

# Oregon Daily Emerald



Wagner serves up home cooking Page 5

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## The taste of change

Erb Essentials offers an alternative for Coke loyalists in the wake of its expired contract with campus monopoly PepsiCo



By Caron Alarab  
Senior News Reporter

In the ongoing cola war against PepsiCo Inc., Coca-Cola Co. has crossed enemy lines at the University.

After the expiration of a binding contract, Erb Essentials Store, the Pepsi-dominated convenience store in the EMU, has allowed the competing cola company to stock its shelves.

"A lot of people are excited," Erb Essentials employee Christ Wriston said. "It's nice to have a choice."

According to an informal Emerald survey based on a random sample of University students, 41 percent of the students surveyed said they prefer Coke, while 39 percent chose Pepsi and 20 percent had no preference.

"Everywhere you go, it's all Pepsi," senior Todd Melrose said. "It's frustrating."

A self-titled "Coke-loyalist," Melrose said he "doesn't really care for Pepsi."

"I don't like the taste; it's too sweet," he said.

Now that at least one University-managed store sells Coke on campus, Melrose said he will know where to go next time he needs a cola fix at the EMU.

"It's just nice to have the option," he said.

As a business major, Melrose prides himself in knowing which colas are served at his favorite local restaurants. Melrose said he tends to pass up Taco Bell, Subway and some pizza restaurants for Burger King and McDonald's, both which sell Coke.

"When I'm hungry and thirsty, it influences my decision of where I want to go," he said.

EMU Food Services — which manages Erb Essentials, Buzz Coffeehouse, Daily Grind, Greatful Bread and three other campus cafés — has signed contracts with both cola companies at different times.

While Coke dominated all the vending machines on campus from 1997 to 2002, PepsiCo obtained the campuswide fountain machine contract. During Erb Essentials' remodeling in 1998, Pepsi also picked up the refrigerator contract, which covers all Food Service units.

According to PepsiCo's contract, the company agreed to give the convenience store a brand-new, seven-door unit under the condition that it held "only Pepsi-bottled products" for the following five years.

After the contract expired on Dec. 31, 2003, the University took full ownership of the unit and allowed Coke to deliver stock to Erb Essentials just in time for the first day of winter classes.

Although Coca-Cola is the only company that has taken advantage of the previously restricted space, EMU Food Service Director John Costello said he expects other, smaller bottlers to catch on soon.

"Our intention is to allow different operators to market their products on campus," he said.

Over the years, Coca-Cola has received some negative press, including anti-Coke e-mails circulating online.

Although most consumers consider themselves unaffected by bad cola press, some admit to disliking Coca-Cola because of the negative

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## February election revives tax clash

Measure 30's supporters and opponents renew debates over the merits of increased taxes after voters rejected 28

By Ayisha Yahya  
News Editor

With Oregon's Feb. 3 special election approaching fast, proponents and opponents of Measure 30 are rallying voters to their respective sides.

Much is at stake on the ballot, which seeks to establish temporary income tax surcharges, as well as some increases and

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changes to corporate and property tax and an extension of the cigarette tax to 2005.

Since the measure was first referred to voters last year, voters have been subjected to differing viewpoints on whether to approve the tax measure.

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski stressed the importance of the measure in alleviating the state's financial crisis and keeping services intact.

"This measure is more a vote about you, your future — the future of the state — than it is about a debate about tax," he said during a recent visit to the University.

Referring to the potential cuts, he said he is spending a lot of time talking to groups about the consequences of the measure.

"This vote sends a message to people," he said. "If it goes down, the message it sends to people is that they're not willing to make the investment."

Education administrators also hope the measure will pass.

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## Grant ensures FPEP at UO Health Center until 2006

Family Planning Expansion Project offers services such as birth control and tests for STIs to those who qualify

By Lisa Catto  
News Reporter

University students will have the opportunity to get free family planning services for nearly three more years.

Many students who had Family Planning Expansion Project appointments during the last several months may have been told that the services

would no longer be available after the new year, but FPEP was saved when the University Health Center received a portion of Lane County Public Health's grant to run the program until 2006.

FPEP, a Medicaid project that provides many free family planning services to men and women who qualify, has been available at the health center since July 2000.

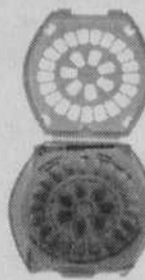
For women, FPEP provides such services as annual exams, various methods of birth control, pregnancy tests and emergency contraception, while men can receive condoms and spermicide.

Sexually transmitted infection screening is

also available to men and women, but it must be combined with some form of birth control. FPEP will only provide services if the intention is to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

The health center's Web site states that in order to qualify for FPEP, students must be eligible to use the health center, be an Oregon resident and have a social security number. Women must be under the age of 56, but there is no age restriction for men.

Also, single students with no children can't earn more than \$1,365 per month to take part in the service. That doesn't include parent's income if the student is a dependent.



Birth control, annual exams, emergency contraceptives, pregnancy tests and STI screening are available at the Health Center through the Family Planning Expansion Project.

Tim Bobosky Photographer

University Health Center Business Manager Daralyn Dehaven-Murdoch said FPEP's main goals are to reduce unintended pregnancies, reduce the

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