

Oregon Daily Emerald



Volleyball remains winless in Pac-10 Page 5

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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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Professor criticizes Discovery program

University professor Guy Tasa says the 'Unsolved History' program on the Donner Party left out research information

By Caron Alarab
News Reporter

The Donner Party experience is a notorious tale of heroism, desperation and survival, according to a recent Discovery Channel episode of "Unsolved History".

But for the local archaeologist and the University anthropology professor featured in the television special, the melodramatic focus on cannibalism overshadowed the importance of University technology and research to the identification of recently excavated Donner Party bone fragments.

"In terms of a typical TV show, I thought it was okay," said assistant adjunct professor Guy Tasa, a research associate at the Museum of Natural History. "But it wasn't very heavy on science."

Tasa was just one of a handful of professionals interviewed by the Discovery Channel about whether the bone fragments are evidence of 19th century cannibalism.

In 1846, the Donner Party was stranded in the snowy Sierra Nevada mountains when their California-bound wagon train took an uncharted shortcut over the summit. The party of emigrants separated into family units after the first few months to set up campsites and try to brave the cold and imminent starvation. After more than five months of hunger, the desperate survivors described the horror of losing 36 of

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DPS adheres to strict hiring policies

DPS applicants must endure a lengthy screening process, and new hires complete training very similar to that of EPD officers

By Jennifer Marie Bear
News Editor

The news that a DPS officer hit a man on a bicycle with his patrol vehicle last summer stunned many people and raised questions within the Department of Public Safety about the legitimacy of the officer's actions. After DPS determined the officer committed misconduct, a new question arose: What does DPS do to make sure the offi-

cers it hires are the right ones for the job?

The road to the badge is not a jaunt through the roses — it's more like a belly crawl through the brambles.

Leaders within the department say there are many tests and challenges a person must undergo to begin training as a DPS officer, and potential officers who are allowed to go through training are continually evaluated for a one-year period before they are officially hired.

DPS Interim Director Tom Hicks said the application process is the first phase of recruitment, and it demands that applicants meet the minimum requirements to be an officer.

In order to qualify for an interview, Hicks said applicants must be 21 or older, have one year of law

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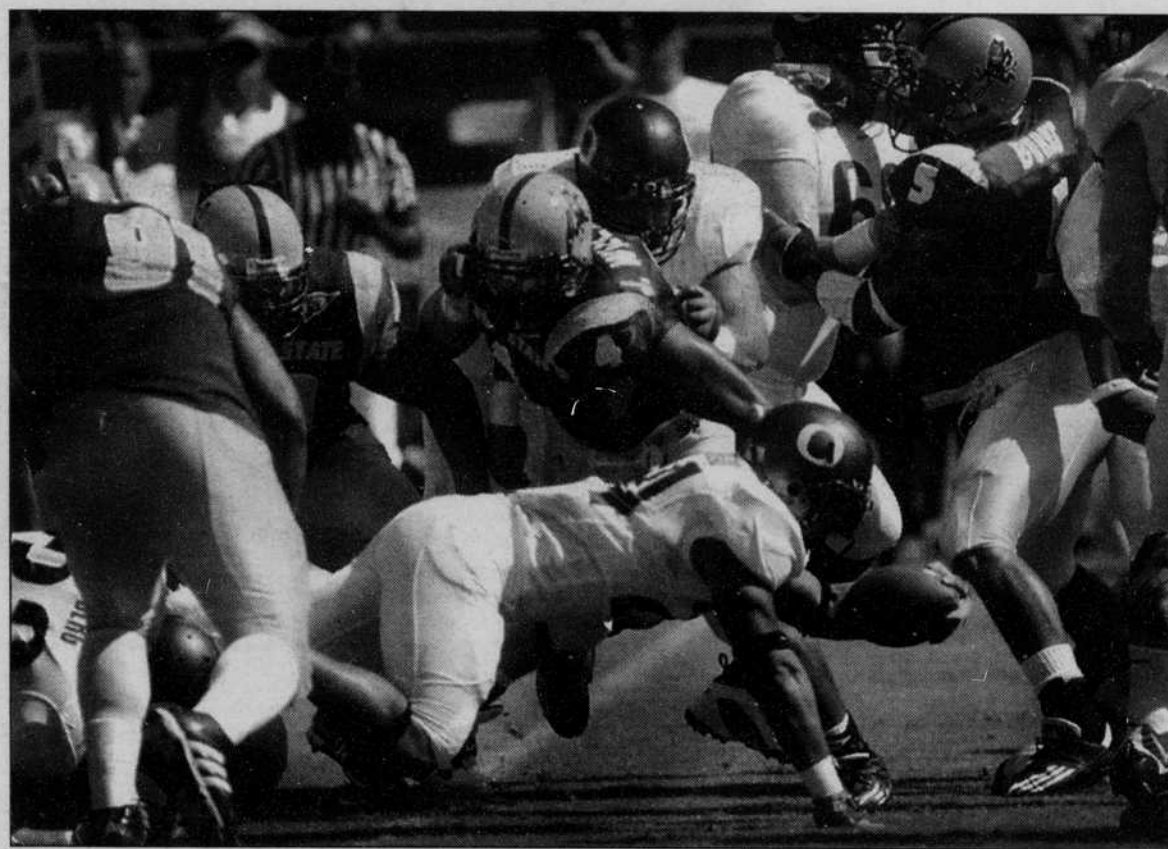
Today: DPS' hiring and training procedures

