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ADMISSIONS

continued from page 1

students admitted for fall 2003 is, statistically, the smartest in recent memory. Pitts expects the average high school GPA for the group to fall at about 3.53. That would be an increase over last year's average GPA of 3.47, and a significant jump from the fall 1999 class, which had a 3.39 average GPA.

"The students we admitted were much stronger academically," Pitts said.

The increases in average GPA are at least partly the result of changes to the University's standards for automatic admission. While the University used to require 14 credits of academic preparation and a 3.0 high school GPA, it now requires 16 credits and a 3.25 GPA.

Digel fell significantly below that with a 2.41 GPA.

"Because of the newer admissions standards, I wasn't accepted," she said.

Digel, and anybody else who falls

short of the minimum requirements, enters what Pitts calls the "comprehensive review group." The Office of Admissions evaluates these students for things like grade trends, course difficulty, a personal essay and extenuating circumstances.

"We admitted two-thirds of students who fell into the comprehensive review group," Pitts said.

But Digel wasn't one of the them. Eventually, she still plans to attend law school, but realizes it will be difficult.

"I know it's harder for me to go to law school coming from a community college instead of a university," she said.

Even though she was rejected from the University, Digel said she's satisfied with the way things turned out.

"I'm almost glad (that I got rejected) because I met a guy that I'm planning on spending the rest of my life with," she said.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at chuckslothower@dailymerald.com.

CORNTAINER

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A national survey by Roper Starch Worldwide Audits and Surveys market research found that 51 percent of people surveyed said they would be willing to pay up to a 10 percent premium for an environmentally safer version of plastic packaging. However, Cockcroft said Wild Oats paid the additional money to bring comtainers to the general public at no additional cost.

Wild Oats "felt strongly enough that we were willing to make the investment ourselves and not pass that additional cost onto the consumer," he said. "It was the right thing to do."

Sabin said that she was one of those consumers that would have been willing to pay the additional money, but she was grateful she didn't have to.

The NatureWorks technology produces renewable resin by tapping into

the carbon stored in plant starches and breaking them down into natural plant sugars. Through a process of fermentation and separation, the carbon and other elements of the sugars are used to make the comtainer — a process that uses 20 to 50 percent fewer fossil fuels than petroleum-based plastics.

NatureWorks Communications Director Michael O'Brien said in a statement that retailers in the United States are in the early logistical stages of offering sustainable packaging to consumers.

Wild Oats is "on the leading edge of what we believe will be a standard application in grocery and deli," he said. "It won't be too long before you'll be hearing 'paper, plastic or NatureWorks' at the checkout stand."

Contact the crime/health/safety reporter at alishaughnessy@dailymerald.com.

CAMPUS BUZZ

Friday

Archaeology Celebration Lecture, room 175 Knight Law Center, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Multimedia specialist Don Hunter will give a talk entitled "The Sandal and the Cave: Pioneer Archaeologist Luther Cressman and the 10,000-Year-Old Sandals" as part of a series.

Finrow Lecture in Interior Architecture, Room 177 Lawrence Hall, 5:30 p.m. Janin James presents "Designers as Solutionists," the inaugural Gunilla K. Finrow Lecture in Interior Architecture.

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