

# OREGON DAILY EMERALD

An independent newspaper

www.dailyemerald.com

SINCE 1900 | Volume 106, Issue 53 | Tuesday, November 9, 2004

## Hearing addresses housing standards

Community members attend City Council public hearing to debate housing code reform

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF  
NEWS REPORTER

Eugene took a big step Monday night toward ending a battle that has raged for nearly a decade — the fight for a housing code.

An estimated 100 people piled into the Council Chambers for a City Council public hearing on the proposed code, which calls for local enforcement of the state Landlord-Tenant Act, a law that details the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants in Oregon.

About 45 people from the Eugene Citizens for Housing Standards, a coalition of neighborhood associations, community organizations and student groups, formed a welcoming aisle for the City Councilors as they entered the Council Chambers, holding banners with pictures of Eugene citizens with signs supporting local housing standards.

More than 30 people spoke at the meeting, the majority landlords who opposed the proposal. They said the proposal was an unnecessary duplication of the Landlord-Tenant act that is in place in Oregon.

"I don't see the need for the duplicated

HOUSING, page 6

## University Commons' new system cuts crime

Security measures at the local apartment complex have led to fewer crimes, manager says

BY KARA HANSEN  
NEWS REPORTER

Less than a year after a string of serious crimes at the University Commons, police are receiving fewer reports of minor and significant crimes, according to the complex manager.

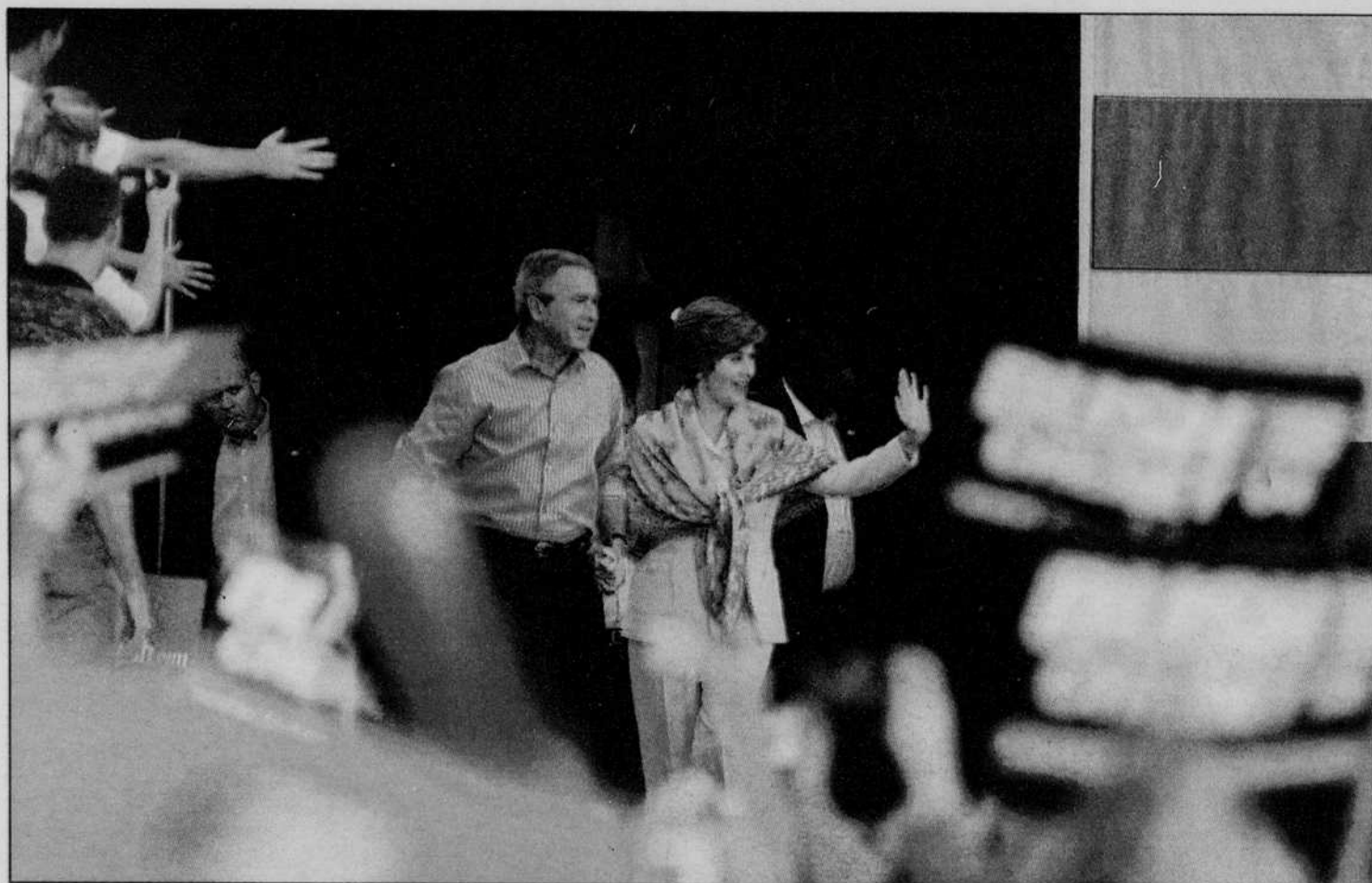
University Commons general manager Gary Gilfoy said the weekly reports received from the Eugene Police Department have shrunk from last spring's average of 12 pages per week to one or two pages per week. Each page represents a single complaint.

