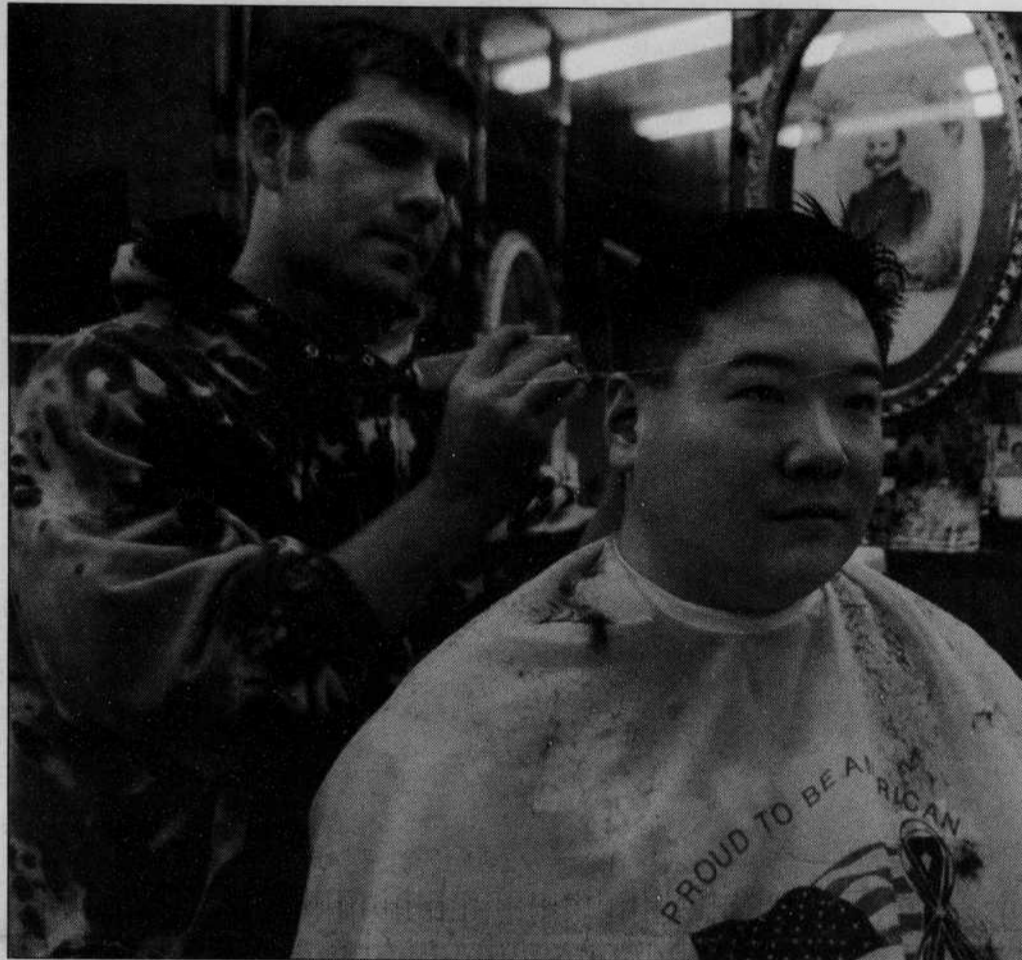




Want to get buzzed?



George Dudley cuts Hideki Tomeoka's hair at Kampus Barber Shop at 851 E. 13th Ave. Tomeoka is an eight-year customer at the barbershop, just one of the area establishments that have carried on an age-old tradition in an era of cosmetology.
Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Shear tradition

Barbershops have survived cultural change thus far, but are they on the way out?

Ryan Bornheimer
Senior Pulse Reporter

Mark Twain once said all things change except barbers — “the way of barbers, and the surroundings of barbers.” These days, it’s still possible to wander into a local shop to find a guy named Floyd wielding a pair of electric clippers like something out of a Norman Rockwell painting. But Twain may have been a little upset to see that in the age of cosmetology, the barber may be a dying breed.

Barbershops have weathered a storm that began in the 1960s when buzz cuts and flattops gave way to long locks and mop-tops. These cultural mainstays con-

tinue to thrive as unique social gatherings, but the question remains: Are the days of barbershops numbered?

There are few businesses in America’s ever-changing society that have maintained their traditions as long as barbershops have.

According to local barber Steven Vilhauer, the reason for the ongoing success of such establishments is clear: “It’s a place for men to hang out and get a simple haircut by someone who knows how to use a set of clippers,” Vilhauer said.

Dan Spencer, the owner of Jack’s Barbershop at 1754 West 11th Ave., says it may be a little more complicated than that. He compares his job to that of a bartender.

“It’s not just about getting a haircut,” Spencer said. “It’s about the camaraderie with customers, being able to

help people, encourage them, listen.”

Linda Martin, owner of Four Corners Barbershop at 2652 Roosevelt Blvd., has been cutting hair for 20 years. She says she enjoys freedom of self-employment the trade offers, as well as the relationships she builds with her clients.

