

Oregon Daily Emerald

Ducks almost get nine W's Page 7



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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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EUGENE FREEZES OVER



Tim Bobosky Photographer

University graduates Ryan Lingard and Mariah Morrow scrape ice off their Volvo. Weather made getting to the University a tough task for many students Tuesday.

Snow not enough for closure

University officials say the majority of students and staff made it to class despite dangerous weather conditions

By Jared Paben
Senior News Reporter

Inclement weather has only closed or delayed opening of the University twice in its 127-year history — once in 1969 and once in 1985, according to a release from the University Media Relations office.

And unless things change for the worse, this snowstorm won't necessarily bring about a third closure, Vice President for Administration Dan Williams said.

Winter storms forced the closure of most universities in the state Tuesday, including Oregon State University, Portland State University and Western Oregon University. Locally, Lane Community College closed all campuses as well.

Williams, who holds the authority to authorize a school closure, said he had many reasons for keeping classes going, pointing out that "closing the University creates a

whole new set of problems."

"What it boils down to is the advantages to staying open outweigh the disadvantages," he said.

Williams said closing campus would present problems as far as heating rooms and feeding the more than 3,000 students living in the residence halls, adding that closing campus would also hurt the University's "24-hour-per-day, seven-days-per-week" research.

He pointed out that the University

Turn to **CLOSURE**, page 3

City hires permanent police chief

Two years after the position opened, the city of Eugene hired Arizona's Robert Lehner as new police chief

By Nika Carlson
News Reporter

The city of Eugene has hired a new police chief after a two-year period without a permanent department head.

Robert M. Lehner — formerly the Assistant Chief of Police for the Tucson, Ariz., police department — began work Monday. Lehner replaces interim chief Thad Buchanan, who returned to his position as captain.

Lehner, who bases his work on a philosophy of community policing, said he looks forward to speaking with University groups about the priorities they want the Eugene Police Department to address.

Turn to **LEHNER**, page 4

NEWS BRIEF

Trial date set for ASUO vice president

A trial date has been set for Feb. 24 at 1:15 p.m. for ASUO Vice President Eduardo Morales on charges of assault and criminal mischief in the second degree.

Morales pleaded innocent to the charges at his Oct. 22 arraignment at Eugene Municipal Court.

According to Eugene Police Department reports, the charges stem from an incident in which Morales allegedly assaulted University senior Erica Hass between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. Sept. 12 outside Taylor's Bar and Grill.

If found guilty of assault, Morales faces a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine and/or 100 days in jail. If found guilty of criminal mischief in the second degree, Morales faces a maximum penalty of a \$2,500 fine and/or 100 days in jail.

Morales is a senior at the University majoring in Spanish and planning, public policy and management.

— Jennifer Bear

Mad cow disease scare leaves lingering apprehension

Despite the recall of all at-risk beef and no other reported cases, mad cow disease still remains a concern for some

By Lisa Catto
News Reporter

Two things may be on everyone's mind lately: the weather and mad cow disease.

On Dec. 23 the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a presumptive diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also

known as BSE or mad cow disease, in an adult Holstein cow from Washington state.

Although the discovery of mad cow disease in the United States has rattled some cages, official sources say that beef does not pose a health threat to the population.

"The federal investigating authorities have concluded that human food supplies have not been threatened in any way," Washington Gov. Gary Locke said in a press release. "Beef remains safe for consumption in our state and across the country."

According to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, the infected cow didn't come from the United States. The CDC Web site stated that, based on the cow's ear tag identification number, it was most likely imported from Canada in August 2001.

Although the infected cow was processed for human consumption, the USDA recalled all beef from cattle slaughtered on Dec. 9 at the involved plant.

As a result of the mad cow disease scare, some Eugeneans are having second thoughts about consuming or purchasing beef.

Bonnie Forrester, a public health

nurse for the Lane County Public Health Department, said she has received many calls from concerned citizens in Lane County.

"People ask if the beef that they have in their fridge is OK," Forrester said.

But she said the panic over mad cow disease has tapered off and Lane County residents have a new worry on their minds.

"We haven't been receiving calls," Forrester said. "People are concerned with the weather."

According to the CDC Web site, mad cow disease is a progressive neurological disorder that results

from infection by an unconventional transmissible agent. It may stem from feeding cattle food that contains nerve tissue from the brain and spinal column of other cows.

Mad cow disease is most common in the United Kingdom, with more than one million cattle that may have been infected there.

When humans eat meat from an infected cow, they can contract a variant of the disease called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and commonly referred to as vCJD.

Turn to **MAD COW**, page 5

WEATHER

LOW
35



HIGH
45

INSIDE

Campus buzz.....5 Crossword.....11
Classifieds.....11 Nation & World.....3
Commentary.....2 Sports.....7

NEXT ISSUE

Steven Neuman
sees Israel
firsthand

