

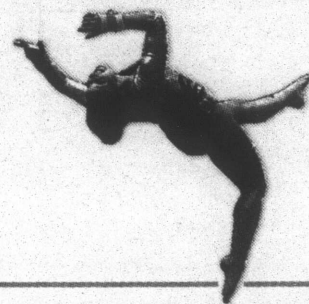
WEDNESDAY
January 26, 2005

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TODAY 53/40

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Nathanael Blake returns to the abortion discussion following debate over cross display
FORUM, PAGE 4

Esther Brady invites you to quit assuming and come see the Middle East for yourself
FORUM, PAGE 5

After facing the top two teams in the nation, gymnastics has learned the value of perfection
SPORTS, PAGE 12

Bookstore hit by three thefts in one day

■ Sting operations results in one citation, but the accused thief says she didn't steal other bags

By Dan Traylor
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Yee-Jin Ong put her bag in a cubby hole at the OSU Bookstore and went to shop for about 15 minutes. When she came back, the bag was gone.

Ong, a sophomore in interior design originally from Malaysia, lost textbooks and a digital recorder — about \$200 worth of belongings.

The incident was one of three thefts reported on Tuesday, Jan. 18. Ong lost her bag at 2:30 p.m., within two hours of another reported backpack theft from the cubby-hole area.

Bookstore security responded by immediately setting up a sting operation that netted an alleged thief in a third incident, Bookstore manager Steve Eckrich said.

Oregon State Police cited Haley Greer, 28, for theft II after bookstore security personnel saw her take a planted backpack, according to OSP trooper Scott Granger.

Granger said Greer claimed she accidentally "spaced off" when she grabbed the Bookstore-placed bag.

"Based upon my observations and my interview, I didn't believe that to be true," Granger said.

Greer was cited at 4:55 p.m., more than two hours after Ong reported her bag stolen. Police say there is no evidence linking Greer to the other thefts.

"She denied any involvement," Granger said. "She had nothing in her personal property that indicat-



JUSTIN RUNQUIST / THE DAILY BAROMETER

Following OSU Bookstore policy, Shelly Pointer, a master's student in counseling, stores her belongings in an open bin before shopping for books. Pointer was not aware of the 25-cent deposit lock boxes along the opposite wall.

ed anything."

Granger said Greer is not under investigation for the other thefts.

"My best understanding, based on the incident — two thefts back-to-back — we can draw our own conclusions," Eckrich said.

Ong, who has contacted professors about getting lost notes, has had to play catch-up with lost assignments.

"It's kind of frustrating," she said.

"You're told your stuff is safe."

Eckrich said the Bookstore is safe. He said that prior to last week, it had been "years" since a backpack had been reported stolen from the cubby area. He said the store tries to keep statistics on past apprehensions but declined to release them.

Eckrich also noted that lockers are available for a refundable 25-cent deposit.

"Even during rush week, they're

not full," Eckrich said.

Whenever a theft is reported to the bookstore, victims are encouraged to inform police, Eckrich said. On top of that, the store's management can apprehend shoplifters until police arrive.

"Staff works right near that area," Eckrich said. In a case like last Tuesday's, he said security personnel "immediately go into action."

See THEFTS / page 3

Music programs seek funding from students

■ Director of choral studies will present a budget before the Graduate Senate on Thursday

By Ashley Blake
THE DAILY BAROMETER

They've entertained us at Reser, serenaded us in LaSells, and given us lunchtime diversions in the Memorial Union.

OSU's various music ensembles have become an integral part of everyday student life and the Corvallis community as a whole.

But Thursday night's presentation before the ASOSU Graduate Senate could be a new step in the future of their funding.

Director of Choral Studies Dr. Steven Zielke will present a new budget plan — created by the department's staff and students — to the Senate Thursday at 7 p.m. in MU 212. It will be the first in a series of budget hearings before returning to the Senate for a final decision.

"This is exciting because (the plan) represents the right kind of balance between university money and student fees," he said.

Traditionally, the ensembles have been funded solely by student fees. But last spring it was decided that the programs failed to meet

See MUSIC / page 3

Addressing diversity: Tolerance isn't enough



JACOB GREGORY / THE DAILY BAROMETER

Prominent white anti-racism speaker Tim Wise gives a lecture regarding tolerance at LaSells Stewart Center on Tuesday night.

■ Renowned anti-racism activist Tim Wise shares his observations on racism in the United States

By Jennifer Moser
THE DAILY BAROMETER

How much can a white man know about the problem of racism in the United States? In his Tuesday evening talk, "The Trouble with Tolerance," anti-racism activist Tim Wise acknowledged the irony of his prominence in this arena, stating his commitment to stay "accountable to the base of the knowledge."

"Just about any person of color that I have ever met has forgotten more about the subject matter of racism since breakfast than I will ever know," he said. "But since you're here, and since I'm here, we're going to have this talk anyway."

Wise opined that "tolerance" is an inadequate concept for people who truly seek to work for racial equality, since it stresses friendship across racial borders but does little to address the problem of institutional discrimination.

"Tolerance means basically, 'I don't beat the crap out of you' — well, how very nice of me!" Wise scoffed.

Wise observed that people who dismiss racial dis-

See TOLERANCE / page 3

Speaker scam infiltrates Corvallis, targets students

■ Suspects approach students, offer to sell "extra" stereo equipment for discounted price

By Peter Chee
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Alan was walking down 14th Street on his way to campus around 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, when a silver SUV pulled alongside him.

Several minutes later, the SUV was gone, and Alan believed he'd scored a \$2,000 home-theater system for a ridiculously low price.

