

Oregon Daily Emerald

Ducks defeated in Civil War Page 7



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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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University hosts six Iraqi Fulbright scholars

The students are part of the first group of Iraqi Fulbright recipients to visit the United States since 1990

By Jared Paben
Senior News Reporter

When Peshwaz Saadulla Faizula arrived on campus last week, he was immediately struck by how different the University was from the schools in Iraq. No walls or barbed wire fences ran through campus, and he said he would call the University a city, not a school, because of its huge size.

Faizula was one of six Iraqi nationals to enroll in the University last week and one of the first Iraqis to come to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship since former Iraqi president

Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Christa Hansen, director of the University's American English Institute, introduced four of the Iraqi scholars at a press conference in the EMU on Friday, explaining that they are all enrolled in her program in order to study English and American culture before continuing their academic studies.

Faizula, who wants to get a master's degree in journalism before returning to Iraq, said he came to America because Iraq only has two journalism schools.

Ali Muhamad Hama Amin was born in Halabja, the site of Hussein's 1988 chemical gassing that killed thousands of Kurdish civilians in Iraq. Hama Amin said he wants to study western medicine in order to return and help those

suffering in Iraq.

Revan Jajjow Zora Hedo, a native of Baghdad who is away from Iraq for the first time, said he came to perfect his English so he can continue work translating Arabic into English.

But Hedo pointed out that he's here to do more than learn.

"I think that the exchange of experience will be bilateral, not unilateral," Hedo said. "I'm going to be given experiences here and of course I will tell the people I meet every day about our traditions, our conventions and the Iraqi people in general, because it's a good thing."

Muhammed Othman Muhammed agreed.

"It's really good for people around the world to know who Iraq is and who Iraqis are, and it's not like people know Iraq just from media,"

Muhammed said. "We, as Iraqis, should tell them who we are and how we think."

Faizula said many Americans think Iraq is uncivilized, adding that many Americans he meets are surprised to find out he has a DVD player at home in northern Iraq. He said many U.S. troops in Iraq were "totally ignorant" about Iraq, resulting in friendly fire incidents.

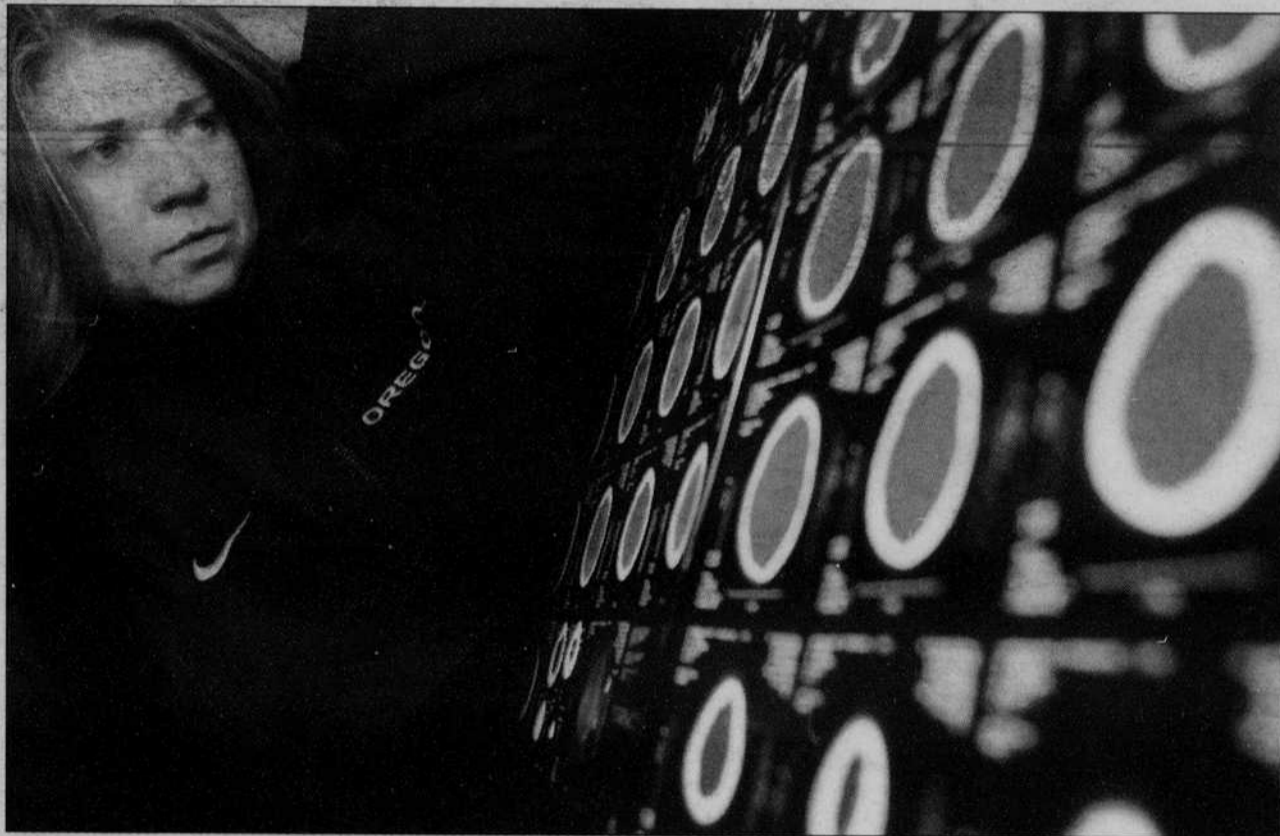
"We Kurds take you as our best friends, this is what everybody says back home," Faizula said. "... And for the rest of Iraq there might be a different perspective. Some think the Americans are liberators, some think the Americans are invaders."

