




Today	Friday	Saturday
		
High: 56 Low: 41 Precip: 10%	High: 56 Low: 44 Precip: 30%	High: 56 Low: 44 Precip: 40%

IN BRIEF

Arafat dies at age 75 in military hospital

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Yasser Arafat, who triumphantly forced his people's plight into the world spotlight but failed to achieve his lifelong quest for Palestinian statehood, died Thursday at age 75. The French military hospital where he had been treated for since Oct. 29 said he died at 3:30 a.m. The Palestinian leader spent his

final days there in a coma.

Police investigate possible arson at Turkish school

MELBOURNE, Australia — A fire badly damaged three classrooms at a Turkish school early Thursday, and there was speculation it was an anti-Islamic arson attack.

Nobody was injured in the blaze that ripped through Isik College in the southern city of Melbourne during the early hours of Thursday morning, Victoria state police said.

Police investigating the fire were trying to determine whether it was linked to graffiti on a sign at the school.

TV reports showed the word "pig" spray-painted on the sign, leading to speculation it was an anti-Muslim attack. Muslims consider pigs unclean and eating them is banned under Islam.

Muslims in Australia have complained of an increase in attacks on

them since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in the United States.

Bush names Gonzales to succeed Ashcroft

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bush on Wednesday nominated White House counsel Alberto Gonzales, who helped shape the administration's controversial legal strategy in the war on terror, to be attorney general. He would be the first Hispanic to serve as the nation's top law enforcement officer. "He is a calm and steady voice in times of crisis," Bush said, his eyes glistening with emotion as he stood next to Gonzales. "He has an unwavering principle of respect for the law."

High school teacher faces criminal sex charges

CHICAGO — A Chicago high school teacher was in jail Wednesday,

accused of giving three teenage boys money, alcohol and marijuana to have sex with her, authorities said.

Senorita R. Walker, 33, was charged last week with three counts of criminal sexual abuse, authorities said. She remained in jail Wednesday on \$300,000 bond, according to jail officials.

Walker allegedly met one of the victims, a 15-year-old, at a school where she worked, officials said.

She persuaded him and two friends, both 16, to have sex with her between May and August and paid them \$100 per session, according to police.

She also gave two of the teens marijuana and alcohol in a Rockford hotel, prosecutors said.

Walker eventually told the teens she had a boyfriend and didn't want to continue seeing them, said Chicago Police Lt. Robert Hargesheimer.

— The Associated Press

Environmental class studies human relations with nature

Richard York implores students to analyze their roles in conservation

BY AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS EDITOR

Imagine giving up driving for two weeks. Or becoming vegan. Or living without electricity. These are just some projects University students have chosen to do for a sociology class to explore their personal roles in environmental conservation.

Assistant sociology professor Richard York teaches the upper-division Modernization and the Environment class, which currently has 25 students. He said the class focuses on the evolving interrelation between human beings and their natural surroundings and how social conditions lead to different environmental effects.

"A large historical component of that... is looking at how human interaction with the environment has changed," York said, adding that students delve into various topics including industrialization, modernization and the effects of capitalism and their impact on the environment.

To drive home the point, York said he asked students to modify their lifestyles for two to three weeks, allowing them to choose what they wanted to do in particular. Students then have to chart their progress and write a report on their experience. Current and previous projects include students opting to become vegetarians, changing their transportation means and working to control the amount of water they use or the trash they produce, York said.

York said the goals of the project are two-fold.

"It's to give some kind of feeling of what one can do about (conservation)," he said, adding that the second aim is to show the sociological limitations of what one can really do to create change. The lesson does not lie only in whether a student succeeds or not, but also in discovering the challenges he or she may face in making any type of adjustment when societal norms are taken into consideration. Things that might originally seem fairly easy to do are "a lot harder than you'd think," York said.

"We as individuals operate in a larger social context," York said, adding that conservation efforts may not only depend on



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Professor York conducts class Monday afternoon. As part of the course, students were asked to practice conservation by giving up a daily habit for two to three weeks.

personal choice, but also on the social infrastructure.

For instance, a student who only wants to buy locally manufactured products may be hard-pressed to find everything he or she needs. Similarly, a person who chooses to give up driving may discover that in some communities, it is not always possible to live without a car because work areas or shopping areas are far away from residential areas.

"We are not free-floating individuals," York said. "Our behavior is very much constrained by the social world we live in," he said.

Junior Andrew Harmon decided to give up using his car — or any car for that matter — for two weeks.

"I don't like driving my car," he said. "Gas is very expensive these days."

Harmon said he chose the project because he wanted to get more exercise — he had to walk about 1.5 miles back and forth from home to school — and also to protest the country's dependence on oil.

"Whether we like it or not we're going to dramatically have to change our lifestyle," he said.

Harmon learned just how dependent he was on his car, saying he had to pass up opportunities to go out with friends to places not within walking distance. Nonetheless, he said the project can help save a lot of money and someone can always "stay home and read a book" instead. And of course there

are environmental benefits as well.

"I have no plans of driving my car to the extent that I used to," he said.

Senior Kennon Kuykendall also chose to give up his car for two weeks, riding his bike or taking public transportation instead.

"I thought it was pretty important for minimizing the effects of global warming," he said. "The environment can't take everyone in America having more than one car."

However, Kuykendall said it is not always feasible to live without a car, especially in areas without access to good public transportation.

"It's not really a matter of individual choice, there's bigger structures," he said.

York said he is always pleased when the project has long-term impacts on students' personal lives. A former student whose project was to become vegan for the class called him after she finished school to say that she had actually become vegan, he said.

Harmon said the class as a whole has presented "staggering statistics" about human beings and their connection to the environment. America, for instance, consumes a large chunk of the world's resources, he said.

"For us to try to spread our way of living to the rest of the world just can't work," he said.

ayishayahya@dailymerald.com

"40 years of Quality Service"

Mercedes • BMW • Volkswagen • Audi

German Auto Service

• MERCEDES • BMW • VOLKSWAGEN •



342-2912 • 2025 Franklin Blvd.
Eugene, Oregon, 97402

advertise.

get results.
call 346-3712.
OREGON DAILY EMERALD

From Florence
to Bend
and beyond,
find out why
it's called the

**G R E A T
Northwest!**

Winter Recreation Preview on stands
Tuesday, November 23

OREGON DAILY EMERALD
The independent newspaper for the UO community