

# OREGON DAILY EMERALD

An independent newspaper

www.dailyemerald.com

SINCE 1900 | Volume 106, Issue 113 | Thursday, March 3, 2005

## ASUO hiring of family member raises concern

*Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert's sister-in-law was hired to a temporary position without application or interview*

BY JARED PABEN  
NEWS EDITOR

Jenny Neiwert, sister-in-law of ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert, was paid more than \$11,000 in student money while working in a two-and-a-half-year temporary student government position in which there were no applications accepted or job interviews conducted, according to a former ASUO receptionist and employment documents obtained by the Emerald.

In September 2004, the Emerald reported

that Creighton-Neiwert's husband, Dean Neiwert, had been paid more than \$850 to perform contracted Web site work in July 2003 and April 2004 for the ASUO. ASUO President Adam Petkun in May 2004 told Creighton-Neiwert about concerns from ASUO staff members about the appearance of nepotism after his hiring, and the two decided to ban the hiring of family members in the ASUO.

Creighton-Neiwert's resignation was announced in a Feb. 23 e-mail from Petkun. According to the e-mail, Creighton-Neiwert is

leaving her job as ASUO accounting coordinator — a position she's held for more than five years — on March 6 to begin working as an accountant for the University Physical Activity and Recreation Services.

Creighton-Neiwert would not comment on her resignation or her sister-in-law's hiring.

Jenny Neiwert could not be contacted Wednesday for comment.

Employment documents show that Creighton-Neiwert worked as Jenny Neiwert's direct supervisor throughout Neiwert's August 2001 to January 2004 period of employment at the ASUO. Neiwert, who has never attended the University as a student, worked as a part-time temporary ASUO administrative assistant and earned a total

of \$11,837.18 in incidental fee money.

Former ASUO receptionist Laurie Rice, who worked under Creighton-Neiwert until Rice's termination Aug. 21, 2001, said she didn't know exactly what Creighton-Neiwert's role was in hiring her sister-in-law but that EMU Director Dusty Miller, Creighton-Neiwert's immediate supervisor, wasn't involved in the hiring.

"The student staff and Jennifer did the hiring process; Dusty wasn't involved at all," Rice said. "All I know was that Jen was the boss in that office and Jen had her working there."

Miller said Creighton-Neiwert's "role was the normal role of someone hiring a

HIRING, page 4

## Students hit round two of diversity discussion

*The second campus climate forum allowed administrators to respond to student concerns*

BY AMANDA BOLSINGER  
NEWS REPORTER

A forum on campus climate Feb. 15 gave students a chance to discuss issues facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students at the University. Many campus administrators and student leaders attended the forum to listen to student concerns and suggestions, but refrained from commenting.

On Wednesday night the second part of the forum was held in the Browsing Room of the Knight Library to give the approximately 30 students who attended a chance to hear from administrators and other officials. This time, administrators responded to questions brought up at the first forum.

Among the administrators and leaders attending the forum were Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity Greg Vincent, Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Leavitt, Director and Associate Dean of Student Life Laura Blake Jones, ASUO President Adam Petkun, Director of LGBT Education and Support Services Chicora Martin, Director of Diversity Education and Support Kimi Mojica and Director of Student Judicial Affairs Chris Loschiavo.

The forum began with administrators giving a summary of what they heard at the Feb. 15 forum.

"We hear strong, clear, frustrated and eager student voices," Leavitt said. "(Campus) climate is a responsibility for administration, but not administration alone."

Vincent reiterated that while the diversity action plan is a five-year plan, there are things happening right now that must be dealt with immediately.

Petkun addressed a recurring theme throughout the night regarding a lack of answers for students.

"It's not acceptable to say that you want to help but don't know how to and passing them on to someone new," Petkun said. "It should be people saying 'I don't know but I'll come with

DIVERSITY, page 4

## JUGGLING TIME



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Environmental science junior Jacob DeAngelo juggles near Condon Hall on Wednesday. He has been juggling for more than 2 years.

## IN BRIEF

### West University group to discuss area parks

Students concerned with the future of the neighborhood park and condition of the alleyways in the West University neighborhood are encouraged to attend the West University Neighbors meeting, neighborhood chair Drix Rixmann said. The meeting is tonight at 7 p.m. at the Central Presbyterian Church on the corner of 15th Avenue and Patterson Street.

Andrea Riner, parks planning manager for Eugene, is scheduled to discuss the city's outlook on parks and open spaces and detail the plans for the West University Neighborhood Park. The association has made reopening the park one of this year's top priorities.

Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly will be in attendance to update the neighborhood on the latest City Council news and agenda items.

Community activist Zachary Vishanoff said he will be in attendance to propose a resolution asking the city to create a public input process for the University's plans for a new basketball arena.

In order for the resolution to be formally recognized by the association, at least

20 neighborhood residents must attend tonight's meeting.

— Meghann M. Cuniff

### Winter term admissions up 8 percent since 2004

The University hosted a total of 19,608 students winter term, the Office of Admissions reported last week.

That number is up from 19,450 in winter 2004, an 8 percent increase.

Martha Pitts, assistant vice president and director of admissions, said the winter enrollment figure included fewer students admitted out of high school.

"Where we are this year is very similar to the winter of 2003," Pitts said, adding that last year was an anomaly because of freshmen who were wait-listed through fall term.

New applications for spring term are running ahead of last year's number, Pitts said.

According to Pitts, retention rates and graduation rates are also up.

"We had good, strong retention from fall to winter term," she said. "Freshman to sophomore (retention) was the highest I've ever seen it."

This year's fall term enrollment, which is typically slightly higher than winter term enrollment, was 20,339. That number was up from 20,033 in fall 2003.

— Adam Cherry

## Musicians find recording easier than ever

*Students and teachers are turning to equipment that allows them to record music at home*

BY EVA SYLWESTER  
NEWS REPORTER

With modern music recording technology, one no longer needs to be a rock star to make a quality album. Standard home computers can, with a few additions, be transformed into recording studios for both amateur and professional musicians.

"It would seem silly to write songs and do nothing but play them to yourself alone in the bedroom without ever keeping a nice record of it," Eugene

resident Andrew Barton said in an e-mail. Barton put up posters at the University's School of Music looking for other musicians to record an album with him.

Junior music major and guitar player Devlin Croal said guitar players seem to be especially into recording their own music because most rock bands have two guitar players; a single guitarist can create the illusion of having another guitar player by playing along

MUSIC, page 4



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Don Latarski, head of guitar studies and adjunct instructor at the School of Music, has a home recording studio he uses to record, edit and mix student work.