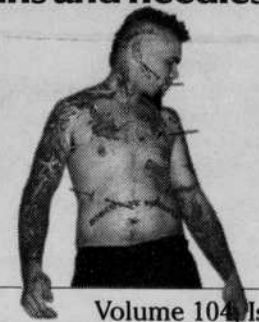


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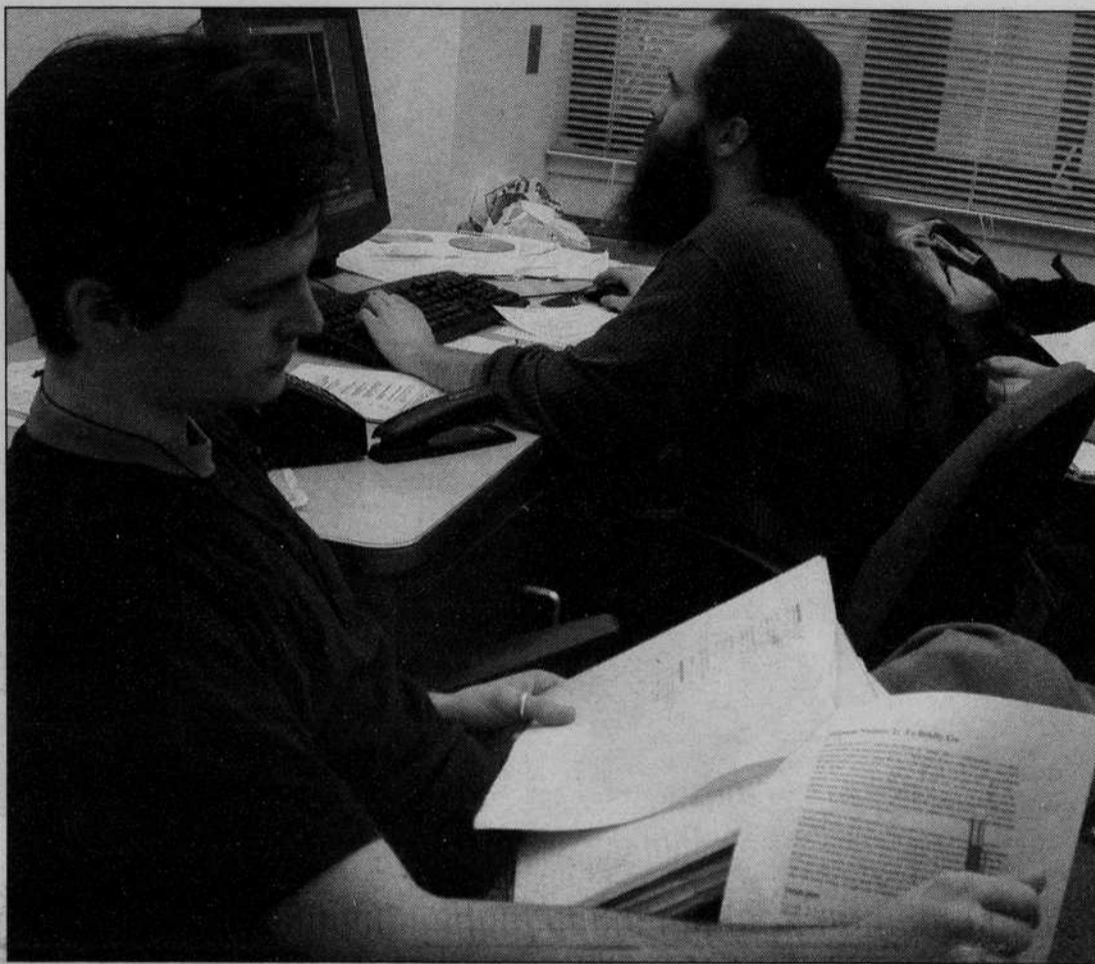
SINCE 1900

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

EUGENE, OREGON

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With the program



Buffleheads members James Marr (left) and Dan Stutzbach prepare for the five-hour test of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, which begins March 22. Ali Shaughnessy Emerald

Coding for success

The Buffleheads, a three-student computer programming team, placed first at a regional contest

Ali Shaughnessy

Environment/Science/Technology Reporter

On Monday nights, Deschutes Hall is nearly deserted, with only the click-clack sounds of a keyboard emitting from a small room and filling the empty hallways.

