

# OREGON DAILY EMERALD

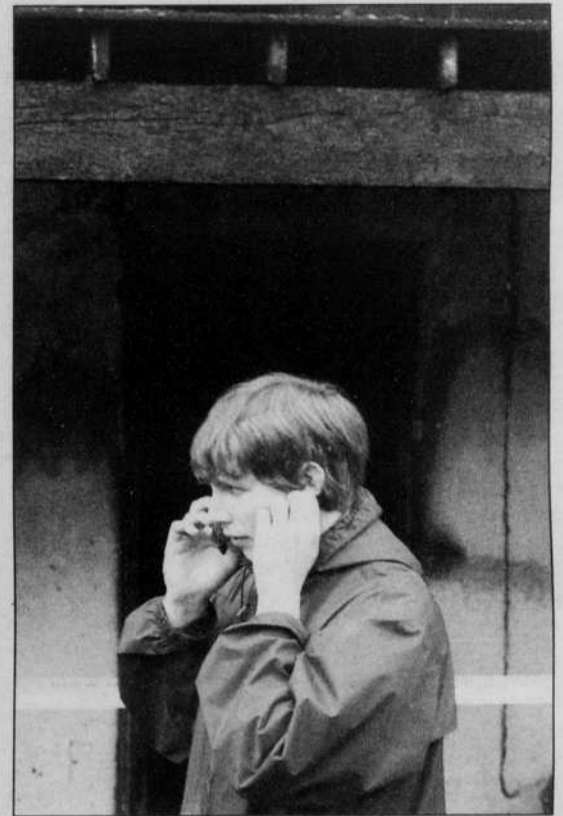
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ANDREW SCOTT | FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER



PARKER HOWELL | EDITOR IN CHIEF

Fire crews (left) arrive at an apartment fire on East 18th Avenue that critically injured one student and left six others homeless. Senior Jason Beck's (above) apartment and car were also damaged in the blaze Wednesday morning.

## Apartment fire near campus injures UO student

*John Huddleston, 19, was in critical condition Wednesday after being rescued from the blaze; six other University students were displaced*

PARKER HOWELL  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A 19-year-old University student was in critical condition at a Portland hospital Wednesday night after being rescued from his burning campus-area apartment early that morning.

Firefighters pulled John Huddleston through a window of his ground-floor apartment on East 18th Avenue and resuscitated him shortly after 4:09 a.m. Huddleston was then transported to Sacred Heart Medical Center by ambulance before being moved to Legacy Emmanuel Hospital in Portland by helicopter.

The blaze left six other students homeless after it spread upstairs and into the building's

attic, blackening the front of the two-story complex and leaving the inside of several apartments coated in gray ash. Piles of burnt clothing and a destroyed mattress lay outside Wednesday afternoon next to a car warped by the fire's heat.

No one else was injured in the blaze, said Glen Potter, spokesman for the Eugene Fire Department.

He estimated damage to the building at \$200,000.

The blaze started when a smoldering cigarette left on a green couch outside Huddleston's apartment caught the couch on fire and flames spread inside, Potter said.

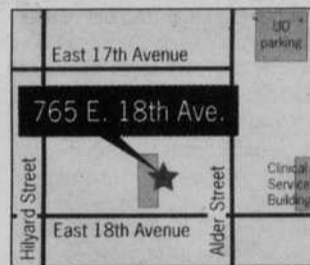
University senior Jason Beck, who lives in the

apartment directly above Huddleston's at 765 E. 18th Ave., woke up around 4 a.m. to people yelling, 'Fire.'

"I looked out the window, and I just kind of saw this orange glow," he said. "And at first I thought it was just my car was on fire, and I opened the door and I got hit by all this heat and smoke and I realized the building was on fire."

Beck grabbed his cell phone, called 911, put on a jacket and ran from the blaze.