Tuesday: Reaction to DPS' findings of misconduct

enforcement or security experience, have a valid Oregon driver's license and a good driving record, and be able to successfully pass a criminal background check and a medical and psychological examination.

The individuals who meet these basic requirements take a video exam that consists of 54 scenario-based questions to test their decision-making skills, and the people who pass the exam are then interviewed by a panel of people.

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DUCKS TUMBLE

Terrence Whitehead (with ball) and the Ducks found their running game, but Arizona State was too much for Oregon in a 59-14 blowout. The Ducks entered halftime within striking distance, but allowed 38 points in the second half en route to the 45-point loss in Tempe.

INSIDE

Page 5: The Ducks get destroyed in a Pac-10 showdown

Laina McWhorter
The State Press



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Sophomore Julia Tuohy (middle), a new Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority member, shows her excitement with senior member Anne Vereeke.

Sororities see membership numbers drop

About 150 fewer women opt to be sorority members this year; recruiters say rising tuition is one factor

By Jared Paben
News Reporter

University sorority houses are going to be a little quieter and more spacious this year.

Last year about 500 women were members of sororities, but this year that number has dropped to around 350, said Melissa Winkler, vice president in charge of recruitment for the Panhellenic Council.

One explanation for the drop in sorority

membership is the rising price of tuition, Winkler said, adding that it gives women the impression they can't afford to join a sorority.

"Actually, we pay less to live in sororities than we do to live in residence halls," she said. According to a comparative chart from the Greek Life Office for this school year, the average cost of living in a University residence hall is \$6,700, while the average cost of room and board for a sorority is \$5,168.

The membership decline can also be partially attributed to the fact that students' schedules seemed to conflict with recruitment-week activities, Winkler said. Events started at 5:30 p.m. every day during the week, but Winkler said she noticed a lot of women had classes in the evening.

Bad press is another factor

Winkler cited to explain flagging membership numbers in sororities.

"I think there's been a lot of negative press about greeks," she said.

Specifically, she mentioned the MTV show "Sorority Life," which she claims has negatively affected people's perceptions of sorority life by showing irresponsible behavior and hazing. A lot of the girls who would join are afraid

PART 2 OF 2

Friday: Fraternities face recruitment challenges

Today: Results of the sorority membership drive

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CITATION

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 TICKET #238827647

Broken parking meters annoy students