

NEWS reader polls Your place for www.dailyemerald.com

## Toxic: Algae causes red tide

"It's a whole new revolutionary way to see the ocean," Wood said.

There are various types of harmful algae blooms and some of these, such as the dinoflagellates that cause "red tides" in Florida, are obvious to the naked eye. However, Wood said that Pseudonitzschia blooms may not be visible to a person walking on the beach because they are often below the ocean surface and often similar in color and density to other non-toxic algal blooms.

The main way that Pseudonitzschia are detected by the satellites is through their production of chlorophyll, a byproduct of plants that is green in color. The green pigment is most visible when Pseudonitzschia populations are large, during blooms.

Strutton said that while Pseudonitzschia can reproduce either sexually or asexually, they most commonly reproduce asexually by splitting into two cells. Depending on amounts of nutrients and light

available, this happens every day

During the spring and summer, winds from the north bring high-nutrient water closer to the surface. Combined with increased sunlight, this leads to rapid increase of Pseudonitzschia populations.

It is at this point that domoic acid is most frequently produced. When Pseudonitzschia run out of nutrients toward the end of their bloom, they switch to producing the toxin as part of their natural metabolism, Wood said.

Finding a way to stop Pseudonitzschia from producing domoic acid is not likely at this point, Wood said, although she said the more controlled setting of Pseudonitzschia blooms near Prince Edward Island on the east coast of Canada may be a better place to look for such information in the future.

> Contact the business, science and technology reporter at esylwester@dailyemerald.com

## Ramadan: Fasting begins

Continued from page 1

"Fasting is just a part of the holiday that gives us an opportunity to count our blessings," Oskui said. "We think about those who are hungry all the time and don't have food to eat. You take away a lot more from the holiday than just fasting.'

The average age for Muslims to begin fasting is about nine or 10 years old, they said.

"It's only difficult when you first start fasting," Toran said. "After a couple of years, you anticipate fasting and it isn't difficult. It's beautiful to take the time to think more about your family, parents, spouse

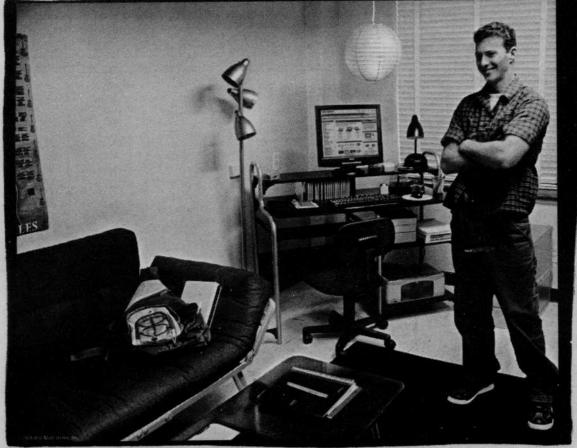
and community and get together for Iftar.'

Oskui, whose family comes from Iran and has visited the country eight times, said she is eager to celebrate Ramadan in the Middle East.

"I've never been to an Islamic country for Ramadan," she said. 'There's a mosque on every corner. My grandparents live right across the street from a mosque, and it's so much nicer to go to the mosque for prayer. Sometimes I do them at home, and it's not the same.

Contact the people, culture, faith reporter at bmcclenahan@dailyemerald.com

Share your space, but live on your own.



All furnishings pictured are from Wal-Mart







Get everything for your dorm room at Walmart.com and still afford tuition.

