



## Fueling a price increase

Fears of a gas shortage have prompted concern and, for many, a reduction in car use

**Ali Shaughnessy**

Environment/Science/Technology

One year ago, the average price of a gallon of regular unleaded gas in the Eugene-Springfield area was \$1.14, according to the American Automobile Association. Now, the average cost for the same gallon of gas in the same area costs \$1.81.

While the 66.3 cent difference may not seem like that much of a price increase, multiply it by 12 gallons, and the amount of money jumps from about 66 cents to almost \$8.

In an interview with the Salem Statesman Journal, Oregon Gasoline Dealers Association President Brent DeHart explained why there was an increase.

"The barrel of oil is so expensive," DeHart said in the interview. "It's a worldwide commodity, and it's a supply and demand product. When there are fears of a shortage, like there are right now, the price goes up."

The fear of a shortage comes from several factors, including the recently-settled production strike in Venezuela and speculation of a possible oil shortage that a U.S. attack on Iraq could create.

"The United States does not get its oil from Iraq, so the lack of supply there wouldn't affect us," DeHart told the Statesman Journal. Except "all those who do get it there will be trying to get it from the places where we get it. That affects supply."

Senator Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has conducted two in-depth researches into gas price increases and why they occur.

In his most recent paper, Wyden presented documentation from corporations such as Texaco, ARCO and Chevron. Within the documents, some of which are said to be internal, Wyden found the corporations practice "zone pricing."

According to Wyden's first paper, published in June of 1999, zone pricing is when "oil companies base prices on the most effective way to maximize profit for the oil company in arbitrary geographic areas, or 'zones.'" Wyden said in some cases, zone pricing could involve lowering prices in order to capture high volume. It also could involve increasing prices, too, as competing stations drive up consumer costs.

It is DeHart's opinion, however, that when the price of gas increases it has a negative effect on the retailers who sell it.

"The demand goes down, (retailers') expenses go up," he told the Statesman Journal.

Federal courts have ruled that charging various prices for gasoline to two buyers that are in competition with each other violates the Robinson-Patman Price Discrimination Act. The act prohibits manufacturers and suppliers from providing price discounts to some buyers and other forms of preferential treatment. Wyden, however, found instances where "oil companies' zone pricing has resulted in their paying higher prices and losing business to nearby service stations selling the same brand of gasoline."



Adam Amato Emerald

The 76 gas station on Coburg Road and Centennial Boulevard now charges over \$2 per gallon for premium gasoline, a stark reminder of the recent rise in gas prices.

According to Elliot Eki, who works for AAA, the not-for-profit organization hasn't felt a negative effect with the increase in gas prices.

AAA is known for its roadside services — towing a car when it is broken down or bringing gas to its members when they run out — as well as its travel agency, car buying service and auto travel planning.

"Normally when there's a large fluctuation (in gas prices), Emergency Roadside Service lets me know," Eki said. "I haven't heard (about) any effect yet."

Many University students are aware of the increase in prices, though, and subsequently have cut back on how much they drive.

"I try to drive less," sophomore Josh Welch said. "I try to take the bus to school as much as possible."

Contact the reporter at [alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com](mailto:alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com).

## Admissions will require PASS plan

The Proficiency-based Admission Standards System will require high school students to demonstrate skills in six academic areas by 2005

**Jan Montry**

City/State Politics Reporter

Oregon's graduating high school students applying to Oregon University System schools beginning in 2005 will face a new proficiency-based admissions standard that will better prepare them for undergraduate coursework.

The standard, part of a program created in 1993 and called the Proficiency-based Admission Standards System, is expected to be completely phased-in by 2005.

The new PASS system will require high school students to

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## ASUO, groups tout college grant, loan bill

Groups met to discuss the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which allocates federal money for loans and grants to college students

**Roman Gokhman**

Campus/City Culture Reporter

ASUO officials, University student groups and two spokeswomen for congressional delegates met Wednesday to voice support for reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

The federal act, established in 1965 to help students pay for college with grants and loans, is reauthorized every five years and will be up for renewal again in one to two years. During reauthorization, higher education tinkers with bill provisions. Right now advocates are pushing for more grant money and less loan money.

ASUO President Rachel Pilliod said she wants the government to increase grants and access to higher education for financially-strapped students so they do not rack up more college debt. Other speakers added that an average University graduate leaves the school with \$16,000 of debt.

Representatives for Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Eugene, said raising funds for Pell Grants, the largest source for student aid in 2002, is the only way some students will be able to attend college.

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### WEATHER

Today: High 52, Low 33, mostly cloudy, chance of rain

Friday: High 52, Low 35, cloudy, chance of showers

### LOOKING AHEAD

**Friday**  
Programs Finance Committee wraps up its budget process after presenting to the Senate

**Friday night online**  
The University Assembly may decide on a resolution that would take a stance on Iraq

## Davis focuses on God, girlfriend, class

James Davis, the Pac-10's top three-point shooter, said going to school has helped him appreciate the value of an education

### Off the hardwood

**Brad Schmidt**

News Editor

James Lee Davis doesn't read from the Bible on a daily basis, doesn't preach to others and doesn't make it to church as often as he'd like. The University junior believes God has a plan for everyone, though, and he lives by the words associated with the cross tattooed on his right leg.

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me" — Philippians 4:13.

Religion has been a focal point in Davis' life for as long as he can remember, maybe even a little longer than he has liked.

"Growing up as a young 'un, you know, you were dragged to church," said Davis, the men's basketball starting shooting guard. "You didn't want to be there. It's one of those places."

But Davis' father, who goes by the senior version of the same name, made sure his James and his two other children regularly attended church. And all the while, Davis' father has been lovingly looking out for his eldest son — appropriately nicknamed "Junior" by his family.

"To me, he's been 'Junior' since he was in his mother's womb," the elder Davis said.

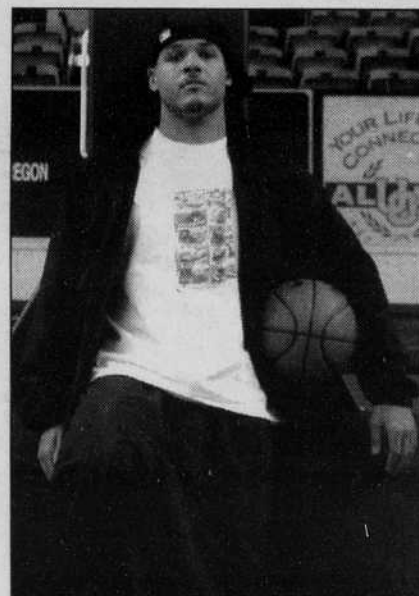
As the years have gone by — 21 of them, now — Davis has found a sense of belonging through his Christian beliefs, his basketball skills and his pursuit of knowledge.

"I'm telling him every time I talk to him that he can't bank on basketball, that he's got to get an education too," Davis' father said.

Without basketball, though, "Junior" said he wouldn't be attending the University, or any college for that matter.

"The first time I thought about college was when I was in high school playing basketball. ... I was just never a big fan of school and academics," the Vancouver, Wash., native said. "Finally, after 21 years, I'm finally starting to get the big picture and finally starting to see that school is going to help you in the long run."

When Davis came to the University, he had no idea



Danielle Hickey Emerald

James Davis balances his time as a men's basketball guard and ethnic studies major.

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