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Devoted to training Page 5



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RING OF FIRE

Firefighters Dominic Ciciriello, Drew Wedeking, Justin Hayland, Joel Dopp, Richard Keymolen, Angel Landin and Marc Andresen (left to right) enjoy the relative cool of nightfall at base camp in Lowell after a long, hot day of fighting the Clark fire.
 Jessica Waters
 Emerald



Up at 5, out 'til 8

Of the 1,100 firefighters living in Lowell working to contain the Clark fire, many are students looking for money, a rush and appreciation

By Ali Shaughnessy
Freelance Reporter

LOWELL — As the night sky falls over this sleepy town Friday, children rush to the streets holding signs, waving at hundreds of firefighters returning from a hard day's work. Back at the camp at the local high school, University student Joel Dopp gets ready to play cards.

Dopp, just one of 1,100 firefighters currently living in Lowell and fighting the Clark fire, has spent his last two

summers fighting fires across Oregon, along with many other University students. The University senior originally got into firefighting for the money, he says, but also for the challenge.

The hardest obstacle, other University students say, is the lack of sleep. The Lowell firefighters' rigorous schedule requires them to be up at 5 a.m. and fighting fires by 8 a.m.

They typically don't return to camp until after 8 p.m.

"You just go out there and bust ass," University senior Justin Hyland says. "It's intense."

Hyland says he wanted to try firefighting this summer because it was different from past jobs, adding that one of the hardest things for him was

the one-week training, which takes place at the beginning of a novice firefighter's first summer.

University junior Drew Wedeking says the hardest part of training was the pack test, where each person has to walk three miles in less than 45 minutes while carrying a 45-pound bag.

Along with the pack test, firefighters are also required to memorize multiple fire orders. If a firefighter is asked to recite a fire order and fails, he or she has to do push-ups. Oregon State University senior Dominic Ciciriello says he calls one of his friends "push-up" because "he never remembers the fire orders, and he

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Council votes to expand DPS responsibilities

In a 7-1 decision, the Eugene City Council voted to allow some Department of Public Safety officers to issue citations for certain municipal violations on University premises

By Jan Tobias Montry
Managing Editor

The Eugene City Council voted Monday night overwhelmingly to grant University Department of Public Safety officers expanded powers for issuing citations.

The expanded powers will allow commissioned officers — those with extra training — to cite students and non-students for municipal violations occurring on campus, such as minor in possession of alcohol and noise-related offenses.

Many councilors decried the process of bringing the issue to the city at a time when students aren't on campus, but only Ward 2 City Councilor Betty Taylor openly attacked the proposal's merits and cast the lone opposing vote.

"I have great doubts about giving this kind of authority to people other than a police force," she said. "I think we need to give people a chance to bring up arguments against it."

Other councilors praised what they felt was a cost-saving and safety-increasing proposal, especially Ward 4 City Council George Poling, a retired Eugene Police Department officer.

"This is not an issue concerning trying to change the behavior of anybody," he said. "It's a safety issue."

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84,000 students to lose federal aid

The budget of the Federal Pell Grant, the largest federal student aid program, could be slashed by \$270 million; about 4,400 students at the University receive the grant

By Ayisha Yahya
Reporter

Thousands of students nationwide may lose their financial aid eligibility in the 2004-05 school year, due to changes in the U.S. Department of Education's formula that determines a student's level of financial need.

According to a Congressional Research Service memo, about 84,000 previously eligible students may no longer qualify for financial aid under the new formula.

The Department of Education adjusts its financial aid eligibility formula each year, using tax figures from previous years to determine how much parents can contribute to their children's education.

The U.S. Department of Education may also slash about \$270 million in Federal Pell Grants, which would reduce the size of financial aid packages for low-income students that still qualify for aid. The Pell Grant is the largest federal grant program, with awards ranging from \$400 to \$4,050 for 2003-2004, according to the University Office of Financial Aid Web site.

Office of Financial Aid Director Elizabeth Bickford said in an e-mail interview that 4,101 University students received Pell Grants in 2002-03. In the past school year, Bickford said the financial aid department disbursed almost \$11 million in Pell Grants to students. Overall, about 11,000 students currently receive some form of financial aid from the University.

While students are likely to suffer if Pell Grants are reduced, financial aid officers cannot yet determine the exact impact.

"We do not have the formula for recalculating Pell eligibility to

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Bill would grant legal aliens resident tuition

Proponents of House Bill 3651 call it 'more palatable' than Senate Bill 10, but critics call it unfair because some students' parents don't pay state taxes

By A. Sho Ikeda
Reporter

Children of illegal immigrants could see lowered tuition if a newly revived bill passes the Oregon Legislature before lawmakers end their session.

House Bill 3651 would allow legal aliens and the children of illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition while attending any public Oregon university. Eligible students must have attended an Oregon high school for three consecutive years and received a diploma or its equivalent.

The House Rules Committee approved the bill last Tuesday, and it is slated for consideration on the House floor in

coming weeks.

Currently, illegal aliens and their children must pay out-of-state tuition to attend an Oregon university.

The new legislation is a revised version of Senate Bill 10, which stalled indefinitely in the House Education Committee. In addition to lowering tuition for legal aliens and children of illegal aliens, Senate Bill 10 would have granted in-state tuition to potential students who have not yet received their citizenship but attended an Oregon high school.

Rep. Billy Dalto, R-Salem, who proposed the new version of the bill, said he believes HB 3651 will fare better with lawmakers, calling the new bill "more palatable."

"I'm disappointed that Senate Bill 10 didn't move forward," Dalto said. "But I think that the new bill is an important step in the right direction and many students will benefit from it."

Some members of the Legislature who opposed the original bill have continued to voice opposition to the reduced-tuition efforts, however.

Rep. Betsy Close, R-Albany, said the issue lies with the citizenship of the parents, adding that the new legislation should not benefit those who are not citizens.

"Citizenship should count for something," she said. "This is a fairness issue."

Close said there would be no problem with the legislation if students were paying for their own education. Conversely, if the student's parents are illegal aliens and are paying the in-state tuition, then the situation would be unfair because illegal aliens do not pay state taxes, she said.

"Out-of-state tuition is fair for out-of-state parents because they don't contribute taxes back to the state," Close said. "The same

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The University hires a new health center director