"At that point, the fire was just basically the first floor; it was just kind of coming out the first-floor windows," he said. "It kind of like slowly started building up, and I was getting kind of worried it was going to just completely engulf my



PARKER HOWELL | EDITOR IN CHIEF

apartment, too."

Then firefighters arrived. Senior Andrew Scott, who lives across the alley from the apartments, watched as firefighters dragged Huddleston from his apartment and resuscitated him.

"He didn't look like he was alive," he said.

After Huddleston was rescued, firefighters quickly extinguished the fire, Scott said.

American Red Cross volunteers responded to the fire Wednesday morning. The organization is putting up some students in hotels until they find new apartments, spokeswoman Jenny Carrick said. Others received vouchers for clothing.

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## Living with HIV

*Christopher Gordon draws on his experiences to teach others about avoiding HIV and AIDS*

BY KATY GAGNON  
NEWS REPORTER

Last May, just eight days before his 20th birthday, Christopher Gordon discovered he was infected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the virus that causes AIDS.

When he found out, Gordon said, he didn't feel anything. His mind and body went into shock and everything went numb.

But that night, Gordon broke down. He cried for the next couple days without stopping.

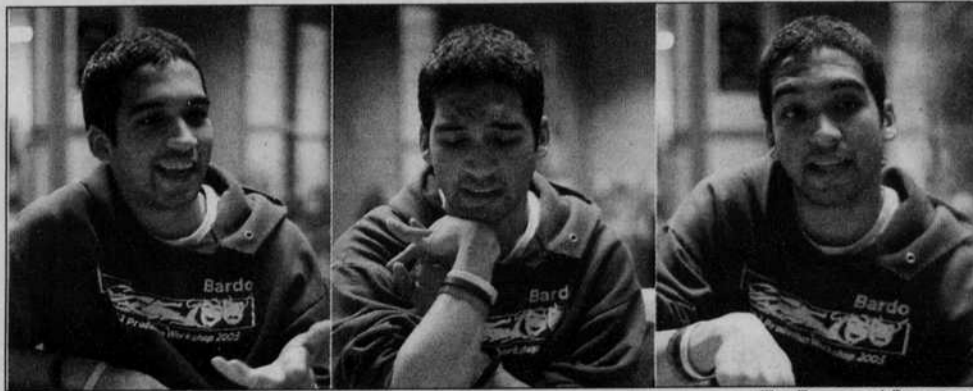
"I sat in a corner. I didn't want anyone to touch me or talk to me. I just wanted to be by myself," he said.

Six months later, Gordon is volunteering for the Eugene HIV Alliance, educating youths about the risks of contracting HIV.

In January, he hopes to begin his first term at

*"Like the butterfly, my life may be short, I plan on making it a beautiful one."*

CHRISTOPHER GORDON



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Christopher Gordon talks about his experiences; the acceptance he has found in Eugene, his life with HIV, lessons he hopes to impart to others and his plans to study at the University.

the University.

Gordon's journey to where he is today was a long and difficult one.

It began in the rural town of Cecilia, La., where "there's still a lot of racism," Gordon said.

As a child, Gordon, who is bi-racial, said he was shuffled between family members because nobody wanted to deal with him. He was "degraded" and "belittled" by his white relatives because he identified as black. He said his

parents favored his younger brother, "who was straight and did sports."

A student who excelled in high school, Gordon left Cecilia for the Xavier University of Louisiana in 2003. But Gordon, who was supporting himself financially, couldn't afford to stay in school and returned to Cecilia halfway through his second semester.

HIV, page 16

## Student gets Marshall Scholarship

*Honors College student Alletta Brenner was recently named as recipient of the eminent award*

BY KELLY BROWN  
NEWS REPORTER

University senior Alletta Brenner doesn't have to worry about financing her postgraduate work.

Brenner, a history and women's and gender studies double major with a minor in political science, was selected as a Marshall Scholar, making her the first University student to win the prestigious scholarship awarded by the British government.

She'll attend the University of Edinburgh in Scotland next year to pursue master's degrees

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