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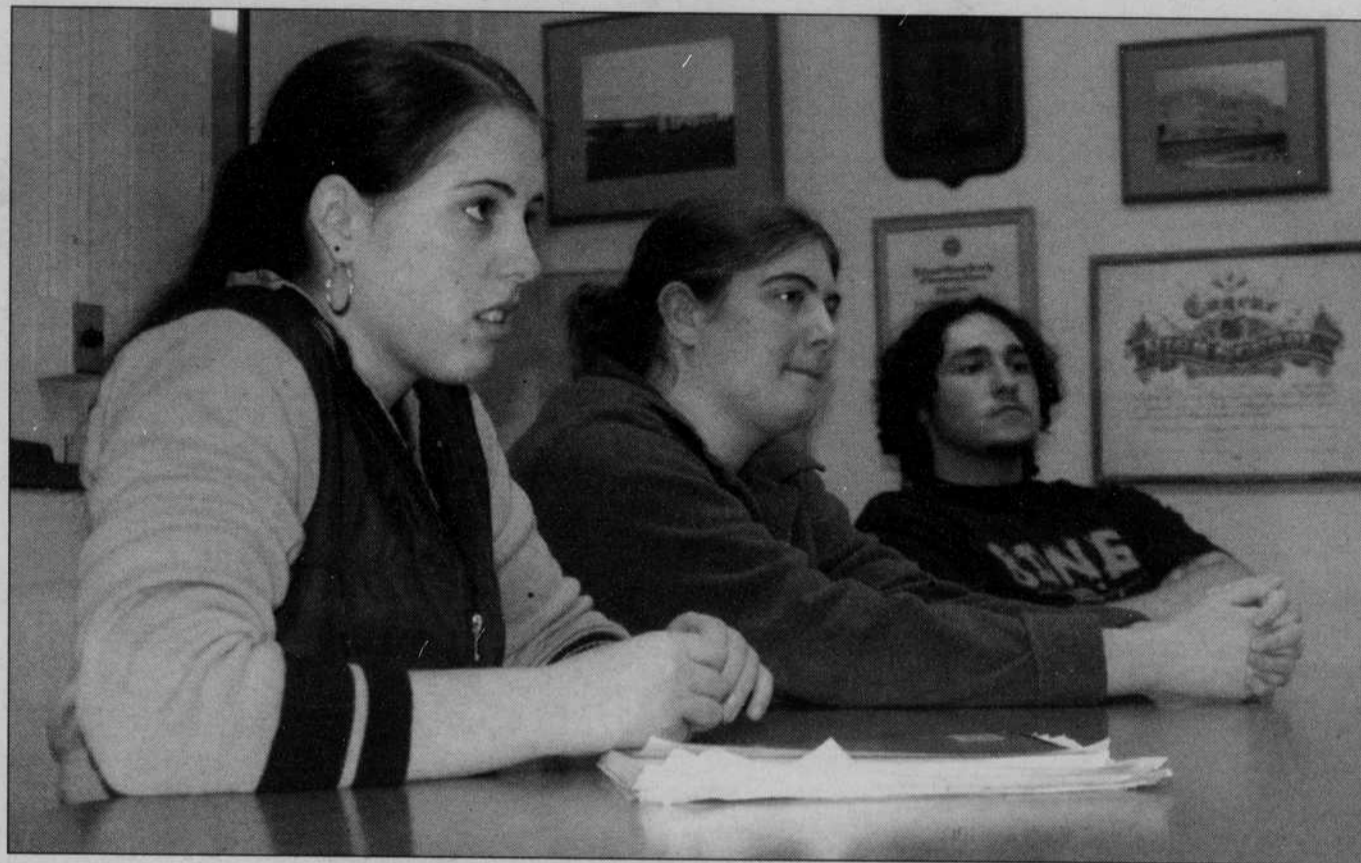


Ducks prepare for Bears, again Page 5

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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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South Eugene High School senior Kai Davis (right) plans on following his father's footsteps into the University. Roxanne Samer (left) and Katie Cissel (center) are considering the University as a backup.

Tim Bobosky
Photographer

Report: Student STD risk hits 50%

North Carolina researchers found nearly half of all STD cases in the United States occur in 15 to 24 year olds

By Lisa Catto
News Reporter

Students who are sexually active and under the age of 25 have a 50 percent chance of contracting a sexually transmitted disease, according to a report released Feb. 24 by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The report, conducted by UNC's journalism school and titled "Our Voices, Our Lives, Our Futures: Youth and Sexually Transmitted Diseases," was compiled by a panel of experts representing several health organizations throughout the country. The investigation also included a panel with young adults from all over the country ranging in age from 17 to 24.