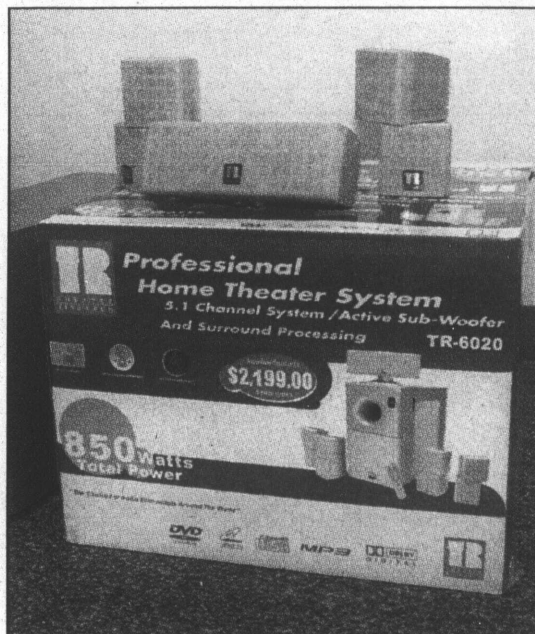
Unfortunately, as Alan discovered

later, he had just been conned out of \$300. On top of that, he still had to take a midterm.

Alan, a graduate student who requested that his real name not be published, was the victim of a speaker scam targeting students in Corvallis.

Known as the "White van scam," the situation is nearly always the same: A white van or SUV pulls up and the scammers say they work for a sound company, claiming to have an extra set of speakers they want to sell cheap.

See SCAM / page 3



Though the box boasts a suggested retail price of \$2,199, these speakers were sold on the street for \$300 to an OSU student who requested to remain anonymous. Scams like these have occurred in Corvallis before, according to CPD Lt. Ron Noble, and have been coined the "White van scam."

SAM LEINEN
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Campus to feature a taste of Latin Culture

■ Dinner, music, comedy and an Aztec dance are slated for Friday night's MU Ballroom event

BAROMETER STAFF REPORT

On Friday, the Meso American Student Association will host its Noche Xtravagante, a free event designed to give visitors a taste of Latin culture.

Free to the public, the event runs from 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom. Tickets can be picked up at the Student Involvement Office, 149 Snell Hall.

Dinner, a live band and a comedy show are all planned in addition to a keynote speech and an Aztec

spiritual dance ceremony.

"Our goal is to give everyone a taste of Latin culture," said MASA President Adriana Zuniga. "I think it is important to educate and promote Latin culture to everyone."

Originally from Boardman, Ore., Zuniga is a junior majoring in elementary education. She is one of 10 active members of MASA.

Founded in the early 1970s, it is the oldest active student group on campus. Thirty members are currently in the group, which was formally known as the Hispanic Student Union.

"It is an opportunity for students to share Latin cul-

See LATIN / page 3

The Daily Barometer Newsreel

2 • Wednesday, January 26, 2005

editor@dailybarometer.com • 737-3191



Video shows American hostage with gun to head; 12 killed in Baghdad; six U.S. soldiers killed

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An American kidnapped in November pleaded for his life in a video aired Tuesday, and at least a dozen Iraqis died in Baghdad as political violence continued to plague the country five days before Sunday's crucial elections for a new National Assembly.

On a day the U.S. military announced that six American soldiers died, Iraqi police engaged in fierce shootouts with insurgents, including gunmen who were handing out leaflets warning Iraqis not to vote or risk seeing their families' blood "wash the streets of Baghdad."

In the hostage video, a bearded Roy Hallums, 56, speaking with a rifle pointed at his head, said he had been taken by a "resistance group" because "I have worked with American forces." He appealed to Arab leaders, including Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, to save his life.

Hallums was seized by gunmen Nov. 1 along with Robert Tarongoy of the Philippines at their compound in Baghdad's Mansour district. The two worked for a Saudi company that does catering for the Iraqi army. The Filipino was not shown in the video and it was not known when the video was made.

The U.S. military announced that a Bradley armored vehicle rolled into a canal northeast of Baghdad during a combat patrol Monday night, killing five American soldiers.

A sixth U.S. soldier died Monday of wounds from a roadside bomb in Baghdad, the military said.

Struggling to come up with accurate tsunami death toll, Indonesian ministry changes tally and counting method

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — With workers still finding bodies under mud-caked rubble a month after a tsunami, Indonesia's Health Ministry revised its casualty count Tuesday, lowering confirmed deaths to 96,000 but raising the number of missing, and presumed dead, to 132,000.

Officials conceded a precise total would never be known, and the ministry said its death count now included only buried bodies and excluded any missing. People still missing after a year will be declared dead, it said.

The Health Ministry's new procedure brought its numbers in line with another government agency tallying the dead, the National Disaster Relief Coordinating Board.

"The minister ordered us to do this to avoid confusion," said Dr. Doti Indrasanto, the Health Ministry official in charge of the death count. "People have been complaining."

But there were still discrepancies over deaths in both Indonesia and Sri Lanka, the two worst-hit countries. Government ministries have provided conflicting figures, reflecting the difficulties of finding, identifying, counting and burying the bodies from the Dec. 26 disaster.

The latest figures put the overall death toll — excluding the missing —

across the 11-nation disaster zone between 143,877 and 178,081.

European leaders pay tribute to Auschwitz victims, tinged by concern that anti-Semitism lives

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder expressed shame Tuesday over the horrors of the Nazi era, acknowledging that Adolf Hitler's regime enjoyed wide support among Germans and promising that his country will always try to keep alive the memory of the Holocaust.

Across Europe, commemorations ahead of the 60th anniversary of the Red Army's liberation of the Auschwitz death camp on Jan. 27, 1945, were tinged with the pain of memories — and concern that anti-Semitism lives on.

"I express my shame in the face of those who were murdered — and, above all, you who survived the hell of the concentration camps," a somber Schroeder told an audience at a Berlin theater that included Auschwitz survivors.

