

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

An independent newspaper

www.dailyemerald.com

SINCE 1900 | Volume 106, Issue 98 | Thursday, February 10, 2005

A SHOW OF FAITH

Hundreds of Catholic students gather near campus to celebrate Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent

BY AIBING GUO
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Would you like to give up a beloved object or habit for 40 days? The answer is an easy "yes" for hundreds of the University's Catholic students who gathered in the Gerlinger Lounge or at the St. Thomas More Newman Center on Wednesday during Ash Wednesday ceremonies.

The assemblages marked the beginning of Lent, a religious season of soul-searching and repentance for some Christians, including Catholics. Lent originated in the earliest days of the church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. It usually lasts for 40 days, excluding Sundays.

Lent holds the tradition of sacrificing a bad habit.

"I will give up fast food," sophomore Robert Jones said. "Fast food is bad for health — I know that — but I just cannot cut it off from my life. (I) hope I can give it up during Lent."

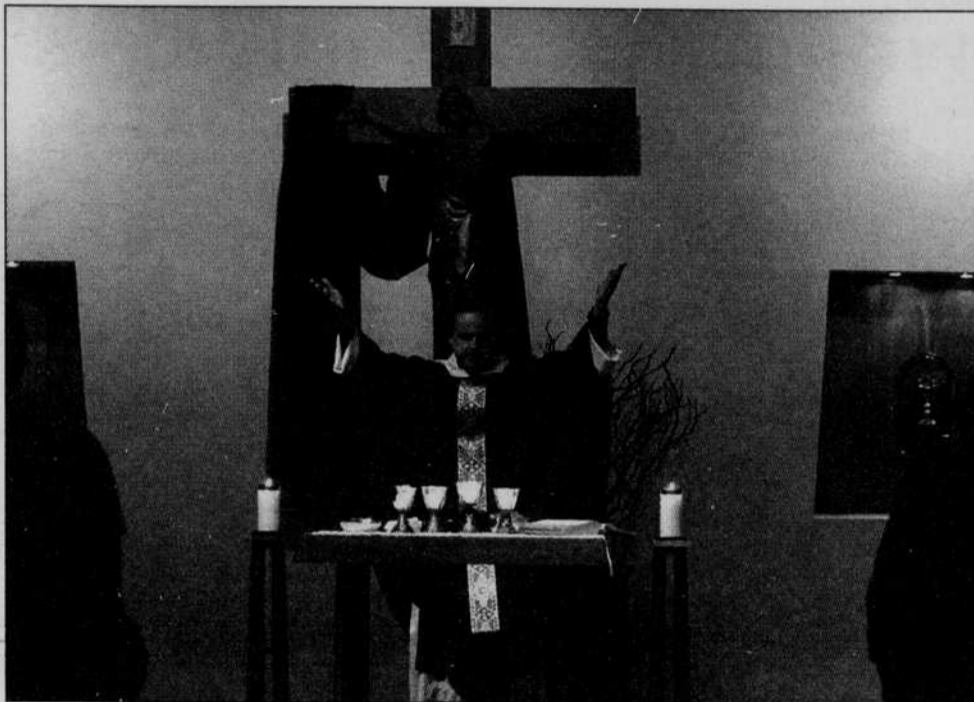
Sophomore Pat Ferguson was still wondering what to give up when the Newman Center's early-evening ceremony began.

"You know, people don't have to give up things during Lent, (and) they can also take something," he said. "I'm going to pick up something good this year."

To Ferguson, religion is not an abstract concept, but a concrete part of his daily life.

"It's all about how to help make people's lives better, and make your life meaningful," he said.

Three separate ceremonies marking the holy day were held on campus and at the Catholic church across from Hayward Field for the con-



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Father David Orique O.P., pastor and director of the Newman Center, recalls the Last Supper in the blessing communion for Lent on Wednesday evening in the Newman Center.

venience of students.

The noontime ceremony in the Gerlinger Lounge is an annual event for the University Catholic community.

"We know some students will be busy with their class schedules, (so) this arrangement will make things a lot easier for them," Father David Orique of the Newman Center said.

Junior Sarah Fieger had classes in the morning and afternoon on Wednesday and found the mid-day ceremony useful.

"It's kind of cool we can have a ceremony on the campus," she said. "It takes care of both our study and religious belief."

During the ceremony, participants prayed, worshiped and shared Communion, a sacred ritual. Students and community members participating in the rite ate bread, which represents the body of Christ; drank of the cup, consuming a small sip of wine, which represents the blood of Christ; and finally received a mark of an ash cross on their foreheads, an action specific to the

service marking the beginning of Lent.

"We say the bread and the wine will become the body of Jesus. It's an ancient rite (that) goes back to early Christians that has Jewish roots," Orique said. "So we share the sacred meal and use that to remember the life and the death and the resurrection of Jesus."

As for the ash cross, Orique said in the Bible, a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. Having his or her forehead marked with the sign of a cross symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ.

The University's Catholic community includes about 1,000 members, half of them students.

As a University community-based church, the Newman Center has lots of exchanges with other Catholic churches in Oregon, as well as volunteer trips to Mexico, Orique said. In June, a group of volunteers from the church will travel to Mexico to promote cultural exchange and help the poor.

"We just want to make sure students will get both religious and social lives in our community," he said.

University finalizes bakery site purchase

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The University has one more piece of property to add to its inventory — the Williams' Bakery site.

Allan Price, vice president for University Advancement, announced that the University had finalized the site's purchase Wednesday afternoon.

