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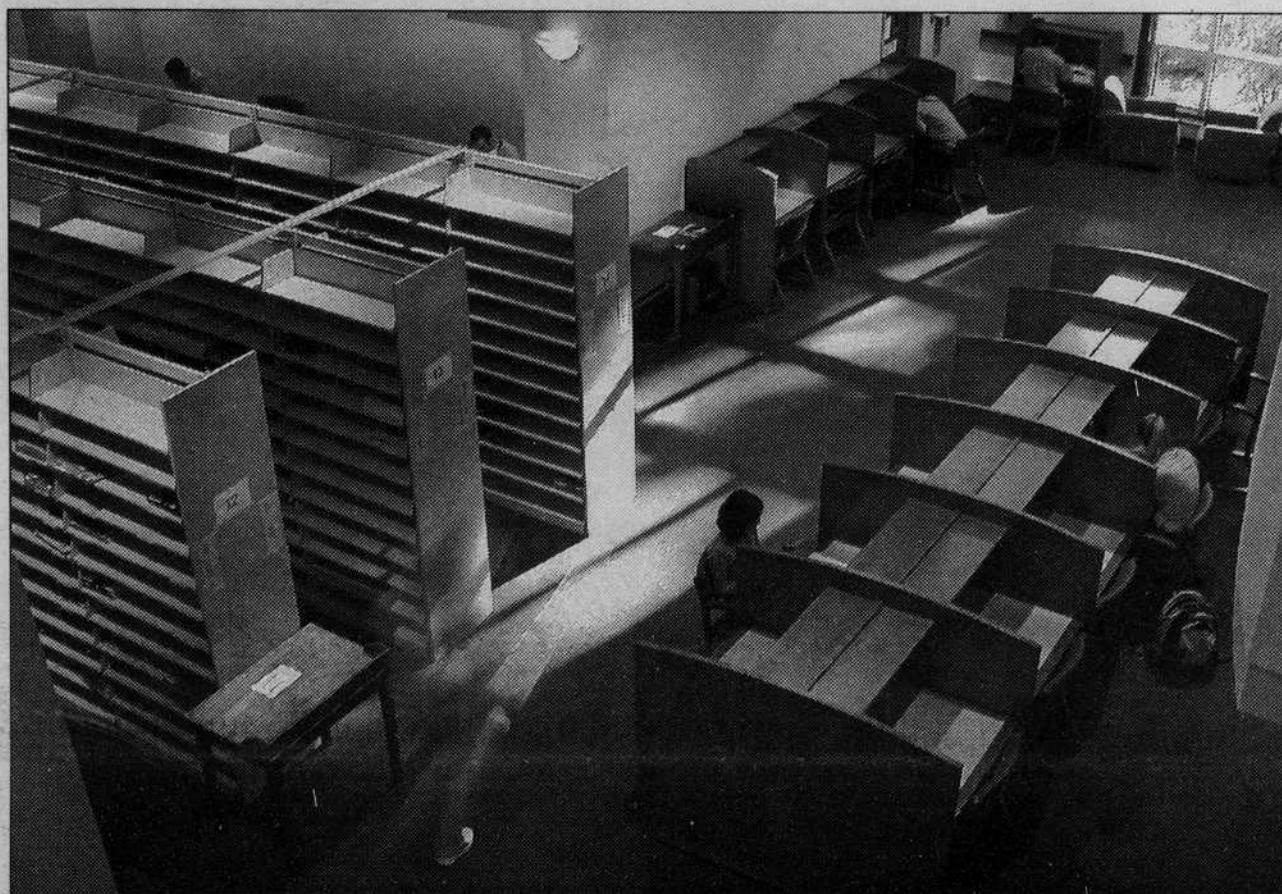
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Earning their marks



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Students are expected to hit the books particularly hard during Dead Week, but many unused desks remain Thursday evening at the Knight Library. Studies show grades have been rising over the past several years, but there is no evidence that students have been studying more.

Party host ordinance deemed successful

■ The change of focus from partygoers to party hosts is being called a 'successful deterrent'

By Darren Freeman
Oregon Daily Emerald

Three years ago, everybody drinking illegally at a party in the University area could expect a citation when police arrived at the scene.

"They would pass out (citations) to everybody — it was ridiculous," recalls Ted Welles, a University senior who hosted a handful of parties that ended when police arrived.