"The overwhelming majority of Germans living today bears no guilt for the Holocaust, but they do bear a special responsibility."

Yushchenko knocks on European Union's door, seeking commitment by 2007

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Viktor Yushchenko made his first trip to the West as Ukraine's president Tuesday, seeking recognition of the former Soviet republic's right to join the European Union and other Western institutions.

Yushchenko called on the EU to commit by 2007 to membership talks and said he would push through democratic reforms to aid Ukraine's bid to join the 25-nation bloc.

Coming after the dramatic "people power" showdown that put the Western-leaning reformer in office, his appearance increased pressure on EU officials to embrace Ukraine at a time of little appetite among members for further expansion into poorer parts of Europe. It also could raise concerns in the Kremlin about the weakening of Russian influence over another former Soviet republic.

"We have a three-year action plan. We would like it to end in 2007 with a concrete commitment," Yushchenko said.

Yushchenko, who took office Sunday after a bitterly disputed presidential election campaign that riveted world attention for weeks, plans to go to the EU's headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, on Thursday to address the European Parliament.

Guard wants to offer \$15,000 bonuses to entice active-duty soldiers to its thinning ranks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking for new ways to bolster its thinning ranks, the Army National Guard is seeking legal authority to offer \$15,000 bonuses to active-duty soldiers willing to join the Guard — up from \$50 now.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters Tuesday that the Guard is 15,000 soldiers below its normal strength of 350,000, and he expects further short-

term declines despite recent gains from tripling re-enlistment bonuses for Guardsmen deployed abroad.

If the Guard fails to return to its normal troop level of 350,000 by the end of the budget year on Sept. 30, it will be the first time that has happened since 1989, the three-star general said. He added that he believes he has a formula for restoring the Guard's strength.

Secretary of state's office used 'spoils system' in some hires

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The office of California's top elections official used the "spoils system" in a number of hirings, including rigging the application process to ensure a job for the son of a financial backer, according to a state report released Tuesday.

The report also suggested Secretary of State Kevin Shelley created a hostile working environment with frequent outbursts and excessive demands on staff, and couldn't produce copies of a sexual harassment complaint filed by an ex-staffer against him.

In response, Shelley's office promised to tighten its procedures for hiring and for investigating complaints by staffers. But a spokeswoman denied that Shelley has created a hostile environment and "categorically" denied any sexually inappropriate conduct.

The report by the state Personnel Board represents more bad news for Shelley, who's already under fire from a state audit charging him with mishandling millions of dollars in federal election funds.

Democrats call Rice a liar and a Bush apologist, but confirmation still expected

WASHINGTON (AP) — One Senate Democrat called Condoleezza Rice a liar Tuesday and others said she was an apologist for Bush administration failures in Iraq, but she remained on track for confirmation as secretary of state.

Rice, who has been President Bush's White House national security adviser for four years, was one of the loudest voices urging war, Democrats said. She repeatedly deceived members of Congress and Americans at large about justifications for the war, said Sen. Mark Dayton, D-Minn.

"I don't like impugning anyone's integrity, but I really don't like being lied to," Dayton said. "Repeatedly, flagrantly, intentionally."

Rice is expected to win confirmation on Wednesday. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., predicted that Rice would have "an overwhelming majority" of votes.

Investigators find homeland security threatened by information roadblocks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Poor information-sharing both inside and outside government is threatening homeland security, congressional investigators said Tuesday.

Additionally, U.S. Comptroller General David Walker said federal agencies — including the Homeland Security and Defense departments — may need to declassify some security intelligence to break down information roadblocks to state and local authorities.

"Many aspects of homeland security information sharing remain ineffective and fragmented," said a report released by the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress.

Dispute over 'Support Our Troops' magnet hits UO

EUGENE (AP) — The University of Oregon is defending its decision to tell an employee to remove a "Support Our Troops" magnet from the state-owned truck he drives while at work.

Oregon law prohibits personal messages on state-owned vehicles, regardless of the context.

Several months ago, Pete Baker, a university delivery driver, put a yellow ribbon "Support Our Troops" magnet on the back of the state truck.

Last week, another employee brought Baker's magnet to the attention of university officials, who said it had to come off the vehicle to comply with state law.

Two women charged in beating of elderly woman

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — A pregnant woman and a criminal justice student have been accused of beating an 82-year-old woman with a wrench and robbing her house, police said.

Juliette Marie McShane, 22, of Springfield was taken to the Springfield Police Department on Sunday by her mother, who learned of the crime in the news. Her alleged accomplice, Nina Marie Deverell, 25, of Springfield was arrested that night at the downtown Eugene bus station, where she was waiting to catch a bus to Arizona.

Both women were being held Monday in the Lane County Jail on charges of robbery, kidnap, burglary, assault, theft and unlawful use of a motor vehicle, Springfield Detective Don Myers Sr. said.

McShane is studying criminal justice at Lane Community College, and Deverell is five-months pregnant, Myers said. Deverell has been convicted of a felony in Washington state.

"We're happy to have these two off the street," Myers said. "That poor woman could easily have become the victim of a homicide."

Police said the pair forced its way through the back door of the woman's house Friday as she prepared for her grandson's birthday party.

New OSU Global Relief organization holds first meeting

The new OSU Global Relief organization, formed to coordinate relief efforts for the victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami, will hold its first meeting tonight at 6 p.m. in the MU Lounge. The event is free and open to the public.

Global Relief was formed by multiple existing OSU organizations, including ASOSU and the International Students of OSU. The organizers intend their relief efforts to be far-reaching and long-term, extending beyond the immediate needs of tsunami victims.

For more information, contact Sandra Macias del Villar at macias@onid.orst.edu.

