

# Oregon Daily Emerald



Four games left in Ducks' season Page 5A

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## Bush trying to stop same-sex marriages

President George W. Bush is pledging support for a proposal for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages

By Bob Kemper  
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Tuesday called for a constitutional amendment to prevent people of the same sex from marrying, saying homosexual marriages threaten "the most fundamental institution of civilization."

Aligning himself with conservative voters as he begins his campaign for re-election, Bush said growing support for same-sex marriages in Massachusetts, California and New Mexico is "an aggressive attempt to redefine marriage" for the nation and must be halted before it progresses further.

"If we are to prevent the meaning of marriage from being changed forever, our nation must enact a constitutional amendment to protect marriage in America," Bush said at a hastily called appearance in the White House's Roosevelt Room.

"Decisive and democratic action is needed, because attempts to redefine marriage in a single state or city could have serious consequences throughout the country," the president said.

A constitutional amendment, already under consideration in Congress, would most likely define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. But Bush said he would leave it to states to determine whether to legalize same-sex "civil unions," which provide gay couples with many of the same legal rights as married couples.

As a candidate in 2000, Bush declined to back a marriage amendment, saying states should be allowed to decide whether to permit same-sex marriages. But he said

he has grown convinced that marriage is an institution threatened by a Massachusetts court ruling legalizing gay marriage and by the issuing of thousands of marriage licenses to same-sex couples in San Francisco and New Mexico.

"Their actions have created confusion on an issue that requires clarity," Bush said.

Conservative groups, which have been pressuring Bush to show more assertive leadership in protecting marriage, welcomed his endorsement. James Dobson, chairman of Focus on the Family, called Bush's statement "the linchpin in efforts to protect marriage in our country."

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said conservatives welcomed Bush's endorsement but also expected him to put his political clout behind the measure.

"Just as the president used the weight of his office to secure drug benefits for seniors and tax cuts for families, we fully expect him to use his influence to preserve the institution of marriage for the future of our country," Perkins said.

Democrats and civil libertarians immediately assailed Bush's proposal.

Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, the leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, issued a statement accusing Bush of "toying with the Constitution for political purposes."

Later, talking with reporters in Ohio, Kerry was more guarded, taking care not to alienate voters who oppose legalizing gay marriage. "I believe, as a matter of belief, that marriage is between a man and a woman," Kerry said.

But Kerry said he opposes a constitutional amendment that would override state authority. "The states for 200 years have had the right to make this decision, and there is nothing to suggest that they're

Turn to **AMENDMENT**, page 4A

### TEMPESTUOUS TUESDAY



Lauren Wimer Photographer

Tuesday's weather was a mix of sunshine, rain and clouds. In a break between showers, the Quadrangle near Chapman Hall reflects the calm before more storms.

## Melton appoints students to Con Court

The ASUO Student Senate will review ASUO President Maddy Melton's selections during tonight's meeting

By Chuck Slothower  
News Reporter

ASUO President Maddy Melton appointed three students to the ASUO Constitution Court on Tuesday. The appointments give the ASUO Student Senate a chance to fill the court's three vacancies, one of which has existed since Melton took office on May 25.

The Senate, which confirms nominees, plans to consider the appointments at its 7 p.m. meeting tonight.

The vacancies had become a point of contention between Melton and the court, which ordered her to appear at a hearing on Feb. 16 to

explain why the vacancies had not been filled.

Melton's appointments met the court's deadline to fill the longest-vacant position by Tuesday. The appointments should have been made within 30 days of the positions becoming vacant, according to the ASUO Constitution. Melton's move belatedly fulfills her constitutionally mandated duty to fill the vacancies.

Melton appointed former ASUO legislative intern Randy Derrick, former ASUO Elections Coordinator Andrea Hall and former ASUO legislative associate Stefan Myers to the court. All three nominees, who were picked from a pool of six applicants, are undergraduates.

"We had a heavily qualified pool of applicants," Melton said. "They're all (ASUO) members that have been involved in various branches of student government."

Melton said she examined the candidates' leadership experience, knowledge of the ASUO

Constitution and ability to interpret ASUO rules in a dispassionate, "viewpoint-neutral" manner.

"You have to assess whether or not members will be able to follow the rules and interpret the Constitution," she said.

Melton said past experience in student government was a key factor in selecting the appointees.

"It's valuable to have individuals who know the ASUO — and I mean that in the broadest sense — so that they can better interpret the rules," Melton said.

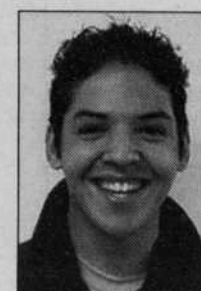
ASUO Student Senate President Ben Strawn, who evaluated the applicants with Melton, said the appointees would make good court justices.

"I feel great about them," he said. "They're highly qualified individuals."

Turn to **JUSTICES**, page 4A

### NEWS BRIEF

#### ASUO vice president's trial postponed



Morales  
ASUO Vice  
President

ASUO Vice President Eduardo Morales, who is facing charges of assault and second-degree criminal mischief, had his trial postponed Tuesday to an undetermined date.

Morales appeared at Eugene Municipal Court on Tuesday afternoon, but Morales' lawyer, ASUO Legal Services Director Ilona Koleszar, was the only one taking action. She presented City Prosecutor Liz Carle

Turn to **TRIAL**, page 4A

### WEATHER

LOW  
40

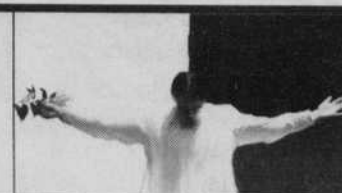


HIGH  
53

### INSIDE

- Campus buzz.....8A
- Classifieds.....7A
- Commentary.....2A
- Corrections.....4A
- Crossword.....7A
- Sports.....6A

### NEXT ISSUE



University Theatre  
presents  
"Wild Nights  
with Emily"