Police would check identification cards, give sobriety tests and cite nearly every minor in possession of alcohol, every person who illegally supplied alcohol, every partygoer found outside with an open container and every resident who let a radio blare loud enough to upset neighbors.

This was the work of the Eugene Police Department's Party Patrol, a team of officers working overtime during weekends to break up raucous parties and enforce alcohol laws.

During the height of the Party Patrol's enforcement in 1999, 909 alcohol citations — nearly half of all alcohol-related tickets issued in Eugene that year — were handed to partygoers in the West University Neighborhood, according to police records. But since 1999, budget restraints and an EPD policy shift have changed the way police enforce alcohol laws in the University area. Facing a tight budget and a shortage of officers, EPD disbanded the Party Patrol last year, and police have since given significantly fewer alcohol violations, with 505 issued in the West University neighborhood in 2001.

Instead of trying to bust everybody who breaks the law, EPD has focused its attention on party hosts, said Officer Pete Aguilar, who is assigned to the University area.

"It is easier to change the environment of the parties than it is to change the behavior of hundreds of people at a party," he said.

The result, Aguilar said, is "a lot more people having near misses and warnings than in the past." Welles said he has seen the change, noting that police responding to his parties have sought out him and his roommates before ticketing his guests.

"I think they're more interested in me," he said.

EPD Lt. Ron Roberts said the decline in citations is also the result of students partying more responsibly, and he attributed this change to cooperation between the University and EPD during the past few years.

The University has abandoned a

Turn to Parties, page 8A

On the rise

■ Recent statistics from the Office of the Registrar indicate that students' grades are increasing

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

An A is meant to stand for academic achievement, hard work and careful thought — given to only the best and brightest in the classroom.

But grade statistics from the Office of the Registrar show that, from 1995 to 2001, students have consistently been receiving more A's and fewer B's and C's each year. Fall term grade distribution reports show that about 4 percent more undergraduates are get-

ting A's than they were seven years ago, up from 26.4 to about 30 percent. Many individual departments have seen similar increases.

Although difficult to define, grade inflation has been a buzzword in higher education for years. University officials and professors have a few ideas why more students are scoring higher marks, but they haven't found one overall cause.

Jim Buch, associate vice president in Enrollment Services, said grade inflation at the University may not be uniform and could just be occurring in a few departments.

But many departments graduating Turn to Grading, page 7A

Grading breakdown

		Fall 1995	Fall 2002
Economics	A's	18.6%	19.2%
	B's	32%	27.8%
	C's	26.8%	28.3%
	total	1,454	1,515
English	A's	20.1%	30.2%
	B's	44.8%	43.1%
	C's	20.1%	14.9%
	total	4,761	3,972
History	A's	16.2%	24.1%
	B's	40.2%	44.6%
	C's	25.4%	15.6%
	total	1,616	2,029
Journalism	A's	19.9%	26.5%
	B's	42%	37.5%
	C's	21.9%	21.5%
	total	1,847	2,320
Psychology	A's	24.1%	24.6%
	B's	30%	34.6%
	C's	20.1%	18.5%
	total	2,420	1,995

SOURCE: Office of the Registrar

UO Cultural Forum secures new coordinator

■ A highly-qualified professor from Arizona State will take over as program coordinator for the UO Cultural Forum

By Kara Cogswell
Oregon Daily Emerald

An Arizona State University professor will be the next program coordinator of the UO Cultural Forum.

Justina Parsons-Bernstein, an instructor in the ASU history department, was chosen out of five finalists for the position. Each candidate gave a public presentation on campus and spent a day in interviews with administrators and Cultural Forum student coordinators.

A search committee composed of students and staff members recommended Parsons-Bernstein to EMU Director of Student Activities Gregg Lobisser, who made the final decision.

Lobisser said there were many good applicants for the position, but Parsons-Bernstein seemed to be the best choice because of her broad experience with cultural programs.

"She has a very extensive background in cultural programming," he said. "It isn't very easily characterized because much of it has been done as a consultant, if you will."

She is currently the editor of the H-Amin-dian Listserv and Websites, a venue for scholars and native peoples to consider and

communicate about the history, culture, ideas and events relating to indigenous peoples from the North Pole to South America. She has a wide range of experience coordinating events including conferences, music and film festivals, social events and fundraisers.

Nathan Hazard, one of the Cultural Forum's student coordinators, said Parsons-Bernstein was his first choice for the position because of her energy and optimism.

"She stood out as the most capable," he said. "I think she'll bring a lot of life to this office."

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