

## NEWS

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511  
 Room 300, Erb Memorial Union  
 P.O. Box 3159, Eugene, OR 97403  
 E-mail: editor@dailyemerald.com  
 Online edition:  
 www.dailyemerald.com

Editor in chief:  
 Michael J. Kleckner  
 Managing editor:  
 Jenni Schultz

Thursday, August 1, 2002

## Citizens debate discrimination code changes

The Eugene Human Rights Commission announces that its recommendations for a domestic partner registry and other code changes will be finalized on Aug. 29

By Jan Montry  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Civil rights and anti-homosexual activists faced off before the Eugene Human Rights Commission on Tuesday night, debating proposed changes to the city code. Commissioners heard testimony and announced they would finalize their recommendation on Aug. 29.

The proposal, if passed by the City Council, will create a domestic partner registry for homosexual and unmarried heterosexual residents, give "reasonable accommodation" to transgender persons for dress codes and restroom access, and allow people to file private lawsuits if they feel they've been discriminated. The proposal will also add "ethnicity" to city anti-discrimination rules.

Fifteen speakers voiced favorable opinions to the changes, speaking in support of civil rights and against labeling homosexuals. Four opponents to the changes voiced concern that the proposal would deteriorate the meaning of family and clash with religious doctrine.

For one supporter in particular, however, the debate was a typical struggle.

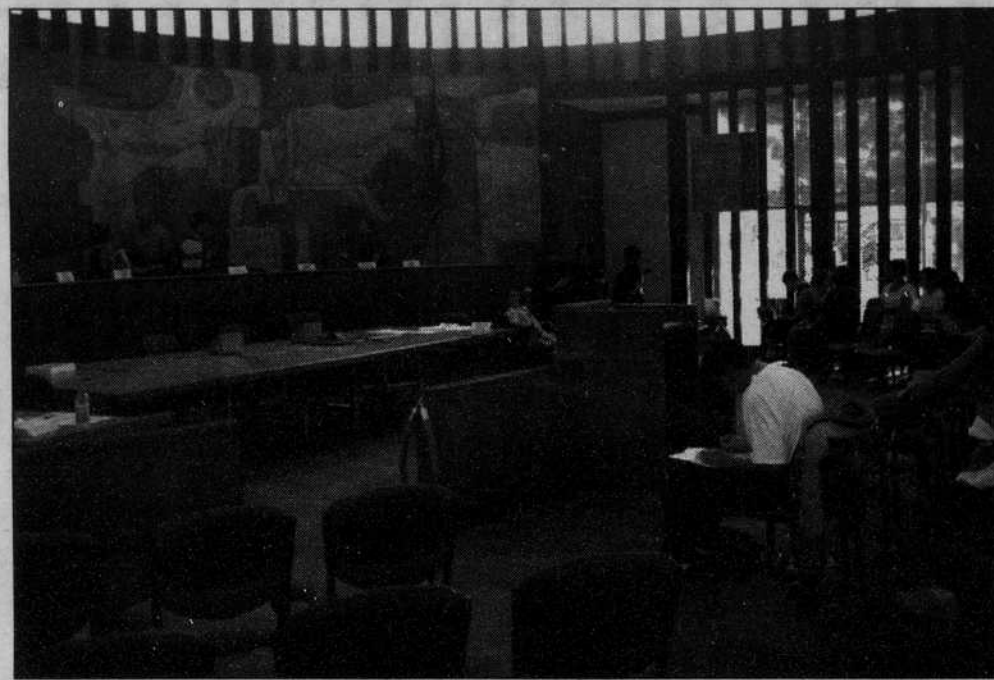
"Every civil rights movement comes back to the bathroom," Basic Rights Oregon director Roey Thorpe said.

Thorpe added that the fear of homosexuality is unfounded. "(Homosexuals) are not predators," she said.

Nick Urhausen heavily criticized the restroom proposal, calling it a "free bathroom pass for pedophiles" and warning that the HRC would be a "group of fascists" if they recommended the proposal.

"There's no constitutional right to what you're asking for. It should come about by some political process," he said.

Most speakers, however, had kind words for the proposal and the HRC for working toward changes that have already been accepted in other states.



Adam Jones Emerald

About 30 citizens gather at Eugene City Hall to discuss the Human Rights Commission's proposed additions to city code, including gender identity protection and a domestic partner registry.

### Upcoming meetings

**Aug. 6:** Written public comments accepted until 5 p.m. All commissioners will review oral and written testimony prior to making a decision on Aug. 29.

**Aug. 29:** Human Rights Commission meeting to finalize proposal to City Council.

**Sept. 18:** City Council work session on proposal.

**Oct. 14:** City Council public hearing on proposal.

**Oct. 21:** City Council will vote on proposal.

Source: Human Rights Commission

Doug Smyth, a gay man who attended the meeting with his partner, set the scene early for a debate on morality.

"This is a question of morality," he said. "The Constitution I read suggests that we are all created equal, and I would suggest to you that that is the fundamental, underlying moral principal behind (the proposals)."

Sue Monahan, who pointed out that she was a heterosexual, expressed surprise that such a debate is even necessary.

"Who are we to accept or not accept another human being?" she said. "We are all being given the opportunity to act with an informed mind and a passionate heart."