"It's a win for the University, it's a win for the bakery and a win for the community," Price said.

The University will not be using the site, located at the corner of 13th Avenue and Moss Street, until at least the middle of 2006 in order to allow the bakery time to relocate, Price said.

The purchase price of the bakery is \$22,231,816, enough to cover the cost of relocating the bakery to the Glenwood area between Eugene and Springfield. The University acquired the approval of the Legislative Emergency Board on Jan. 7 to use state-backed bonds for the purchase.

The bakery provides a large number of well-paying jobs, and part of the University's goal was to purchase the property without negatively impacting the employees of Williams' Bakery, Price said.

Had the purchase price not covered the cost of the bakery's relocation, "it's very possible those jobs would have moved out of the Eugene/Springfield area and maybe out of Oregon," Price said.

Price said the announcement is in no way related to the construction of a

BAKERY, page 16

Minor theft on the rise near campus

Eugene police urge West University residents to more securely protect their belongings due to a recent upswing in bike thefts and thefts from automobiles

BY KARA HANSEN
NEWS REPORTER

The thief or thieves who kicked in the window of University graduate student Jason Didion's house Saturday night were quick, but stayed long enough to swipe a computer, a bicycle and a pile of jewelry.

"It was basically the three most expensive items they could find in the house," Didion said, adding that sentimental items, such as heirloom silver, were stolen as well. "I don't think they were here very long, but it seems like a lost cause to me."

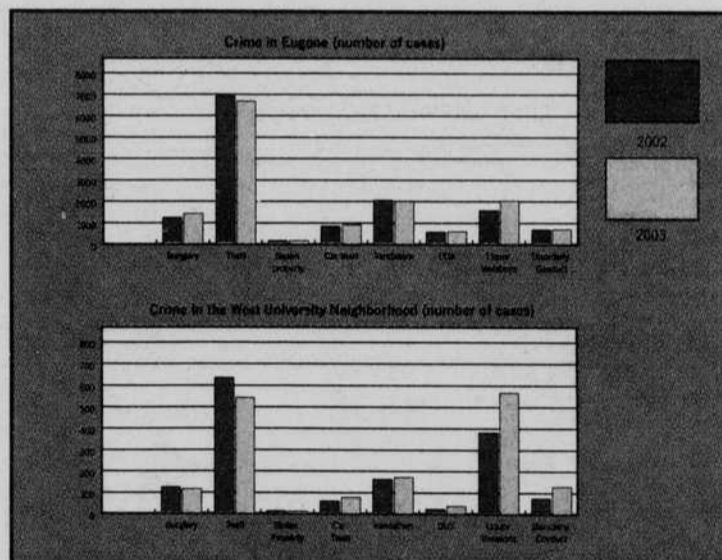
Didion represents a small sample of victims in a recent upswing in crime in the West University Neighborhood, said Randy Ellis, a Eugene Police Department officer who works at the neighborhood's public safety station.

Didion's house was broken into. His neighbor, Zach Davis, had an intruder who left without taking anything. But most of the recent increase in criminal activity has been smaller crimes, Ellis said.

"What we're getting more of is the minor thefts," Ellis said. "Bicycle thefts are up, and thefts from vehicles are up."

According to EPD reports, property crime in the West University Neighborhood decreased by 8.24 percent between 2002 and 2003, from 1,116 property crimes to 1,024. But car theft increased by 30.51 percent, from 59 to 77 incidents, and accounted for more than 8.5 percent of Eugene's total car theft for 2003. Vandalism increased by 6.17 percent, from 162 incidents to 172 in 2003, constituting 8.6 percent of Eugene's total.

Ellis said stemming the theft problem isn't an option with current EPD staffing levels, because officers would have to stake out areas they suspect for theft, which is often a waste of time. But there are steps students can take to protect their bikes and other belongings. Often, minor crimes occur because students relax their guard too much, he said.



BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHIC ARTIST

"Most kids don't do it (protect their belongings)," Ellis said. "They're in a hurry. They're not thinking about it."

West University Neighbors Chairman Drix Rixmann said when he hands out fliers for neighborhood meetings, every third or fourth person he speaks to has a story about someone they know who has had their property stolen. Rixmann said many of the recent crimes could have been stopped with a little proactive thinking.

"A lot of these don't have to happen," Rixmann said. "Many places are unprotected, insecure and unsafe."

Rixmann said students sometimes forget to lock the doors and windows on their houses and cars or don't notice windows that are open or that have

CRIME, page 4

IN BRIEF

ASUO seeks candidates to fill Senate Seat 3

In an effort to resume the Programs Finance Committee process, the ASUO Executive has reopened applications for Senate Seat 3, which sits on the PFC. The PFC process stalled on Monday when the ASUO constitution Court announced injunctions against three PFC members, preventing the committee from voting and delaying some groups' budget hearings for more than a week.

The court injunctions will last a minimum of 10 days, but the committee could resume functioning if someone is appointed to Seat 3.

ASUO Public Relations Director Nathan Strauss said the executive opened the seat "in hopes that by next week's PFC meeting the new senator can be confirmed."

Applications are open until Feb. 16 and are available at the ASUO office.

The PFC will need to reconsider some groups' budgets in the coming weeks because the committee is over its benchmark, PFC Chairwoman Persis Pohowalla said Tuesday.

She said she is still looking at budgets as an active PFC member, and the entire PFC will work on the recall when it has enough voting members.

"I'm trying to now focus on getting my committee back and working on my budget," she said.

— Parker Howell