Inside that room, three University students sit in silence. Two stare at a packet of problems that lay before them; the third types at a rapid speed, stopping only to turn the pieces of paper in front of him.

After 20 minutes, the silence is interrupted.

"This is a good problem set,"

University senior James Marr says.

Marr is one of three members of Buffleheads, which also includes Dan Stutzbach and Carl Howells. The three computer-savvy students formed the team last year, intent on competing in a regional computer programming contest sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery.

The top two teams from each region are invited to the international finals, which includes students from Africa, Europe and the South Pacific.

After placing 13th in last year's regional contest, the members of the Buffleheads worked together and swept this year's competition, taking first place. Only 70 out of 3,850 competing teams will attend the international competition.

"It was something of an accom-

plishment," Marr said. "I'm rather proud of it."

The international competition, officially titled the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, pits each team against a grueling five-hour deadline as they work to solve eight complex problems. Members of each team must work together to write a computer program that implements the solution. According to ACM officials, tackling the problems is equivalent to completing a semester's worth of computer programming in one afternoon.

After a team believes it has a working version of the program, they submit it to the judges, who run the program with sample data to test its accuracy. The team's score is based on how many problems are completed,

Turn to **ACM**, page 8

Forum looks at health care possibilities

A community forum held on Wednesday explored solutions to several Oregon health care coverage pitfalls including high costs in private insurance

Lindsay Sauvé

Family/Health/Education Reporter

Money — or a lack of it — was a prominent theme at a community forum on health care coverage at First United Methodist Church on Wednesday night. Officials, activists and community members met to discuss the condition of health care in Oregon in the wake of massive budget cuts and the failure of universal health-care initiative Measure 23 in November.

State Sen. Bill Morrisette, D-Springfield, who is chairman of the senate's Health Policy Committee, was the event's featured speaker. Morrisette lamented what he said was the desperate situation of the state budget, and the subsequent effects on all government programs, especially state health programs.

"Oregon Health Plan is dead," Morrisette said in a somber note. Budget cuts for assistance programs such as the Oregon

Turn to **Health**, page 4

ASUO election

Two candidates drop from ASUO elections

After the first full day of the 2003 ASUO election season, another position will go unfilled and one senate race will be slightly less competitive.

Mindi Rice announced Wednesday morning that she has withdrawn her candidacy for a two-year term on the Student Recreation Center Advisory Board, and Steven Lockfield announced Wednesday night that he is withdrawing from the race for Programs Finance Senator Seat 1.

Jonah Lee and Courtney Warner are still running unopposed for the other two seats on the rec center board, and Seat 1 still has a crowded field of seven contenders.

Wednesday evening's mandatory candidate meetings, covering elections rules and procedures, were heavily attended. Candidates who didn't show up could be dropped from the ballot, and other candidates may be withdrawing from the race, but the ASUO Elections Board on Wednesday night could confirm no other immediate changes.

The ASUO primary election runs April 9-11, and the general election — if it is needed — runs April 21-23. A debate for ASUO Executive candidates is tentatively scheduled for April 7, and a full candidate's fair is scheduled for April 9.

— Michael J. Kleckner

INSIDE

A full list of ASUO election candidates

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WEATHER

Today: High 55, Low 48, wind with heavy rain,

Friday: High 55, Low 47, light rain and wind

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday

EPD searches for a 25-year-old man in connection with the beating of a University student

Monday

The Emerald suggests you whizzle your shnizzle as we presents the last winter issue

Faith inspires football players, others

Student-athletes from many different sports call on religious values to provide strength on and off the field

Faith on the field

Peter Hockaday

Sports Editor

Jason Fife's teammates stopped asking long before the season was over.

They just knew he didn't want to hit the bars. Or hit a party. Or hit a bong.

"There's always the peer-pressure thing, where the guys may want me to come out and celebrate after a game," Fife said. "But for the most part they understand that I don't want to go drinkin', I don't want to go smokin', I don't want to do any of that stuff."

Fife is a devout Mormon and, like any Mormon college student, wrestles with issues that pit fun against faith. It just happens that Fife started every game at quarterback for the Oregon football

Turn to **Faith**, page 10



Jason Fife (12) is one of many faithful athletes on the religiously-diverse Oregon football team. Adam Amato Emerald