

Oregon Daily Emerald

Boss Martians play Eugene Page 11



Thursday, February 19, 2004

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

Volume 105, Issue 102

Against the odds

In the face of constant setbacks, Jodene Heider is struggling to re-enroll at the University

By Jared Paben
Senior News Reporter

Jodene Heider can't live the way she used to before her pseudotumor appeared in 1994. The pseudotumor often makes her daily routine difficult, obscuring appointments and responsibilities in a thick fog of short-term memory loss.

Friends help her with these things, but there are some battles they can't help her fight.

PART 4 OF 4

Editor's note: The story of University student Jodene Heider is a four-part series examining the hardships of living with a pseudotumor. For previous stories, see www.dailyemerald.com

Monday: The sickness appears

Tuesday: Kicking off a friendship

Wednesday: Finding a home

Today: School and life struggles

For about a year, Heider has battled, unsuccessfully, to re-enroll at the University.

Her first hurdle has been the daunting task of paying for school. She can't get financial aid and she can't afford to pay out-of-pocket, she said.

Heider is still working on incompletes from when she had to quit school in winter 2003 due to a slipped disk between her vertebrae. Those incompletes are preventing her from getting financial aid, she said.

The second hurdle is her unstable health, which is one of the reasons financial aid won't give her money, she said. Heider said she is considered a liability because if she were to get sick or die she would not be able to pay back the loans.

Jim Gilmour, associate director of the Office of Student Financial Aid, said that while he can't speak about a specific student's situation, his office can stop aid if a student is not able to consistently meet his or her academic requirements. Financial aid is strictly meant for school, and when a student can't attend school, the financial aid office has no choice but to stop giving aid, he said.

"In some cases, students have to leave



Jodene Heider has her blood pressure checked in the McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center Emergency Services Department. Physicians decided not to perform the spinal tap she had requested because they said she has had too many, Heider said.

Tim Bobosky
Photographer

school for a term or two until they're prepared to come back to school and continue their academic work," Gilmour said.

Heider's attorney, Alice Plymell, is helping Heider get financial aid so she can enroll in classes.

"They say they will not let her enroll until she gets her medical condition stabilized," Plymell said. "That's my understanding from (Heider). My understanding of reading about pseudotumors is the shunt only lasts about a year and then it has to be replaced, so I don't

know what kind of stability the University is looking for. I think we're going to have to put some pressure on them."

Director of Disability Services Steve Pickett has known Heider for two years. He said Disability Services is now helping Heider take care of her incompletes so she can continue toward her degree. In a Feb. 2 e-mail to Heider, Pickett said his department will help her with incompletes but is unable to assist her with the classes she's

Turn to **ODDS**, page 3

Restructured higher ed board to meet at UO

The State Board of Higher Education, which includes seven new members, will address Gov. Ted Kulongoski's education agenda

By Nika Carlson
News Reporter

The newly reformed State Board of Higher Education is coming to campus today and Friday for its first official face-to-face meetings.

The 11-member board, including the seven newly appointed members, is ready to tackle Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski's four-step agenda for higher education, and the members plan to introduce themselves to each other and the campus community.

"It's a good board, a very diverse board, with very complementary skills," board member Kirby Dyess said. "I didn't know anyone on the board before the nominations."

The skills and backgrounds of the group members seem to

Turn to **BOARD**, page 4

Committee seeks campus groups to fill EMU space

The EMU Interim Planning Committee is accepting applications to fill empty offices as they try to maximize the building's space

By Chuck Slothower
News Reporter

When students walk into the EMU fall term, they may notice a few changes. The EMU Interim Planning Committee, a subcommittee of the EMU Board of Directors, is looking into shuffling groups around to better utilize the building's limited office space.

The hottest piece of property up for grabs is 71 EMU, which used to house a branch of the University Child Care and Development Centers. The child care center relocated to Moss Street during winter break, and now several groups are vying for the prime office space that is sitting empty on the EMU's

Turn to **EMU**, page 3

Controversial Christian church group starts Eugene chapter

The International Churches of Christ has drawn criticism for its practices

By Jared Paben
Senior News Reporter

Some came to the Sunday service in jeans and sneakers, while others wore suits and ties. Men and women of different ethnicities were gathered together for the service in the basement of the Red Lion Hotel Eugene.

They talked casually until 10 a.m., when they

stood and began singing loudly and proudly.

"Lord, we sing your praises loud," they sang. "Sing them to the stumbling crowd. Sing of Jesus and his Word. Sing until the earth has heard. Hallelujah!"

It was the fourth official meeting of the month-old Eugene chapter of the International Churches of Christ, a Christian church that has been accused by critics nationwide of aggressive evangelizing, harassment of those wanting to leave the church and of authoritarian control over church members.

The Boston Globe reported campuses nationwide have labeled the group a cult and banned it.

Now, University Christians and students are dealing their own criticisms toward the church.

Political science major Lilly Foxx was a member of ICC in Beaverton when she was 16, and she is one of those who oppose the arrival of the church in Eugene. Foxx said escaping the church was difficult for her, and she said she's worried they'll find her again.

As a member, the church knew everything she

did, she said. She wasn't allowed to talk to anybody outside of the church — not even the postman — unless she was "bearing fruit," the church's expression for recruiting new members.

"I think about how unhealthy that atmosphere was and I honestly don't hope that for other people," Foxx said.

Dick Beswick, director of the University Christian Fellowship, said he can admire the group's "zeal" and agrees with many of its beliefs, but

Turn to **CHURCH**, page 4

WEATHER

LOW
40



HIGH
50

INSIDE

Campus buzz.....4	Crossword.....15
Classifieds.....15	Pulse.....5
Commentary.....2	Sports.....13

NEXT ISSUE



Travis Willse talks race-exclusive scholarships