

PROBLEMS

continued from page 1

classes with her, Heider said.

With school ending, the two began eating ice cream and popcorn and drinking Big Gulps together while watching television shows that were funny and had complex plots to unravel. "Law & Order" and "The Practice" were, and still are, two of their favorites.

A wandering spirit

Heider knew she was getting older and was in poor health, and she wanted to see the world before it was too late.

Heider, who learned to speak French at Central Oregon Community College, wanted to put her language skills to use by traveling to France with one of the University's study-abroad programs.

She drove to Eugene, applied and was accepted. She was going to live in the city of Angers, outside of Paris, and was scheduled to leave only weeks after Sept. 11.

Gass was terrified for Heider. The idea of flying to France on Sept. 29 seemed "loony" to her, Heider said.

Heider, on the other hand, was determined to leave the country.

"She couldn't believe that I had the gall to go after this terrorist attack that was committed," Heider said.

Heider went to France and lived with her host family and another English-speaking student for fall term. Coming back to Oregon was a shock, but not a culture shock.

Couch jumping

Although Heider returned from France three days before Christmas, it wasn't a joyous holiday that awaited her. It was homelessness.

Her older sister, Bev Clark, sold the house Heider was living in after

taking control of their father's properties following his death, Heider said. The house, which her father built with

"I don't agree with the timing of what they did because they only gave her 30 days. They basically put her out on the street."

Jan Steele
Jodene Heider's sister

his own two hands, brought Clark a \$30,000 profit that she is still using to take vacations, Heider said.

Heider's younger sister, Jan Steele, said she thought Clark and their mother should have given Heider more time to move out before leaving her homeless.

"I don't agree with the timing of what they did because they only gave her 30 days," Steele said. "They basically put her out on the street."

Heider was forced to stay with friends for the next six months while she finished up the few remaining classes needed for her first University degree.

In June 2002, she and Gass walked in the University's commencement ceremony. Heider had only seven credits left to finish in the fall before a degree was hers.

She moved to Seattle to stay with her cousins for the first part of the summer. From there, she planned to move to Idaho to stay with her other cousins until fall, but when she called for a plane ticket the airline representative told her about a cheap ticket to Berlin. She couldn't resist. She bought it and was off again.

Once again, Gass objected to Heider leaving the country, but rather

than fight with Gass in person, Heider decided to confront her friend's objections through e-mail while she was in Berlin.

She broke the news to Gass in a special way.

"I wrote, 'Close your eyes, click your heels, spin around three times and open your eyes and look, I'm in Berlin,'" Heider said. "Angie said I had completely gone off of the deep end. She just couldn't believe it."

This time, Heider's luck ran out, and two weeks into her trip her sickness flared up. Her shunt, which automatically drains excess cerebral spinal fluid from her head, quit working and sent her spiraling through three German hospitals for emergency operations. On her flight back to the United States, the shunt again failed and she had to have a spinal tap in the Netherlands.

She faced more operations in the United States with her doctor, Mark Belza, and it was too late to attend fall term by the time the surgeries were completed. From her hospital bed, she called her professors and begged them to let her enroll in their classes, she said. All of them refused. They told her that by the time she got out of the hospital, it would be the fourth week of school and too late to register.

Winter term began, and her health started to look better. For three weeks she attended classes, taking 12 credits. But her good fortune didn't last. In January 2003, a disk between the vertebrae in her back slipped out of place and she was forced to quit school. That left her with 12 incomplete credits. Even after she regained her health, those incomplete credits would come back to haunt her.

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at jaredpaben@dailymerald.com.

vacant this month — because of a lack of interest in the positions.

"I don't see how I can fulfill these duties if there is no known interest," Melton said, adding that she asked people she knew to spread the word about the court's vacancies.

Melton vowed to fill the vacancies by next Tuesday, saying a recent article in the Emerald had prompted four new job applications. Melton said she and ASUO Student Senate President Ben Strawn will interview all four applicants by Monday.

Melton will soon have another court vacancy to fill. Justice Adam Petkun, former ASUO state affairs coordinator, told the Emerald on Monday night that he intends to resign today to consider a possible bid for the ASUO presidency.

Melton also admitted at the hearing to violating an ASUO Executive rule that requires her to publicize open positions with a host of campus groups, including several ethnic and women's groups, in order to comply with affirmative action.

"I wasn't aware that appointments followed the same guidelines as hiring," Melton said.

But Chief Justice Michael Harris wasn't satisfied with her explanation.

"Well, it seems pretty clear to me," he said.

