

Today	Thursday	Friday
High: 47 Low: 36 Precip: 50%	High: 44 Low: 28 Precip: 20%	High: 42 Low: 29 Precip: 10%

IN BRIEF

Film series celebrates Scandinavian culture

On Tuesday night, the Friends of Scandinavian Studies film series continued with "Ofelas," or "Pathfinder," a Norwegian film.

On the second Tuesday of every month, the community group meets to watch and discuss a Scandinavian film. The event is free and open to the public.

"Pathfinder" is based on a Sami legend and chronicles a young boy's fight against evil on the frozen plains of

northern Norway. The 88-minute film is in Sami with English subtitles.

"It's an exciting, even scary film," Michael Raymer, a University physics professor and Friends board member, said.

Raymer said that Scandinavian films are especially interesting because they portray a distinct way of life.

"It shows a different perspective than what we often see in the U.S.," he said.

READ MORE ONLINE

Visit scandinavian.uoregon.edu for information about the Friends of Scandinavian Studies film series.

University Scandinavian studies professor Virpi Zuck agreed it is important for people to learn about different lifestyles. She said the director, Nils Gaup, is Sami, a Norwegian minority that lives in the north of the country. The film shows Sami customs, beliefs and beautiful scenery, Zuck said.

"It may be the first Sami film," Zuck said. "For that, it's interesting."

At every Friends film showing, a

professor introduces the movie and gives cultural context for what the audience is about to see. Often, an informal discussion follows the film.

The film showings usually attract 10-25 people, Zuck said.

Bagdade said that the group is important because it supports the study of Scandinavian language and culture.

"There's a great deal of passion for the Scandinavian program," she said.

Friends is composed mostly of community members and has little student involvement, Raymer said, adding that he hopes future events, like the "Pathfinder" showing, would attract University students and unite them with people from the community.

"It brings the community on campus and makes them feel involved," Raymer said.

In addition to showing Scandinavian films, the group buys books and movies for the Scandinavian department, hosts guest lectures, offers scholarships and raises money to support the academic program.

— Catherine Ryan

Marine association denied additional funding by ASUO

Westmoreland Tenant Council's budget suffers sharp decrease due to past inefficient spending habits

BY JORDAN THIERRY
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Monday night's ASUO Programs Finance Committee meeting began with an apology by PFC Chair Persis Pohowalla for her "unprofessional behavior last week" and an agreement by PFC members to "respect what others have to say."

Oregon Marine Student Association's budget hearing lasted nearly an hour. OMSA included a \$1,900 increase in its budget for gym memberships.

OMSA representative Ahna Van-Gaest said the fees were necessary because the program is located in Charleston, Ore., and "we pay for the gym here, but we cannot get to it."

PFC member Mason Quiroz expressed concern regarding allocating student incidental fees to an outside gym.

"How do we justify when to give money for a gym pass to students who can't get to the gym for whatever other reasons?" Quiroz asked.

Senator Kevin Day backed Quiroz's point.

"I don't think any student takes full advantage of the incidental fee, and so I don't think any money should be taken out because they are not taking full advantage of their fee," Day said.

Controller Carie Henderson suggested OMSA make a Senate request for money for gym equipment.

PFC denied OMSA's budget increases for gym membership fees and passed a budget of \$4,485, an 8.8 percent decrease from last year.

The Pit Crew's budget proposal underwent scrutiny from the PFC, which was concerned about the group's job descriptions, including a stipend position of \$625 for the PC president.

"For the biggest organization on campus, I think it is representative of the work involved," PC President Eric Weckert said.

As a point of clarification, Quiroz said, "Stipends are not compensation for work; they are for expenses that incur during the work."

Weckert appeared to be puzzled by what seems to be a popular miscommunication between the ASUO and group leaders — that stipend and work-study payroll positions are meant to serve different purposes.

In the end, the stipend was approved, and a budget of \$1,506 was passed, an 18 percent decrease from last year.

The Westmoreland Tenant Council's budget proposal suffered significant decreases due to inefficiently spending ASUO money in the past two years.

PFC withdrew the group's stipend positions and passed a budget for WTC of \$257, a striking 89 percent decrease from last year.

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LTD: Autzen possible solution to problem

Continued from page 1A

Employment Manager Chris Lonigan on Friday to discuss the possibility of a strike and to brainstorm ways to curb the negative effects a strike will have on the University community.

Petkun said the ASUO has concentrated on informing students who rely on the bus about the potential strike in order to give everyone time to think of alternative ways to get to and from campus, which Vobora said was one of the purposes of the meeting.

"We want people to be able to find options to get to class and school," Vobora said.

There will be updated information on the negotiations between union representatives and LTD available on the ASUO Web site at asuo.uoregon.edu and car pool sign-ups on LTD's Web site at ltd.org.

Hicks said the University's solution to the array of problems that could arise from a lack of bus service will "be a mix of things," but the main focus will be on coming up with ways to accommodate the additional parking.

Using the Autzen Stadium parking lot may be an option, but Petkun pointed out at the Friday meeting that the lot could pose safety problems because of the length of the walk and the lack of lighting along the way.

Hicks said the University is looking for a way to provide a bus or car pool to the family housing areas, particularly Westmoreland, located about three miles west of campus.

None of these options have been formally set up, and Hicks said it is still not known whether any sort of

alternative transportation is possible.

"I don't know if any of these options are going to be viable," Hicks said. "I just don't think there's anything really that's in place."

Vobora said the only way to avoid massive transportation problems for the community is to avoid a driver strike by mitigating the negotiation process. LTD cannot operate if its drivers strike, Vobora said, and the consequences of a strike are nearly impossible to prevent.

"There isn't a silver bullet out there that's going to solve all these problems," Vobora said. "The best thing we can offer in the community is encourage people to plan ahead and look at carpooling."

READ MORE ONLINE

For information on the LTD-ATU negotiations, go to asuo.uoregon.edu.

For car pool information, go to ltd.org.

Negotiations between LTD and the Amalgamated Transit Union, the union representing the workers, have been going on since May 2004. ATU has accused LTD of slashing employee benefits while unnecessarily increasing funding to other areas of LTD.

Carol Allred, ATU executive board officer at LTD, said everyone involved in the negotiation process understands how problematic a bus strike will be for the community but said the long range consequences of accepting an offer from LTD that is not up to the union's standards could be even more devastating to the community.

"We set a standard for community

work," Allred said, adding that accepting LTD's current offer would be taking a step backward in the way of workers' rights.

"If we start going backwards, that's going to drag the rest of the people who work in this community right along backwards with us," Allred said.

Allred said LTD has a large surplus but is still making cuts to services and raising fares, stressing that the medical plan offered in the new contract is of lesser benefit than the previous plan.

Vobora said he feels the public has "been a little misled" by some of the media coverage and newspaper ads paid for by the ATU.

He said LTD has presented the best contract it can and the medical plan offered is necessary "so that we're not experiencing such high premium rates." LTD is working to balance the need for good employee wages and benefits with the need to maintain quality services well into the future, Vobora said.


Vobora said LTD will post information about the contract and the benefits it offers on its Web site.

"People can go take a look at that, and they can make a judgment about whether we're being fair in this current economy," Vobora said.

No meetings are currently scheduled between ATU and LTD, but both sides say they are hopeful a strike can be avoided, and if one does happen it can be as short as possible.

"It's our desire to resolve the issues as quickly as possible and get buses back on the street," Vobora said.

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