

News briefs

Monks to spend weekend on campus

Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery are visiting campus this week, and have been constructing a mandala sand painting at the International Student Lounge in the EMU since Wednesday and will continue their work today through Sunday.

The visit, sponsored by the UO Cultural Forum, also includes a photography exhibit on display in the Adell McMillan Art Gallery and a Saturday night performance at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival, called "The Mystical Arts of Tibet."

The monks' appearance at the festival and on campus is intended to promote peace, provide greater awareness of Tibetan civilization and to raise support for refugee communities in India. The mandala is an ancient spiritual art form that is said to heal both the environment and its inhabitants.

Their visit will conclude Sunday at 11 a.m. when the monks will erase the mandala and lead a pro-

cession to the Willamette River, where they will return the sand used in the painting to the Earth. Some of the sand will be given to participants in the procession as a sign of good luck and health.

Assembling of the mandala continues at 9 a.m. today until 9 p.m., and will resume Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The musical performance will run on the main stage at the EMU's east lawn from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday night. The closing ceremonies will commence on Sunday at 10 a.m. and continue until noon. All events are free and open to the public.

— Jonathan House

APASU to portray college students in 'hereandnow'

The Asian-Pacific American Students Union will kick off its biggest event for Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month this weekend with music, games and a theatrical performance.

At 6 p.m. Saturday in the EMU Ballroom, APASU will be presenting "hereandnow," an Asian American theater group from Los Angeles that has performed across

the nation for the past 10 years. APASU Co-Director Jeanice Chieng said the theater group will be addressing various Asian American stereotypes and issues such as homosexuality in the Asian community.

"This group portrays Asian college students and experiences that they face in their lives," APASU member Kao Cha said.

Pocket Face and Thai will be the opening acts for the evening. Pocket Face, an alternative band from Eugene, will be performing to fundraise for their upcoming tour in Japan this summer. In addition, Thai, a Vietnamese American hip-hop artist from Portland, will be singing his hit single "Portland Love."

On Sunday, APASU will host a Spring Mini Olympics. Students can meet for the event at 2 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. Participants will have the chance to play basketball, tennis and compete in a tug-of-war and sack races. All of APASU's events are free to students and the general public.

— Danielle Gillespie

Reasons behind cyanide truck theft in Mexico unknown to authorities

By Laurence Iliff
The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY (KRT) — Mexican authorities found a stolen truck Thursday carrying deadly cyanide whose disappearance had sparked heightened security along the U.S. border for fear that it could be used in a terrorist attack, officials said. Some of the cyanide was missing.

The truck, stolen at gunpoint May 10 in the central state of Hidalgo, was found about 75 miles away in Zacatlan, Puebla.

Police, soldiers and environmental officials were sent to the town, 120 miles north of Mexico City. Puebla state officials issued a maximum health alert because some of the 10 tons of sodium cyanide, the same material used in gas-chamber executions, was missing.

The powdery chemical, which is also used in mining operations, was transported in steel drums.

"It looks like several tons of the material is missing," said Puebla Police Chief Manuel Mendez Marin. "Someone may have carried some of the material away without knowing just how dangerous it is."

Mendez said that it appears the robbers did not know exactly what they were stealing, but that only an investigation could determine that for sure.

"We have no evidence to indicate that this material was going to be used in an attack, but we have not ruled anything out either," he said.

Cargo truck robberies in central Mexico are common, and sometimes the perpetrators don't know what they are going to get, Mendez said.

"Sometimes they get shoes,

sometimes they get clothes, sometimes they get something they didn't expect," he said. "In this case, it's likely that they confused the material for something else and abandoned the truck when they figured it out. If they had wanted this material, they would have stolen all of it and not left some behind."

Mendez said the truck was not marked in any way to indicate that it was carrying dangerous chemicals.

A Mexico City newspaper, El Universal, posted a story on its Web page saying that only 13 of the 96 steel drums of cyanide were found on Thursday. Army soldiers and chemical experts were sent to the region to try to prevent a potential environmental and human disaster, the newspaper reported.

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