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26

- Meetings**
History Club, 4pm, Milam 311. Anyone interested in history is welcome!
United Campus Ministry, 5:30-7:30pm, Westminster House. Student gathering. Join us for a home cooked meal, a time of music, fellowship Bible study.
United Campus Ministry, 12-1pm, Westminster House. University Learning Community- our text will be Abraham, the NY Times bestseller by Bruce Teiler. All are welcome.
OSU Rifle Club, 6pm, McAlexander Fieldhouse. Practice & training. All students & staff are welcome.
Ornamental Landscape Club, 5pm, ALS Hort Reading Room. Interested in landscaping? Come join in on the fun! We are doing fundraising and planning for the trip to Maryland. New members always welcome!
Agriculture Executive Council, 7pm, WITH 109. 2 club spotlights! Canned food drive! Attendance incentives.

- Speakers**
Career Services, 1pm, Career Services. National Student Exchange information session.
OSU Baha'i Unity Club, 7-9pm, Ag Leaders Room, LaSells Stewart Center. Cultural Cleansing: Destroying a Community. Erasing Memory. A presentation by Dr. Adel Faridani. Free admission.

- Events**
UCPS, 12-1pm, MU 211. Enhancing Your Long Distance Relationships. This discussion-oriented workshop will focus on ways to make the separation easier by sharing tips & methods to deal with long distance relationships.

THURSDAY, JAN. 27

- Meetings**
Chi Alpha Campus Ministry, 7pm, Arnold Gold Room. Experience God with us!
OSU Women's Rugby, 10:30-12am, Truax.
OSU Baha'i Unity Club, 7pm, Cesar Chavez Cultural Center. Everyone is welcome to attend the Baha'i Unity Club devotions and discussion.
United Campus Ministry, 5-6pm, Westminster House. Sisters in the Spirit: Spirituality group for women graduate students.
Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:30pm, Women's Center. Alcoholics Anonymous Beginners meeting. Everyone welcome.
OSU Organic Growers Club, noon, MU Council Room. First meeting of 2005! Learn how to grow food- from seed to market. Find out where you belong in the New World Order! (Or at least get introduced to our farm project.) Help plan winter activities and spring planting.

- Educational Activities**, 6:30-8:30pm, MU 110. Budget hearings.

- Speakers**
Christian Graduate Fellowship, 3-5pm, MU 213. Hear from Nick Repek, founder of the National Grad Crisis-Line, and meet Christian graduate students and faculty from across campus.

FRIDAY, JAN. 28

- Meetings**
Educational Activities, 3-5pm, MU 110. Budget hearings.

- Speakers**
Career Services, 2:30pm, Career Services. National Student Exchange information session.

- Events**
College of Business, 9:30am, Bexell 207. Career Symposium. College of Business alumni discuss their careers in business.
Mezo American Student Association, 5:30pm, MU Ballroom. Come to enjoy & celebrate the cultures of Latin America! Tickets available in Student Involvement or at the door. First come, first serve. Entertainment & dinners.

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THEFTS: Revealing security details would hinder efforts to keep OSU Bookstore safe

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ekrich declined to discuss details of security, but said a security staff works in the store.

Then there's the eyes in the sky. "What's visible to customers is our camera domes," Ekrich said. "They're not aware of our security on the floor."

Ekrich said if a tape of a theft exists, it would be forwarded to investigators. He declined to say whether a tape exists for last Tuesday.

Ekrich said revealing details about security would hinder their efforts to keep the store safe.

Overall, Ekrich feels the store is in a safe place, and it's rarely the target of organized theft rings.

"We're not in a high-theft area," Ekrich said. "Right in the middle of campus."

Ong, who said she is struggling financially, wants other students to be careful in the bookstore.

"It happened three times that day," she said. "So it's a big thing."

▼
Dan Traylor, news editor
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-6376

MUSIC: Revised budget plan asks students for \$60,000, \$50,000 from administration

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Educational Activities stipulations and were given a university grant for the 2004-2005 school year until further decisions concerning the issue could be made.

Under the revised budget plan, the university would match student fees up to fifty percent. "We're hoping for about \$60,000 in student fees and \$50,000 from university money," Zielke said.

He feels this model demonstrates the unique character of the ensembles and the role they play in the university.

"People ask if ensembles are a class or an activity," he said. "There's no doubt that there's an academic proponent, but we're clearly more than a class."

"You wouldn't sell tickets for a chemistry lab experiment."

The new budget would affect more than 10 choral and instrumental ensembles composed of nearly 500 students. Student leadership in the programs is highly emphasized, and Zielke stresses their efforts toward excellence.

"We can be proud when we send Pac-10-worthy ensembles to a bowl game," he said.

Graduate Senate Chairman Isaiah Flair, a former Meistersinger second tenor, says he is continually impressed with the quality of the ensemble programs. "They're clearly running the programs they have in an exceptionally efficient manner," he said.

The ensembles, ranging from marching band to university choral to the orchestra, are very active in recruiting, touring and representing the school.

Should the new budget not pass, many of the ensembles would have to be cut, free student tickets to performances would end and positions in the ensembles would be given priority to majors and minors.

"Music wouldn't die, but it would be different," Zielke said.

However, the choral conductor has high hopes for Thursday night.

"We believe we have a lot of support for this."

▼
Ashley Blake, staff writer
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231

LATIN: Meso American Student Association will also host May Cinco de Mayo celebration

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ture and experience and share some cultural diversity," said Casa Educational Office Coordinator and MASA adviser Javier Cervantes. "All Latin-American groups are a part of this."

MASA puts on two major events each year, with Friday's Noche Xtravagante being the first. In May, MASA will host another large event to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

"We are trying to focus the community members as well as Oregon State students," said Zuniga.

Added Cervantes, "Celebrating culture is more or less the mission of MASA."

