position, she said.

On Jan. 24, PFC decided budgets

for six programs, including the ASUO Women's Center, Sexual Assault Support Services, the Student Insurgent and the Oregon Daily Emerald.

PFC increased the Women's Center budget, from \$120,128 this year to \$125,435 for 2002-03. Women's Center staff requested increases in part to fund a new sexual assault prevention program.

PFC increased the SASS budget from \$47,767 to \$52,758, a 10.45 percent increase. ASUO Vice President Joy Nair said the amount of funding the service receives from PFC is small

in comparison to the number of students it serves, she said.

"Sixty-nine percent of (services provided by SASS) are going to UO students and faculty, but we only pay for about 10.9 percent of their budget," she said.

Controversy held up the Insurgent's 2001 budget hearing, but within 25 minutes, PFC members voted unanimously to increase the publication's budget by 8.62 percent to cover rising printing costs.

PFC also increased funding for the Emerald by more than 10 percent to \$132,870, restoring the paper

to the level of funding granted by PFC every year from 1997 to 2000. Last year, PFC cut the Emerald's funding based partly on the assumption the paper could make up the loss in fees with advertising revenue, Student Sen. Eric Bailey said.

After hearing about the Emerald's loss in advertising revenue this year, PFC member Joe Streckert said the committee should increase the paper's budget.

"Perhaps we should end the quote-unquote 'experiment' done

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