Harris later wrote in his dissent that her failure to publicize the positions with the campus groups "should trouble a court concerned with equal

protection and upholding the University's goal of promoting equal representation for minority student groups."

The Executive Rules in the Green Tape Notebook state that the affirmative action procedures apply to all appointed positions in ASUO-recognized programs, unless an exception is granted by the ASUO programs administrator.

Melton said two past applicants to the ASUO had expressed interest in the Constitution Court, but only as a second choice. Melton said she appointed one of the applicants to the EMU Board and another to the ASUO Athletic Department Finance Committee.

"One of the (applicants) seemed a lot more interested in the Athletics Department, so I felt they could better serve on the ADFC than Constitution Court," Melton said.

Melton refused, when pressed, to recommend a course of action for the court regarding her failure to fill the vacancies.

"The remedy I'm suggesting is that you'll have a full court by next Tuesday," Melton said. "I feel like I have proven that I've tried to fill the position since it has been open."

The majority opinion directs Melton to "appoint a qualified candidate" to the longest vacant court position by Tuesday, Feb. 24.

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

CON COURT

continued from page 1

however, that the ASUO president counteract student apathy."

Chief Justice Michael Harris, in a strongly worded dissent, condemned Melton's failure to fill the vacancies.

"This court has been hamstrung by the vacancy perpetuated by the inattention and active contempt of President Melton," Harris wrote. "The president has not fulfilled her duties and therefore is unfit to hold the present office."

The court grilled Melton on Monday night about why she has not yet filled the vacancies.

In his dissent, Harris criticized what he saw as Melton's insufficient efforts to fill the vacancies, which he said demonstrate "nothing more than profound disrespect for the office of the judiciary, and the vacancies therein."

Harris also criticized Melton's demeanor, saying that her "disrespect was evident throughout the course of the hearing as (Melton) mischaracterized the composition of the selection committee, appeared before the court in ripped and ragged attire, continually referred to court orders as 'advertisement' and generally presented a cavalier attitude regarding the importance of the proceeding."

Melton said she has not filled the positions — one which has been vacant since she took office on May 25, 2003, and another that became

25

years

1978-2003

GLENWOOD

"The best eats in town."
Sports Illustrated on Campus

2588 Willamette St. 541-687-8201 • 1340 Alder Street 541-687-0355

Mac's at the Vet's Club

Live Music This Week!

FULL BAR

LIVE MUSIC

POOL

VIDEO POKER

DAILY SPECIALS

Lunch
Tuesday-Friday
11:30-2:00 pm

Dinner
Tuesday-Saturday
beginning at 4 pm

Wednesday Feb. 18 • Free
JTM
Dance Music

Thursday Feb. 19 • Free
Christie & McCallum
Honky Tonk/Rock

Friday Feb. 20 • \$4
West Coast
Rhythm Kings
Jump Swing

Saturday Feb. 21 • \$4
The Vipers
featuring Deb Cleveland
Blues

(541) 344-8600 • 1626 Willamette St.

Today's crossword solution

B	A	R	D	I	B	I	S	C	L	U	B	S
L	I	E	U	N	U	D	E	H	A	N	O	I
O	D	E	S	L	O	S	T	C	A	U	S	E
B	E	L	T	W	A	Y	O	R	D	E	R	S
P	A	W	P	U	N	E	A	S	E	A	S	
M	I	D	A	S	B	A	N	K	E	R	S	
E	D	E	N	P	A	T	I	O	S	O	C	T
A	L	A	S	E	R	I	O	U	S	N	A	E
L	E	D	P	A	T	E	N	T	L	E	S	S
R	E	A	S	O	N	S	T	I	D	E	S	
S	H	I	N	A	N	T	M	A	N			
L	E	N	T	E	N	B	O	B	S	L	E	D
U	N	G	R	A	T	E	F	U	L	E	Y	R
S	N	E	E	R	S	O	R	E	E	R	I	N
H	A	R	E	S	T	E	N	S	D	E	E	S

Well Drinks

And Great Food too!

ALL DAY EVERY DAY!

Peabody's

PUB

444 E. 3RD • 541-2927 • MON-SAT 11:30AM TO CLOSE

South end of Ferry St. Bridge

Rates

6

MOTEL

Amenities

Daily Starting at:
\$39.99 + tax per night

Motel 6
3690 Glenwood Dr.
Eugene, OR 97403
(541) 687-2395
800-4-MOTEL 6

Pool
Free Local Calls
Kids Free
Free HBO/ESPN
Free Coffee
Pets Welcome

Only 1 Mile from U of O
Take I-5 South to exit 191.