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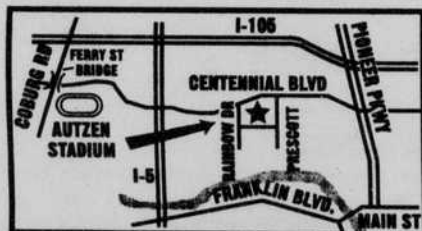
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Today	Wednesday	Thursday
High: 59 Low: 46 Precip: 60%	High: 67 Low: 47 Precip: 20%	High: 73 Low: 50 Precip: 20%

IN BRIEF

Small fire forces students to evacuate Friendly Hall

Friendly Hall was evacuated briefly Monday afternoon because of a small electrical fire.

Department of Public Safety officers and the Eugene Fire Department responded to the fire, which took place shortly after 1 p.m. in an office in the basement of the 112-year-old building.

The fire was already extinguished when firefighters arrived, and aside

from a discharged fire extinguisher, there were few signs that a fire had occurred. DPS Lieutenant Herb Horner said his initial assessment didn't indicate any damage to the building.

Horner said a cord from an old hot pot had melted down, causing the fire. "It was just at the end of its life," Horner said of the electric kettle.

Classes were briefly interrupted and students evacuated, but ultimately the fire was only a minor inconvenience.

Sophomore Bonnie Wienecke said she was sitting in German class when the fire alarm went off. After the evacuation, rumors circulated that the alarm was only a joke, she added.

"We were going to have a quiz today," Wienecke said.

— Adam Cherry

Oregon delegation seeks to preserve military presence

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon lawmakers have sent letters to the head of a base-closing commission

asking him to spare the state's military installations.

Sens. Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith and Rep. Greg Walden said Air National Guard bases in Portland and Klamath Falls "play a crucial role in securing the nation's borders and protecting the United States."

The letter cited the Portland-based 142nd Fighter Wing and 939th Air Refueling Wing and the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls.

They also asked that the Army's Umatilla chemical weapons depot in eastern Oregon be spared.

The state's four Democratic House members sent a similar letter to Principi. The letter, from Reps. David Wu, Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio and Darlene Hooley, is virtually identical except it does not mention of the Umatilla depot.

The depot stores about 7.4 million pounds of deadly nerve and blister agents.

— The Associated Press

PSAC: Leader believes ASUO delayed issue

Continued from page 1

He said PSAC leaders requested a grievance form and created a guide sheet showing how much Portland students have paid in incidental fees based on the number of years they have been in Portland.

"We tried to take a lot of the leg work out and let people know what was going on," he said.

Blackwell said Erickson and Senate President James George told him the Senate has difficulty reaching quorum and will soon experience a high turnover rate, perhaps limiting its ability to act.

"I got the impression from them ... that it won't be resolved this term, that it may be continued to next year," he said.

Blackwell said the grievances aren't focused on reimbursement as

much as bringing attention to the fact that the group's concerns haven't been resolved.

"The overall goal is to obviously eliminate this problem that occurs every year and that's getting the services up here," he said. "We feel cheated, and in all honesty we made, I thought, some pretty strong efforts."

He said the group may send copies of the grievances to University administrators.

"We feel like the ASUO, while their intentions may be good, we don't know that they're going to get the job done," he said. "It's gotten to the point where it's just outrageous."

He added that ASUO leaders didn't immediately deal with the problem and waited before responding that they couldn't address the issue.

"They used it as a stall tactic," he

said. "How many months did it really take them to figure that out?"

He said the group wants to focus on events and coursework "rather than waste our time worrying about bus fare."

Blackwell added that there is a perception among Portland students that administrators are ignoring the group's concerns because many of the students in the group will graduate this year.

But he said attendance of PSAC meetings has been consistent and the group recently held elections for next year.

"It's been really promising how much of a turnout we've had," he said.

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