

Today's crossword solution

A	L	L	A	H	B	A	S	S	E	R	G	S				
B	A	S	T	E	O	N	C	E	V	O	L	T				
S	O	U	S	A	A	N	A	S	T	A	S	I	A			
	E	L	F		E	N	A	B	L	I	N	G				
A	V	I	A	T	R	I	X		M	O	U	N	T	S		
S	A	C	H	I	M		X	E	N	A						
C	L	I	P		S	P	A	R		E	T	H	E	R		
A	V	E	R		K	E	B	A	B		E	U	R	O		
P	E	R	I	L		D	A	T	A		D	R	O	P		
					M	O	R	E		E	N	D		O	D	E
S	C	A	R	C	E		A	D	J	O	I	N	E	D		
C	A	R	O	U	S	E	R		O	U	R					
U	N	A	S	S	U	R	E	D		S	A	R	A	H		
L	O	B	E		L	A	N	A		E	T	U	D	E		
L	E	S	S		T	S	A	R		D	E	M	O	N		

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ROT

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documents and series of photo-maps. Rather than use CDs, Kelly said that when he can't put the largest series on hard drive he uses the "mass storage unit," a massive hard drive for library archives.

Raenie Kane buys and sells used CDs for The House of Records, a music store located at 258 E. 13th Ave. in Eugene. Kane said she had never heard of the CD rot phenomenon, but identified the symptoms of CD rot as commonplace in the CDs customers try to sell to the store.

"In the 13 years I've been buying and selling CDs, I've never seen holes in the surface of the silver," Kane said. "I've seen the clouding though, but I've always attributed that to a manufacturer's defect, not age, but it certainly ruins the CD."

The structure of a CD is essentially a data sandwich. A data-carrying layer is placed between a layer of plastic on the bottom and lacquer and a label on the top, according to Kane. In manufactured CDs, the data-carrying layer is a slice of aluminum, while in writable CDs made for use with a home CD burner, the data layer is made up of a dye that is modified by the burners.

Jerry Hartke, who runs Media Sciences, Inc., a Marlborough, Mass. laboratory that tests CDs, said if the manufacturer applied the lacquer improperly, air can penetrate and oxidize the aluminum, eating it up much like iron rusts in air, according to a May 6 article from The Associated Press. Factors such as temperature fluctuations can also weaken the discs' structure causing the layers to pull apart.

Burned writable CDs may have an

even shorter lifespan according to PC-Active, a Dutch personal computer magazine. In a study of different CD-R brands published in August 2003, results showed CD-Rs are unreadable in as little as two years because the dyes in the CDs' recording layer fade.

When the CD is made on a home burner, the writing laser "burns" the dye, which becomes dark, to represent a "1" while a "0" is left blank. If the dye fades, the reading laser perceives an entirely empty disc of zeros.

CD rot is not likely to be a big problem for users who take care of their CDs, according to Hartke. It's more common that discs are rendered unreadable by poor handling.

"If people treat these discs rather harshly, or stack them, or allow them to rub against each other, this very fragile protective layer can be disturbed, allowing the atmosphere to interact with that aluminum," he said.

Tyrone Dion works at the CD/Game Exchange in Eugene, which buys and sells secondhand music. He said most people aren't careful with their CDs.

"You know, I just chuck my CDs into a big old pile and they get all scratched so they don't live long enough to experience the effects of deterioration," Dion said. "We see a lot more of the media deterioration like scratches and mishandling than we see the actual deterioration of the (data)."

Kane said she also gets mishandled CDs.

"People are trying to sell us all sorts of stuff," she said. "People are trying to give us the dredge of their collections, so their CDs are not usually in the best shape."

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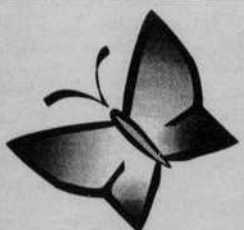
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GIFT

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outreach to those who could benefit from the materials.

"Now I'll be able to focus more on the archives," she said, adding that her former job requirements included managing University records, such as student and personnel files. "Records management was a huge job."

The library will also be able to hire a new employee to take on the records management position, giving Briston more time to collect materials.

The Solari family has provided support for the University Libraries since the late 1980s by contributing to the Knight Library's expansion project, creating an endowment for information technology and teaching, establishing a faculty fellowship for library staff members and funding an endowment for library instructional services, according to the release.

The money counts toward the University's Campaign Oregon: Transforming Lives, a fundraising initiative that aims to raise \$600 million to support students, faculty, programs and facilities.

Briston said the gift will provide the means to educate those who are unaware of the archive materials' diversity or their value to the community and the state.

"I have everything from the ridiculous to the sublime," she said. She added that some of the memorabilia she has collected and seen over her two and a half years working at the University are the "weirdest" out of the materials.

"I don't know why I have a stuffed iguana," she said. "But I have a stuffed iguana."

An alumna also donated a cowbell that was once used to heckle the Oregon State University crowds during

Civil War games, she said. But while some materials have humorous historical value, others provide detailed accounts of notable events.

For example, Briston said there are documents detailing how the University came to be established as the first public institution of higher education in the state.

"All of these materials are unique," she said.

Other items include the final screenplay draft of "Animal House," student dissertations and theses and a collection of historical photographs. Briston said there is even a photo of the University's first day of classes.

Archive materials are located in the Knight Library, Fenton Hall and the Baker Downtown Center. The more than 12,000 boxes of material occupy over 19,000 linear feet of space.

Briston said the materials provide students, faculty and community members many research opportunities. She said students in the Clark Honors College are using the presidential office records and journalism students have used the photo archives to supplement documentaries.

"There's lots of potential for use," she said.

University Librarian Deborah Carver said the archives don't just track the University's past but also show trends in higher education throughout history.

"I think there's all sorts of lessons to be learned from the University's past," she said.

Briston said she hopes better accessibility will increase interest in the collection.

"I want to make sure everybody knows what I know," she said.

Contact the higher education/student life/student affairs reporter at chelseaduncan@dailyemerald.com.

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