Bush plans to spend more on catching illegals, undocumented workers

By Suzanne Gamboa
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush plans to ask Congress to spend more to crack down on undocumented workers and arrest and deport illegal immigrants. But he wants to fund only a fraction of the new Border Patrol agents called for in a bill he signed last year.

Bush's budget plan will call for spending \$23 million, nearly five times the current level, on work site investigations by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a government official familiar with the spending plan told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The money would be used to conduct audits on employers,

investigate violations and prepare cases.

The administration also wants to increase spending for detentions and deportations of immigrants to \$1.2 billion, 18 percent more than in fiscal year 2005, the official said. In addition to paying for more staff, the money would go to apprehending fugitives and providing alternatives to detention for low-risk illegal immigrants awaiting deportation.

Homeland Security Department spokesman Dennis Murphy declined to comment on the numbers because the 2006 budget has not been released. He warned figures can change up until it

is actually sent to Congress.

Bush plans to ask lawmakers to increase the Border Patrol by 210 agents. The intelligence overhaul law he signed last year authorizes, but does not pay for, the department to hire 2,000 agents a year for five years.

That would nearly double the number of agents guarding U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada to almost 21,000 and would be the largest buildup of border guards in the nation's history.

Outgoing Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson, who oversees transportation and border security, has said paying for the 2,000 agents would require a substantial invest-

ment from Congress.

"It appears, perhaps, the administration is looking a bit more comprehensively on immigration enforcement. For too long we have focused only on the border, and many people have indeed been calling for renewed attention to the hiring of undocumented workers because that is the primary draw," said Deborah Meyers, a policy analyst at the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington-based think tank that tends to favor immigration.

Meyers said Bush's proposals on Border Patrol agents are a recognition of the difficulty the government would face recruiting and training such a high number of agents.

SCAM: Alan's check was cashed almost immediately

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The speaker products sold are from a company called "Theater Research." The vehicle occupants describe the speakers as high quality with a list price of several thousand dollars.

In Alan's case, the two men in the SUV "looked like two guys who had [good] jobs," Alan said the riders claimed to work for a sound company based in Salem and had to deliver three home-theater speaker systems.

Due to a mistake in shipping from the manufacturer, a fourth unit was shipped and they wanted to sell the extra for cash before their boss claimed it for himself, Alan said.

He said the two appeared to be rushing and said they didn't know Corvallis very well.

"They were trying to hurry me," Alan said. "Their boss was going to take the extra home."

At first viewing the situation with skepticism, Alan was persuaded after he saw the speakers, which were sealed in professional packaging.

The boxes said the retail price for the speakers as \$2,199, but the men said they'd sell them to Alan for \$300.

"They took a personal check," Alan said. He purchased Theater Research model TR-6020.

Upon returning home, Alan was horribly disappointed.

"It's a pretty crappy system," he said. "It's not worth what they said. Not \$300."

Alan said he found the same speaker model for sale on eBay for \$150.

Realizing he had been scammed, he called the bank to place a stop order on the check, but it had already been cashed.

Alan said he knows of at least one other

student from a class who was approached by the same individuals earlier this term.

Corvallis Police Department Lt. Ron Noble said scams such as this pass through Corvallis "off and on." He said the best defense against them is to exercise common sense.

Noble advised anyone who has been a victim of the scam or approached by the individuals to file a report with the CPD.

"We don't want anyone being taken advantage of," Noble said. "If this is happening in Corvallis, we need to get word out."

Alan spoke of his experience as a harsh lesson learned. He'd intended to re-sell the speakers on eBay himself. Now they sit by his computer, a loss he said he'd just "swallow" and deal with.

"Don't spend money to make money," he said.

▼
Peter Cheo, city editor
city@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231

TOLERANCE: Wise decried racial profiling of Arab and Muslim Americans after Sept. 11

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

crimination as a solved problem cannot truly judge its impact.

He observed that at many universities, minority students are expected to "teach us about diversity," but "aren't getting paid to teach."

Wise cited a study on racial bias in employment done at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Chicago. Fabricated resumes were sent to companies across the country.

Even with equal qualifications, resumes topped with "white-seeming" names were more likely to be called back than those with "black-seeming" names.

Wise spoke at length on racial inequalities in the criminal justice system.

He cited Center for Disease Control statistics that blacks and Latinos make up 22 percent of illegal drug users, but 90 percent of drug-related arrests.

Wise decried racial profiling of Arab and Muslim Americans after Sept. 11, admitting that his stance has earned him unpopularity.

Nineteen hijackers, he said, cannot be presumed to represent 1.5 billion Muslims. He wryly observed that this is "sampling error" and cited cases of airline terrorism committed by non-Arabs and non-Muslims.

By comparison, when white people commit crimes, such as the Oklahoma City Bombing, there is no racial profiling or distrust.

"None of the rest of us have ever been made to answer for that," he sighed.

Wise's OSU speech was part of an annual lecture series sponsored by Corvallis Partnerships for Diversity.

For more information, visit www.timwise.org.

▼
Jennifer Moser, staff writer
campus@dailybarometer.com, 737-2232



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Editorial

Yeas & Nays

Yea to the OSU Bookstore security team, which wrangled an apparent backpack thief in a "sting operation." For good measure, they bought the stolen loot back for 50 percent retail.

Nay to the bastards who robbed \$19,000 worth of merchandise from the Bad Habits cigarette and pipe shop. The Barometer staff is particularly sad, because we only had two more payments left and that \$19,000 bong would have been ours. Damn. Wait, did we say "bong?" Sorry, we meant "waterpipe."

Yea to the OSU men's basketball team, which came out strong and almost hung on to beat No. 13 Arizona this past weekend. Jay John's pre-game speech: "If you guys don't get some rebounds, I swear, I won't take this aspirin!" (Sorry, Jay).