Together, both of these groups came up with some startling statistics based on research and data provided by organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Social Health Association.

The report stated that nearly half of all STD cases occur among young adults age 15 to 24, and nearly half of new HIV infections occur in that age group.

It also stated that 15-24 year olds will spend at least \$6.5 billion for lifetime medical costs relating to the treatment of STDs that were contracted in 2000.

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Admissions predicts application drop

Applications are coming in slower than in 2003-04, likely due to higher tuition and admission standards

By Chelsea Duncan
News Reporter

Tuition increases and a tougher guaranteed-admissions policy seem to be having an effect on the number of students applying to the University for fall term, Director of Admissions Martha Pitts said.

Freshmen applications are coming in later than usual this year, and although there are no hard numbers yet, Pitts said she expects fewer people will apply for fall entrance for the first time in about four years.

"I think it's likely that by the end of the process we will be down slightly in applications," she said. "But the quality of applicants still seems very high."

Last year, a record number — 10,200 — of high schoolers applied to the University, Pitts said. Of those, about 8,600 were admitted and about 2,800 enrolled, said Kirk Koenig, senior associate director for operations in the Office of Admissions.

Although the University's priority application deadline was Jan. 15, the Office of Admissions will accept applications as long as there is space, which makes it difficult to determine exactly how many people are applying at this stage, Pitts said.

But Pitts said she is worried that the guaranteed admission requirements, which were changed from a 3.0 GPA and 14 academic units

to a 3.25 GPA and 16 academic units last year, could have students doubting their chances of acceptance to the University.

"We're concerned that there are some students who are counting themselves out of the process," she said, adding that she has been working with high-school counselors to encourage students to apply.

South Eugene High School junior and senior counselor Greg Smith said many students look to the University because it is close to home and they may have had family members who attended.

"U of O is always a popular choice," he said. But for the past couple of years, he said, students have expressed concerns about attending the University because of a growing student

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EMU Board committee prepares revision of own budget

In the wake of a recall, the EMU Board of Directors will present a new funding recommendation today

By Chuck Slothower
News Reporter

The EMU Board of Directors recalled its own budget Feb. 18 so it could reevaluate how it calculates reserve funds. But the EMU Board Budget Committee has resolved the budget issues and will present its funding recommendation of more than \$3.4 million for 2004-05 to the full board

at its meeting today.

The EMU Board, which gives students a voice in governing the EMU, is responsible for allocating funding to the many programs housed in the EMU, including the EMU Ticket Office, EMU Food Services and The Break.

EMU Board Chairwoman Christa Shively said the main factor behind the recall was the board's desire to fully comply with a new Oregon University System model governing reserves.

"For the most part we've been really consumed with budget issues," she said.

Pressure from ASUO student senators, who thought the budget was

inadequately scrutinized, also played a role in the EMU budget recall, EMU Board member Rodrigo Moreno-Villamar said.

"(The ASUO Student) Senate was concerned that we didn't look into detail enough," Moreno-Villamar said, adding that the budget process has been "extremely, extremely confusing."

ASUO Student Senate President Ben Strawn said a lack of collaboration between EMU Director Dusty Miller and the EMU Board was also a factor in the recall.

"I saw it as the director's responsibility to approach the board with the information he had and he didn't really do

that," Strawn said. The EMU Board Budget Committee wants to build up reserve funds to stabilize the EMU budget. The approach will involve saving incrementally for high-cost expenditures.

"The EMU has always been viewed by (other) student government bodies as self-contained or self-sufficient," Shively said.

Shively said the reserve funds would enable the EMU to maintain its self-sufficiency by providing financial security in bad budget years or in case of unexpected occurrences.

"It's kind of like a rainy day fund in certain respects," Shively said.

The new method of reserve

budgeting, prompted by an OUS five-year plan, will enable the EMU to plan for repairs and purchases ahead of time and spread out the costs over several years.

"The budget committee felt that it was really in the best interests of students to implement the OUS model now," Shively said.

The recall enabled the EMU to change how it will pay for the \$180,000 renovation of 71 EMU, a large office vacated by a branch of the University Child Care and Development Centers.

The budget committee had originally planned to pay for the

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military action