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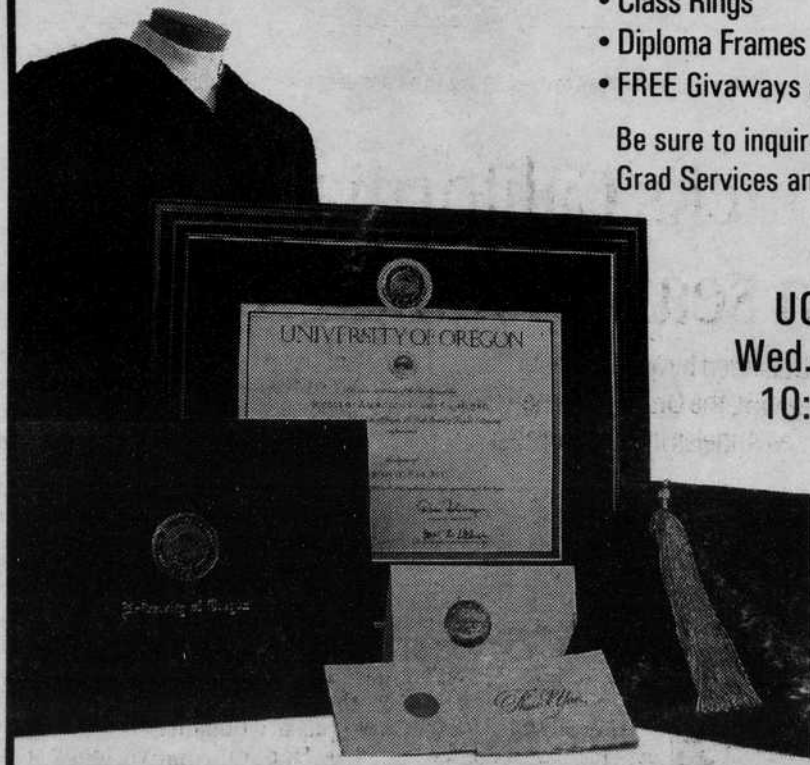
# GRADUATION FAIR

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## News brief

### Hong Kong Night to feature traditional wedding

The sound of ringing wedding bells will be heard during this year's Hong Kong Students Association's Hong Kong Night, which will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday.

The event will begin with dinner in the EMU Skylight at 5:30 and move into the Fir Room at 7:30 for the evening's performance. For dinner, the group will be making a traditional Hong Kong meal with chicken, barbecued pork and steamed tofu — for dessert, they will serve a coconut-flavored pudding and a sweet egg soup.

HKSA member Macy Chan will be singing Chinese songs from the 1960s that are popular in Hong

Kong and six HKSA members will sing Chinese rock songs.

Members will also perform the play "Wedding Invitation," which will explore the culture of Hong Kong. The play will demonstrate how a traditional Hong Kong wedding is celebrated and follow the married couple's life in Hong Kong through their 50 years of marriage.

In addition, Office of International Programs Director Thomas Mills will be speaking at the event about study abroad programs in Hong Kong.

"This event is to let people learn more about Chinese and the city of Hong Kong," HKSA Co-Director Wilbur Lee said.

Tickets, which are available at the EMU Ticket Office, are \$6 for students and \$7 for the general public.

— Danielle Gillespie

## Study abroad

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Middle East. The warning gives U.S. travelers information about the present political climate in different countries. In its latest warning, issued April 2, 2002, the State Department said U.S. citizens should defer traveling to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza because of a pending threat of future terrorist attacks.

This academic year, the Israel study abroad program had its lowest number of applicants, with only one student from the University participating in the program during fall term 2001. This number is significantly lower than the 1999-2000 academic year, when seven students studied in Israel. The program saw its peak year in 1995-96, when eight students studied abroad in Israel.

University senior Sarah Shpall traveled abroad to Israel in fall 2000, and said she felt safe during her stay.

"I have been to the country before, and I know how it works," she said. "I have family there and they teach you how to deal with the atrocities that the people live with in their daily lives."

Vanderkar said a University student has made plans to study in Turkey for fall term 2002, and at this time, OIP has confidence the student will be safe while there.

"Turkey is a stable country at this

present time and it does not border Palestine and Israel, which would be considered unsafe," she said.

In the next few months, if students show interest in studying in Israel or Jordan, they will have to seriously discuss safety concerns and their reasons for wanting to travel to the country with the Foreign Studies Program Committee, said Vanderkar.

She said although Jordan is presently a stable country, study abroad students would be studying in Amman, near the border of Israel, which the U.S. government considers unsafe at this time.

Despite the current conditions in Israel, International Resource Center Coordinator Anne Williams said the center, which offers students information about traveling abroad, has not seen any change in students' interest in studying in Middle Eastern countries.

"People are still coming in and looking at brochures about the Middle East, and most students seem interested in Egypt and Israel," she said.

Shpall said she would return to Israel, even now, after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and with the current political climate.

"Israel is a resilient country," she said. "There has always been strength there, even at times of adversity."

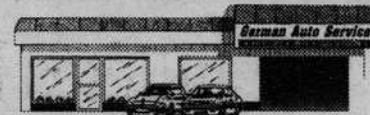
E-mail reporter Danielle Gillespie at [daniellegillespie@dailyemerald.com](mailto:daniellegillespie@dailyemerald.com).

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