Nay to us for making fun of a man's serious heart condition. Based on our steady newsroom diet of daily Carl's Jr., we'll be in the same boat soon enough.

Yea to midterms. If weeks of heavy drinking haven't caught up with you in the form of a debilitating flu, then these little reality checks surely will.

Nay to steam heat. That whole Dixon thing wouldn't have happened if everyone had worn sweaters ... in the swimming pool.

Yea to Corvallis's own Sweater Club (speaking of sweaters). We love the new album, but not as much as we love its lesser-known talent: side-walk-chalk art.

Nay to the "tax-and-spend liberals" of this administration for running the federal deficit to an all-time high of \$427 billion. Wait ... Bush won? Oh ... We guess it's OK then.

Yea to a Michigan health care firm for firing all employees who were smokers. Jokers and midnight tokers, however, were given raises.

Nay to Donald Trump, who might have his television show "The Apprentice" turned into a musical. The plot: You shell out \$100 for a ticket and Trump sings all the way to the bank.

Nay to "The Aviator," which leads all other films this year with 11 Oscar nominations, including one for Leonardo DiCaprio for best actor. And once again, Carl Weathers gets snubbed by the Academy.

Nay to those other bastards, who are scamming students by selling cheap speakers out of an SUV. Perhaps the victim should have noticed the license plate said "fresh" and it had dice in the mirror. If anything, they should have known the discount was rare. Nah, forget it. Yo homes — to Bel Air!

Yea to Google, which is introducing an online video search. Hmm ... What can we say about masturbation that hasn't already been said?

Nay to OSU Students for Life, whose 3,000 crosses took over the MU Quad last week. We hate to nit-pick, but we do have a couple suggestions for next year: a beer garden. Or a massive pillow fight. Or ... a musical performance by Sweater Club.

Editorials serve as a platform for Barometer editors to offer commentary and opinions on current events, both national and local, grand in scale and diminutive. Opinions here are a reflection of the Editorial Board's majority.



BOB REALIZED IT WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA TO TASTE THE RAINBOW IN SUB-DEGREE TEMPERATURES.

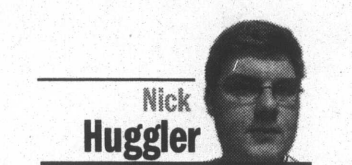
Hearing from those who were there

As the Vietnam War heated up and Americans continued to die in a war that was becoming more ambiguous, veterans groups began to form to oppose the war. Highly publicized in movies like "Born on the Fourth of July" and embodied by men like John Kerry (who became a major public face for the movement after his testimony in front of congressional committees), the veterans of Vietnam joined with many other groups in an attempt to stop the violence in Southeast Asia.

Whether they had any effect on the policy decisions of the time is difficult to discern, but their activism has clearly bolstered the efforts to find and return MIAs and was a power behind the Vietnam memorial, a starkly more sober piece than the other tributes to America's foreign wars scattered around Washington.

As the Barometer reported on Thursday, the battle of Najaf in Iraq was the longest running confrontation with a hostile enemy the United States has fought since Vietnam. And as the first wave of veterans returns from the Iraqi conflict, a similar set of groups is emerging. The New York Times reported Sunday that two different groups have been created by veterans of the Middle Eastern conflict. Operation Truth and Iraqi Veterans Against the War were both founded in the summer of 2004 and are utilizing the Internet to get their messages out. Operation Truth, for instance, has a membership of 300 and a mailing list of more than 25,000, a meteoric rise from its five founders only seven months ago.

When Secretary Donald Rumsfeld recently made controversial comments regarding the ability of the DOD to supply troops with proper equipment, these organizations mobilized, sending more



Nick Huggler

than 3,500 e-mails to members of Congress asking that hearings be conducted regarding the issue. Congress is scheduled to do so in the next few months.

It is heartening to see these groups forming and taking an active role in our civic life.

Despite the difficulty of recruiting members (unlike the shortened Vietnam-era draft services, most returning soldiers remain in the military, limiting their ability to participate in these organizations), it is important to have the stories and reactions of real people who have fought and seen death in Iraq. Having those who have actually fought in the country speak up exposes the fallacy of marginalizing all opponents of the war as leftist anti-military activists.

Furthermore, it ensures that Americans hear the costs of war from those who paid for it, not just those comfortably in elected office. One of the veterans in the Times story lost a hand and damaged both legs after a grenade was thrown into his Humvee, and recounted meeting people at the grocery store in his hometown who were shocked when confronted with the reality that the Iraqi occupation was a shooting war that affected real people in the United States.

Also, with both houses of Congress and the White House controlled by Republicans, it is difficult to see whether the traditional enmities between Congress and

the executive will be strong enough to ensure that Capitol Hill properly oversees the DOD. Advocacy from these groups will ensure that important issues are not as easily abandoned to the temptations of political life.

With soldiers lacking the equipment needed to work properly in the field and the continuing death toll for American soldiers in conflict, it is obvious that servicemen need as much representation as possible as they continue to serve our country overseas.

It is unclear whether they will have the long-lasting effects of previous veterans groups, but with the help of their brethren from previous conflicts, they are not taking the missteps and are clearly drawing a great deal of attention to their cause in quick time.

We can only hope that the men and women speaking out against this war will not face the derision faced by Kerry and compatriots during their activist years and afterwards. Maybe one of these men or women will be a presidential candidate one day, and doubtlessly

many of them will end up in our public life for many years to come.

That they are taking the responsibility to speak out on issues of importance is a great reminder of what American democracy should be about. That they both serve our country in arms and oppose its policies is purely American.

