

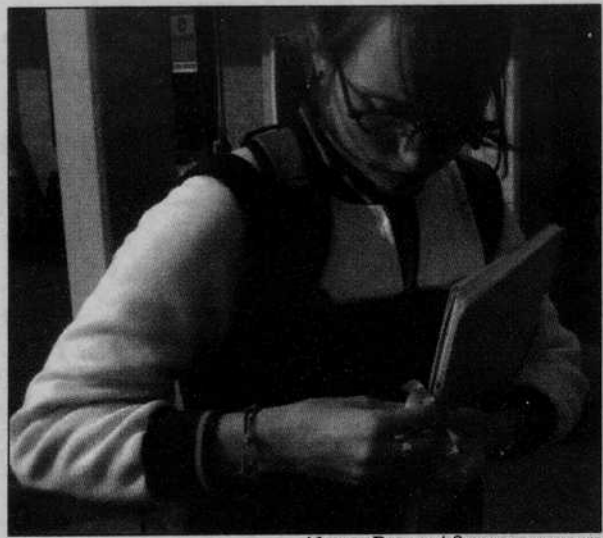
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Meredith Fleming pins a purple ribbon on her jacket Monday afternoon in support of YWCA's Week Without Violence. The YWCA will have a pledge table outside the University Bookstore all this week.



NICOLE BARKER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

YWCA Purple Hands Pledge raises awareness of violence

University activists ask students to not use words or hands to discriminate against women and minorities

BY KATY GAGNON
NEWS REPORTER

In an effort to raise awareness about violence against women and minorities, the University's YWCA is encouraging students to take a pledge to refrain from using words and hands to discriminate and thereby disrespect

women and people of racially diverse backgrounds.

The YWCA's annual Week Without Violence Purple Hands Pledge began Monday. Throughout this week, labeled National Week Without Violence, members of the YWCA will be stationed at various locations on

campus encouraging students to sign a petition agreeing to not use violence.

Students who sign up will be given a purple ribbon.

Supporters who wear the ribbon will help raise awareness about violence against women and minorities, said Stephanie Carriere, executive director

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University might feel effects of tax repeal

Government report predicts that \$25 billion could be lost if 'death tax' repeal passes

BY NICHOLAS WILBUR
NEWS REPORTER

In the next year, the U.S. Senate will decide whether to repeal a tax on inherited estates, a move that some say could drastically cut donations to nonprofits and universities. While one University expert doesn't expect any drastic effects to the University's current fund-raising campaign, a government report estimates up to \$25 billion could be lost nationwide.

The estate tax, sometimes referred to as the "death tax," is one of the oldest and most common forms of property taxation. When an owner dies, the federal government taxes the remaining property if it's worth \$1.5 million or more.

The issue has been postponed in the Senate because of Hurricane Katrina, but politicians and media pundits still debate the effects a repeal would have on nonprofit organizations and universities. Also, because the federal government would experience a drop in tax revenue, some people are expecting cuts to federal grants and contracts to universities.

A Congressional Budget Office report published in July 2004 found that the amount of charitable giving to universities, hospitals, museums, churches and many other nonprofit organizations would drastically decrease because donors would no longer benefit from tax write-offs. The report said 30 percent of taxpayers do not pay income tax on charitable donations.

The University has raised \$371 million to date in private donations as part of Campaign Oregon: Transforming Lives, a fund-raising project shooting for \$600 million to support the future development at the University.

University Development Gift Planning Director Hal Abrams said that he has been following the estate tax repeal but said that it likely won't have a significant effect on charitable donations to the University because the majority of donations come from people with "mega-estates" worth \$20 million. Those with \$5 million dollar estates might be less likely to donate if the tax is repealed, he said, but the bigger estates usually have bigger effects.

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HANDS-ON PSYCHOLOGY



KATE HORTON | PHOTOGRAPHER

Psychology professor brings human brain to class

Students in Michael Anderson's Psychology 201: Mind and Brain course were given a first-hand look at their subject of study on Monday.

Anderson, an associate professor of cognitive neuroscience in the psychology department, brought a human brain to class.

"This is an exceptionally rare opportunity," Anderson said. "The vast majority of people on the planet Earth never get to have this experience."

Anderson said he has been bringing the

brain, which is kept in Huestis Hall, to class for about four years.

At the end of class, students had the opportunity to don gloves to protect against the skin-irritating preservative the brain is bathed in and handle the brain.

The preservative made the brain feel harder to the touch than brains are in their natural state, Anderson said.

"When I picked it up, it felt like an eraser," sophomore Japanese major Nici Grigg said.

Junior human physiology major Craig Jordan said seeing the subcortical regions on the underside of the brain was the most interesting

part for him.

"They were a totally different texture than I'd seen before," Jordan said.

Anderson didn't know anything about the brain donor's life or the circumstances of the donor's death, although he said because brain size is proportional to body size, the donor was probably a large person.

"This was somebody who was thinking about lunch, thinking about what they were going to do next week," Anderson told his 325 students. "This was a person just like all of you."

— Eva Sylwester

New director takes office at Lewis Center

Scott Frey's goals for the neuroimaging center include garnering departments' interest and clarifying use of defense funds

BY EVA SYLWESTER
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A new director of the Lewis Center for Neuroimaging began work Monday.

Assistant professor of psychology Scott Frey hopes to increase the number of departments that use the center — a component of the University's Brain, Biology and Machine Initiative — and hopes to attract more students to work as research assistants or perform research projects. He also hopes to allay fears about

the center's research that is funded by the Department of Defense.

"We want to kind of transcend being exclusive to any small handful of departments," Frey said.

The center, located on the north end of Straub Hall, is built around the Siemens Allegra 3 Tesla, a machine that performs functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scans of the human brain. The machine is essentially a large magnet that tracks brain activity by measuring the flow of blood and oxygen to

various regions of the brain.

While the actual operation of the machine must be done by trained operators, Frey said most aspects of designing a study that uses fMRI technology could be done by an undergraduate honors student.

Currently, most of the research done with the machine is from the departments of psychology, biology and human physiology. Some of the center's current projects include the effect of drugs on adolescent brain function, the role of being left or right-handed in stroke recovery and a simulation of how a congenitally deaf person sees, according to the center's Web site.

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