During spring break 2004, police responded to a stabbing and gunshots fired at the complex, and also received reports of three burglaries and one suicidal person during the same week.

Gilfoy attributed the rash of crime to two or three former residents, whom he called,

SECURITY, page 6

## ★ AMERICA VOTES 2004 ★



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

President Bush and wife Laura Bush wave to a crowd of supporters during a campaign stop at Jackson County Fair Grounds Oct. 14.

## Embracing victory: Bush announces ambitious agenda

Professors give their opinions on President Bush's second-term agenda, bipartisan support, judiciary appointments, Bush legacy

BY PARKER HOWELL  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Free from the pressure of campaigning for reelection and backed by a Republican majority in Congress, an optimistic President Bush outlined an extensive agenda for the next four years on Thursday. Yet experts remain uncertain about whether the president will be able to both satisfy his constituency and bridge the partisan divide as he tackles his domestic program.

Outlining his second-term plan, Bush vowed to bring democracy to Iraq, simplify the tax code, reform Social Security, trim the deficit, pass his energy plan and create jobs by helping small businesses.

"I earned capital in the campaign, political capital, and now I intend to spend it," Bush said. "It is my style."

Associate Political Science Professor Julie Novkov said Bush's far-reaching agenda isn't unusual.

"Presidents usually start their terms by announcing ambitious agendas, and it's very difficult for them to get very far with the controversial pieces," Novkov said.

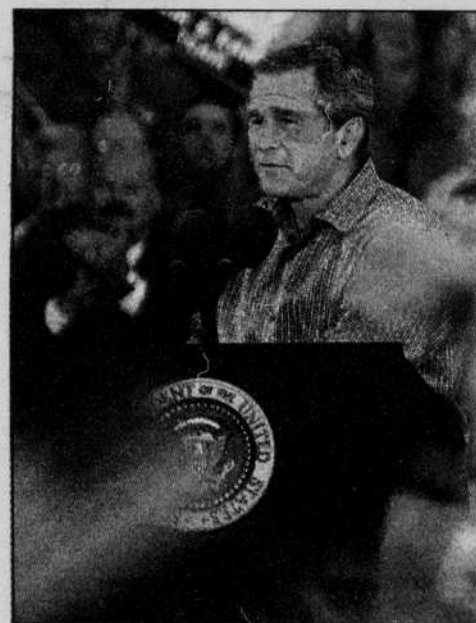
Novkov said Bush's ability to pass domestic legislation will depend on the specific issues being addressed.

"For the first several months, the Republicans may have some momentum and feel a need to pay back some of their more conservative voters who really worked to get out the vote, but as they get closer to midterm elections... the Republican Party may be forced to tack more toward the middle," she said.

Novkov said bipartisan support for Bush's agenda will depend on how Republicans deal with the current situation.

"The rhetoric coming from the current administration doesn't seem like there will be a lot of room for reaching across the aisle," she said.

Novkov cited Republican pressure to deny



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

President Bush overlooks a crowd of supporters at Jackson County Fairgrounds Oct. 14 during his campaign.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which considers Bush's judicial nominees, after pro-choice Specter said Supreme Court nominees who

BUSH, page 8

## Evolution tree used in unique study

Professor-student research team publishes work on evolution simulation in national magazine

BY ANTHONY LUCERO  
NEWS REPORTER

Assistant Professor Joe Thornton's and computer information and science graduate student Bryan Kolaczowski's work on a simulation of evolution was published in *Nature*, a national magazine, last month.

The researchers' simulation

relies on a different model than popularly recognized to guide the evolutionary process in the simulator, Thornton and Kolaczowski said.

While a model called maximum likelihood is most often used to study evolution, Thornton and Kolaczowski chose a model called maximum parsimony to simulate the evolution of gene sequences on a hypothetical evolutionary tree,

according to a University press release. The model was chosen because it maps the complicated trail of evolution by using simpler hypotheses to track the progress and development of a simulated gene.

"We theorized that (maximum parsimony) would be a good method because it makes fewer assumptions," Kolaczowski said.

Kolaczowski and Thornton are using the evolution tree to study genetic evolution present in humans that first developed from earlier organisms — called model organisms

— which over time have influenced the genetics of our own species.

By using an environment for the simulation with fewer rules and definitions for the parameter, the model more precisely maps the trail of evolution of different genes. Thornton and Kolaczowski can simulate different genetic evolution rates without all genes in the simulation progressing at the same rate, an assumption that is improbable in the nature of evolution. Thornton said the maximum

EVOLUTION, page 8