“You get to see kids grow up,” Martin said.

The atmosphere of barbershops may be a big draw for many patrons.

“A person won’t go where they’re not comfortable. Our place is laid back, not stuffy,” Vilhauer said.

Barbershops have had to evolve over the years. And in an age of dye jobs and complex chemical work, barbers continue to battle salons for clientele.

Martin said there was a time when people would be willing to wait two

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Split senate might herald compromise

With a new governor and a shuffled Legislature, some experts say Oregonians could look forward to the benefits of ‘better compromises’

Ken Paulman
City/State Politics Reporter

When the Legislature convenes in January, Oregon will have a Democratic governor, a Republican-controlled House and an evenly divided Senate. How this will affect Oregon government, however, has yet to be seen.

After prolonged attempts to resolve the state budget crisis resulted in five special legislative sessions last year, some are anticipating that the Senate’s shift from a 16-14 Republican majority to a 15-15 tie could make matters worse.

Experts, however, say the political makeup of the Legislature is not necessarily a reliable indicator of things to come.

University political science Professor Jerry Medler, who teaches a course in Oregon government, said the dynamics of the Legislature depend more on individuals than political affiliations.

Medler said the divided Senate could result in more gridlock, but that the added balance of power could have the opposite effect.

“You might get better compromises and better deals out of a divided government,” he said.

Brenda Erickson, a senior research analyst with the National Conference on State Legislatures in Denver, said because the American political process is structured around majority rule, a divided chamber sometimes has to change the way it does business.

“It’s not going to be their preferred method of doing things,” she said.

Erickson said a division of power can diminish the importance of partisanship, which often results in better legislation being passed. Although people anticipate gridlock in such a situation, it often doesn’t materialize, she added.

“Normally the reaction is, ‘Well, it turned out better than we thought,’” she said.

Michael Redding, associate vice president of governmental affairs for the University, said the division of power may have an effect on the way the Legislature operates.

“Compromise is always part of the process, but I think it’s going to be more critical next session,” he said.

Redding echoed Medler’s contention that the increased necessity of compromise may actually encourage bipartisan coalitions, which he said could make the Legislature more effective.

Either way, Redding said the University’s approach to the state government does not change based on the

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WEATHER

Today: High 60, Low 38,
morning clouds, partly sunny
Wednesday: High 55, Low 38,
foggy, afternoon clearing

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday

Seeing the world in all its full color glory — through novelty contact lenses

Thursday

Time again to kick the habit, celebrating with a Smokeout

Butterfly expert to tell about flutter hunting

Traveled butterfly authority Robert Michael Pyle will speak today at the Knight Library to promote his new book

Jennifer Bear
Campus/City Culture Reporter

Stealthily crawling through a field of wildflowers, a 9-year-old boy with dirty knees and hair peppered with pollen searches for a butterfly to catch.

Students may remember the thrill of bug hunting as a child — summer days spent stalking the wilds of the backyard, eyes alert for the flutter of wings and the heart-pounding excitement of capturing an elusive butterfly.

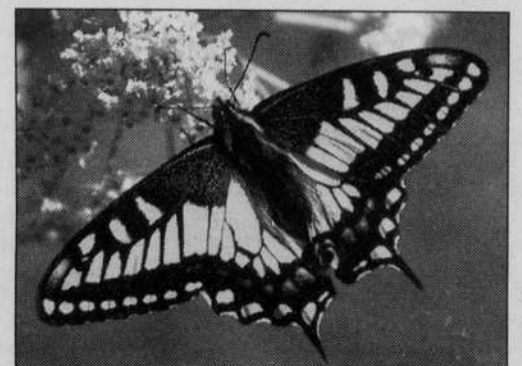
The University community will have the chance to relive such memories today when author and butterfly expert Robert Michael Pyle visits the University to promote his new book “The Butterflies of Cascadia.” The author will be

speaking and signing copies of his book at 7 p.m. in the Adelaide Church Memorial Reading Room in the Knight Library.

Pyle has been obsessed with collecting since he was a young boy, but his first love wasn’t butterflies. Growing up in Colorado, Pyle said he devoted his free time to collecting seashells. However, when he was about 11 years old, Pyle realized there was a shortage of seashells in Colorado, but it had a surplus of butterflies to study.

“It was a case of being interested in everything around me, like most kids are,” Pyle said.

That boyhood hobby led Pyle to a lifetime career of working with butterflies as a lepidopterist — a person who specializes in the collection and study of butterflies and moths. He even worked as a butterfly conservation consultant in Papua New Guinea, home to the largest butterfly species in the world, the Queen Alexandra’s Birdwing Butterfly. Pyle was hired as an ecologist to devise a strategy for preserving the endangered species, which can



Courtesy photo

grow to be as big as dinner plates.

Brian Juenemann, author event coordinator at the University Bookstore, said community members should be able to appreciate Pyle’s presentation even if they’re not avid butterfly watchers. He

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