Nick Huggler is a senior in economics and political science. The opinions expressed in his columns, which appear every Wednesday, do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff. Huggler can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

Having those who have actually fought in the country speak up exposes the fallacy of marginalizing all opponents of the war as leftist, anti-military activists.



Nathanael Blake

The hypocrisy of the 'post-humanitarian left'

Several months ago, I came across the phrase "the post-humanitarian left," and it has echoed in my mind ever since, primarily because it contradicts everything the left believes about itself.

Liberals consider themselves to be compassionate champions of the oppressed and unfortunate, the righteous bane of injustice. They are the defenders of human rights and open-minded tolerance, the heirs of Voltaire's view that "I may disagree with what you have to say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Last week I was given an opportunity to observe the extent to which liberals at OSU cleave to compassion and tolerance. The occasion? The battles over Roe vs. Wade's anniversary, as Students for Life erected its massive display Thursday, and NARAL countered with a much more modest presence on the week's other days.

The response to Thursday's cross display was interesting, as the forces of tolerance ripped and threw away signs, stole and broke crosses, and yelled obscenities at the Students for Life booth. Such behavior was not universal (one admirable young man came up to the pro-life booth and apologized for the behavior of his allies) but it was remarkably common among a group that prides itself on diversity and open-mindedness.

When one young lady, evidently enraged by the odiousness of a display deploring the killing of human fetuses, began plucking crosses from the ground and hurling them across the lawn, raucous cheers erupted from the pro-choicers in the quad. Many on the left are certainly post-tolerant.

As for post-humanitarian, the evidence is in the evolution of their arguments for the continued legality of abortion. There were almost no attempts to argue that abortion doesn't kill a human being, a lone letter in the Barometer by Andrew Christie being the most prominent example of that fading tactic.

Unfortunately for Mr. Christie, his entire argument on this score was an analogy between plant life cycles and human life cycles. And this already shaky comparison collapsed when he asserted that seeds are not alive. Dusting off my old general biology

See **BLAKE** / page 5

The above shows why so few try to argue for abortion based on biology; to do so requires complete ignorance of biology.

Letters

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be printed on a first-received basis. Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include the author's signature, academic major, class standing or job title, department name and phone number. Authors of e-mailed letters will receive a reply for the purpose of verification. Letters are subject to editing for space and clarity. The Daily Barometer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submissions.

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Warning: Touchy subject about to be touched

It seems that in much of the world, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the first thing people think about when politics of the Middle East is mentioned. Before arriving in Jordan, along with most Americans, I received the majority of my information from U.S. media outlets. I assumed that between the liberal and conservative networks, a fairly objective perspective on the situation could be found.

I spent my first semester living with a Palestinian refugee host family. I had no idea how much of my perspective would change. My host mom Nisreen once asked me, "Why don't more people from your country come here?"

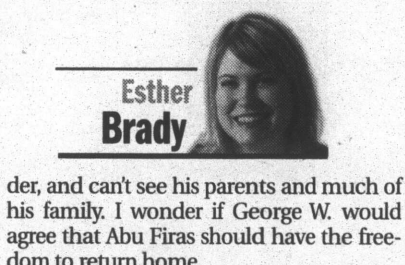
I responded, "I think they're afraid." "Afraid of us? Or afraid to know the truth?"

I realized that she was right. It's simpler to look the other way. It's easy to watch CNN or FOX and talk about how "everyone should just get along over there." What's the big deal anyway — can't the Palestinians just move to Canada or something?

Jordan is made up of roughly 50 percent Palestinians — refugees from 1948, and displaced persons from 1967. Many are Jordanian passport holders. Their lives, jobs and families are here now, but their heart is still in the west. Nisreen's dad still has the deed to his land, although he can never live there again. It is not uncommon to see the keys to their house in Palestine nailed up by the door as a constant reminder that this is not their home.

In the United States, there is constant talk about freedom. Freedom of speech. Freedom of religion. Freedom of choice. At his second inauguration, Bush said, "The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world." It sounds so nice, and admittedly, it's a catchy slogan — but what exactly does it mean?

This week some family of mine flew in. I often use a taxi driver named Abu Firas, and I called him to take us to the Dead Sea. As we drove along a mountainous ridge overlooking the Jordan River valley, he solemnly pointed into the distance and said, "There is my home only 40 km away. But I can not go there." Because he is Palestinian, he is not allowed to cross the bor-



Esther Brady

der, and can't see his parents and much of his family. I wonder if George W. would agree that Abu Firas should have the freedom to return home.

Recently, Americans aligned themselves with the struggle for liberty in Iraq. It confuses and frustrates me that many of the citizens and politicians who wave the banner of freedom for Iraq wouldn't even consider flying a Palestinian flag.

We say that governments and rulers don't have the right to deny the basic human rights of life, liberty or the pursuit of happiness. In the east, we occupy Iraq, in theory to create a just and democratic government. However, in the west, we wholeheartedly support an Israeli administration that continually violates international law, particularly with its construction of the wall inside Palestinian territory cutting off access to family, work, medical care, education and adequate standards of living.

The clear bias in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the reason my Arab friends are skeptical about the American government's involvement in Iraq. They have asked me many times, "How can the U.S. be 'fair and balanced' in Iraq if it hasn't been in Israel/Palestine?"

I often struggle with the question. I'd like to have faith in our system, but I continually wonder about the exportation of freedom from America to the rest of the world. The very definition of freedom has various meanings, depending on the cultural context it is in.

If my idea of freedom is separating religion from politics, then much of the world would choose to stay in "bondage." Contrary to the rhetoric, those who disagree with American values aren't "freedom haters"; they simply have a different approach to life. There seems to be an unchecked self-confidence that we have got it right and it has become the underlying assumption of many U.S. foreign policies and strategies.

We value individual freedom and choice because we're an "I" society: I am more important than the group. My ability to voice my opinion and be myself is what really matters.