Speakers who opposed the proposals often mentioned God and their fear that homosexuality would pose a danger for children.

George and Rennina Brittain, a married couple, argued their views in terms of reli-

gion and family.

"God would not be in favor of this, and that's all I will say about that," George Brittain said. "The little kids, they can't take care of themselves — they are the victims."

Rennina Brittain used a harsher tone and left the podium visibly emotional.

"I stand before you absolutely mortified that my community would bring this to us and say 'Help us vote on this,'" she said. "If something were to happen to my child, who is responsible?"

Referring to the domestic partnership registry, HRC Chairwoman Andrea Ortiz said unmarried people just want to be recognized.

"For people of the same sex, I think it gives them an opportunity to make the affirmation to the community that this is the person I'd like to be with," she said.

Contact the reporter at janmontry@dailyemerald.com.

## Students have new option for dining out

El Pato Verde (The Green Duck), on East 13th Street, is set to open Monday, offering customers a taste of traditional Mexican food

By Jillian Daley  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Victor and Rosa Valverde plan to carry on tradition when they open their new taqueria, El Pato Verde (The Green Duck), by cooking the kind of food they enjoyed when they lived in Sonora, Mexico, a state just below Arizona.

After 14 years in the United States, much of which they spent in Oregon, the Valverdes longed for authentic Northern Mexican cuisine.

That's fortunate for University students, as El Pato Verde will be located on 682 East 13th Ave., next to Napoli. Students who are hungry for lunch will have a new option for eats, starting Monday.

The Valverdes hope to open El Pato Verde by 9 a.m. Aug. 5.

"We'll make every effort to please the customers," Rosa said. "(It will provide) fine restaurant quality at an affordable price. It will be fine and fast."

The name El Pato Verde celebrates the University mascot, and it is also a play on the family name, Victor said. "Val" means valley in Spanish, and "verde" means green.

The family restaurant does not have set hours yet, but it will be open as long as hungry people are coming through the door, Victor said.

"We're going to find out how late (to stay open), according to the customers," Victor said. "If they want us to be there late, we'll be there late. When we make breakfast, the hours will be from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m."

For the first week or so, the restaurant will be primarily serving lunch, but Victor hopes to have breakfast ready to go soon.

The plans for the taqueria have been in progress for quite some time. It is located in a space that was previously occupied by Wells Fargo Bank. Victor was eyeing the lot since it became vacant, but he was waiting until time and funding were available for his dream.

"Since we came into the area, I had this idea, but I was too busy with my job," Victor said. "I was looking for the right location, and I think we got a good one right here."

Meal prices will most likely be on par with other local Mexican restaurants, although nothing is certain quite yet, Victor said.

The restaurant will serve freshly made flour tortillas in the tradition of Northern Mexico, Victor said. Corn tortillas are traditionally a Southern Mexican food.

Drinks will range from 75 cents to \$1.15, a bean and cheese burrito will run about \$2, and all tacos will be \$1.50. One taco might be a little pricier, however: "Tacos al Pastor."

This dish requires a vertical rotisserie, for which the Valverdes have found two possible vendors. The rotisserie and the tacos will probably not be

Turn to Taqueria, page 3

## Springfield celebrates 13th annual Filbert Festival

Locals will gather at Day Island Park for three days of fun, food and entertainment as they participate in the city's tribute to the nut

By Jenni Schultz  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Filberts, runners, kids and food will fill Springfield's Day Island Park Aug. 2 to 4 for the 13th Annual Springfield Filbert Festival.

A celebration involving filberts may sound like a "nutty" way to spend a beautiful summer weekend, but the event is loaded with musical performances, including the Satin Love Orchestra, the Deb Cleveland Band and Eugene's own version of Fox's "American Idol."

One of Springfield's only events has changed in the past couple years, partly because of a change in management, and partly from the festival board's focus, Big Green Events partner Dave Crory said.

"The focus of the board has been to grow and enrich the event in all areas," he said.

The best part of the festival is the Island Park location, according to festival volunteer Jenny Johnson.

"It's gorgeous, and it really gives us a

Filbert Festival events			
•Saturday	9:30 p.m.	Fireworks extravaganza	•Saturday
•Sunday	8 a.m. to noon	Pancake Breakfast	3:00 p.m.
	9 a.m.	Spirit of Springfield Run	6:15 p.m.
	Noon to 4 p.m.	Mayor's Ice Cream Social	8:00 p.m.
	3 to 6 p.m.	National Night Out	9:30 p.m.
			9:45 p.m.
			•Sunday
			11:30 a.m.
			1:00 p.m.
			2:30 p.m.
			4:00 p.m.

Source: Springfield Filbert Festival

chance to appreciate what a beautiful place we live in," she said.

The event is catered to all ages and levels of activity. Some of the main attractions are the Spirit of Springfield Run, Pancake Breakfast, Mayor's Ice Cream Social, a Nutty Kingdom for children and the stages.

Along with the many food and information booths, there are two stages. The Main Stage will feature headlining bands and the

Fun Stage will showcase comedy, magic and folk acts.

The event is not necessarily geared only toward Springfield residents. Although it has been supported by Springfield businesses and residents, one goal of the festival is to "showcase what is unique to Springfield by marketing to wider audiences," Crory said.

Get geared up to watch local performers sing

Turn to Filbert, page 3