Hama Amin said Hussein's regime taught Iraqis to hate America for the last three and a half

Turn to **IRAQ**, page 5

Against the odds

Despite medical setbacks, Jodene Heider continues to pursue her education



Adam Amato Senior Photographer

University student Jodene Heider, 46, examines the result of a CT scan done on her brain. Heider is battling a brain tumor and is also trying to maintain funding for her education. She is unable to get financial aid until her health is stable, but she says no neurosurgeon will take her case.

By Jared Paben
Senior News Reporter

Jodene Heider entered the large auditorium at Mt. Hood Community College on a sunny but chilly morning in September 1994. Inside, about 50 people waited in their seats, scattered loosely throughout the room. She chose her seat and waited.

Heider was anxious to take the state nursing exam, the culmination of two months of studying. She was ready to embark on her new career path. Heider got her Scantron and test instructions

and pulled out her No. 2 pencil. She leaned over the desk top and tore into the four-hour test.

But about halfway into the test, something went wrong. She was having trouble seeing and marking answers on her sheet; her eyes were showing double images and she couldn't get them to focus. She rubbed them, but they were still blurry. She put on her glasses, but that didn't help either.

"I thought, 'Why at this time?'" Heider said. "I could hear other people getting up after they had finished their tests."

PART 1 OF 4

Editor's note: The story of University student Jodene Heider is a four-part series examining the hardships of living with a tumor.

Today: The sickness appears

Tuesday: Kicking off a friendship

Wednesday: Finding a home

Thursday: School and life struggles

By noon, the first test was over and the test-takers cleared the auditorium

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'Vagina Monologues' draws large crowds as well as protesters

Protesters of "Monologues" say the production did not accurately represent women's diversity

By Ayisha Yahya
News Editor

They silently stood hand in hand with gray duct tape pasted across their lips and "Vagina Warriors" emblazoned on the back of their white shirts. The front of the shirts had different messages: "Warning: Hostile Vagina," "Not all vaginas are skinny, white + straight" and "My cunt is not represented here."

About 10 people gathered in front of Agate Hall on Friday to protest what they called a lack of representation of different kinds of women in "The Vagina Monologues" production, which ran Thursday through Saturday at the Agate Hall auditorium.

In flyers handed out to audience members at the show, University graduate Nicole Sangsuree Barrett wrote that while there was "diversity" in the show, it was minimal. Women of "a variety of skin colors, body sizes, abilities and gender expressions" were not adequately represented, she said.

"I would just like to call attention to the fact that this could have been a more diverse cast, but a safe and welcoming environment was not created for people that I consider to be 'underrepresented,'" Barrett said in the statement.

Senior Natalie Mays, the show's assistant director, said that while she respects the protesters' views, she thinks some of the decisions were misinterpreted. According to show organizers, the show's aim was to raise awareness about women's issues, and all proceeds went toward fighting violence against women.

At the demonstration Friday, Barrett said she chose not to take part when she was originally asked to be in the show. She said she tried to bring up questions of race with the show's directors, but the process was unsuccessful. Barrett said the directors told her she seemed to have a different vision for the play.

"Race is so crucial to this play," Barrett said, adding that not to talk about it makes the issue seem unimportant. "They don't know how it looks like for a woman of color."

She added that the show's organizers didn't offer a safe space for people of different backgrounds.

"Know that what you are seeing tonight is not the result of an inclusive process," Barrett said in the statement. "Know that this space was not one where honest questions and concerns about race were tolerated."

Senior Melissa Ballard, one of the demonstrators, was originally part of the cast, but said the directors asked her to leave a week before the show started because she was "hostile."

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ASUO President
Maddy Melton meets
with Con Court