This is completely contradictory and makes no sense within "We" societies, which is the variety found here in the Middle East, and in most of the non-Western world. Emphasis is placed on the group, and maintaining group harmony is more important than transitory individual desires.

This is quite problematic when one tries to import its ideology to the other. The two value systems are incompatible and are very stressful for the society whose value system has been breached. The worst thing imaginable in a "We" society is for the group's identity to be damaged or excessively changed — this is precisely what happened in Palestine, and what is currently happening in Iraq.

The West Bank, particularly Gaza, has been a war zone for far too long. If the whole world deserves freedom, then it's time we demand that the Palestinians receive theirs. President Bush has called on Israel to "freeze settlement construction, dismantle unauthorized outposts, end the daily humiliation of the Palestinian people and not prejudice final negotiations with the placement of walls and fences." Yet, our friend and ally continues to do so without any repercussions, and that is simply unacceptable.

I hope you won't take my word for it. Come. See for yourself. Try, for once, to see it from another perspective.

The conflict involves real people whose homes and lives have been destroyed. This should not be a partisan issue — this is a global issue.

Even in the best-case scenario in Iraq, King Abdullah II of Jordan explained that, "An independent Palestinian state remains a prerequisite for peace and stability in the region." This demands our attention. We are spending billions of dollars to secure Iraq, but it will be futile if the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not resolved as well.

Esther Brady is a junior in philosophy, studying abroad at the University of Jordan in Amman. The opinions expressed in her columns do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff. Brady can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

BLAKE: The left's position is based less on values and more on convenience

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

text (McGraw-Hill's Biology, 6th ed, by Raven and Johnson), I quickly confirmed that seeds, though dormant, are indeed living cells (chapter 40).

I was also able to identify the notion that living matter (plants, in this case) regularly arises from non-living matter (seeds, according to Mr. Christie). It is known as spontaneous generation and was long a popular theory, but Louis Pasteur finally disproved it — 141 years ago.

The above shows why so few try to argue for abortion based on biology; to do so requires complete ignorance of biology. But liberals, being the exemplars of compassion that they are, haven't let the realization that abortion kills a human being keep them from supporting it.

Rather, they have simply found a way to justify abortion while promoting their social agenda. You see, they say we don't like abortion, but what would we do with all those children if we stopped killing them? It's not as though you stingy conservatives will do anything to help them. However, if you were to adopt our latest program for the social reform of everything, we might reconsider.

If we had a larger government with expanded welfare programs, or socialized health care, or gay marriage and adoption, or all of the above, then perhaps we could handle all those children. But we don't have those things, and since you don't support them, we're going to keep aborting human beings.

Such is now the most popular argument among these enlightened, compassionate defenders of the downtrodden. Interestingly, though the left has embraced the idea of law as a vehicle for social engineering, they don't entertain the notion that unwanted pregnancies might drop if abortion were no longer a legal option.

Furthermore, it seems a curious coincidence that each of them thinks that his or her pet social project to be the solution to the problem of unwanted children. Gay marriage/welfare/socialism is the cure for abortion, so if you oppose both gay marriage/welfare/socialism and abortion, you are a hypocrite.

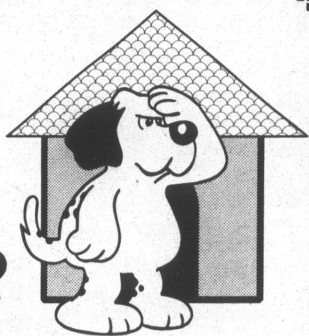
These sorts of arguments can be described less kindly, of course. One rather blunt commentator described their gist as "enact socialism or we'll kill the kids." That's incorrect; they'll kill the kids anyway.

During my discussions last week, one thing was abundantly clear; even if liberals woke up tomorrow to find that their domestic policy wish list had magically come true, they would still fight to keep abortion legal. They might use the abortion debate to try to advance their social agenda, but they have no intention of ever restricting abortion.

The left's position on abortion seems to be less about the justice they claim to value, than it is about convenience. Hence, the justice of the sobriquet "post-humanitarian left."

Nathanael Blake is a junior in microbiology. The opinions expressed in his columns, which appear every Wednesday, do not necessarily represent those of The Daily Barometer staff. Blake can be reached at forum@dailybarometer.com.

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The OSU Parking Permit states "Please hang on rear view mirror or place on dash. Must be clearly visible". The Patrol Enforcement Officers are following instructions and are correct in the issuing of citations.

However, Parking Services understands that users find the dangler too large to hang from the rearview mirror, and that the placement of the dangler on the dashboard has the potential to obscure the permit numbers.

Further, our customers are becoming more upset about the occurrences of these tickets given the propensity for the numbers to be obscured by being placed on the dashboard.


Therefore, to address customer concerns, Parking Services offers the OSU community the following short term and long term solutions. Effective immediately Parking Services will no longer issue citations for "No Permit Displayed" when the circumstances described herein are present. Parking Services encourages anyone that has received a citation for such a circumstance since January 3, 2005 to appeal the citation to the Parking Committee. Please note that the Parking Permit will still need to be displayed face up so the Patrol Enforcement Officers can verify the authenticity of the permit. Therefore, any Permit not displayed face up will receive a citation.

Parking Services is in the process of redesigning the parking permit dangler as a long term solution. Parking Services has started this process by field testing several designs. The dangler permit is considerably smaller than the current dangler and will address the complaints regarding obstruction of visibility.

Parking Services intends to display three designs on its webpage so the campus community can provide feedback and comments to the permit design before a design is chosen. We anticipate an on-line display occurring within the next month or so. Please watch the OSU Today for information or call Parking Services at 7-2583 for more information. Parking Services staff appreciates your understanding.

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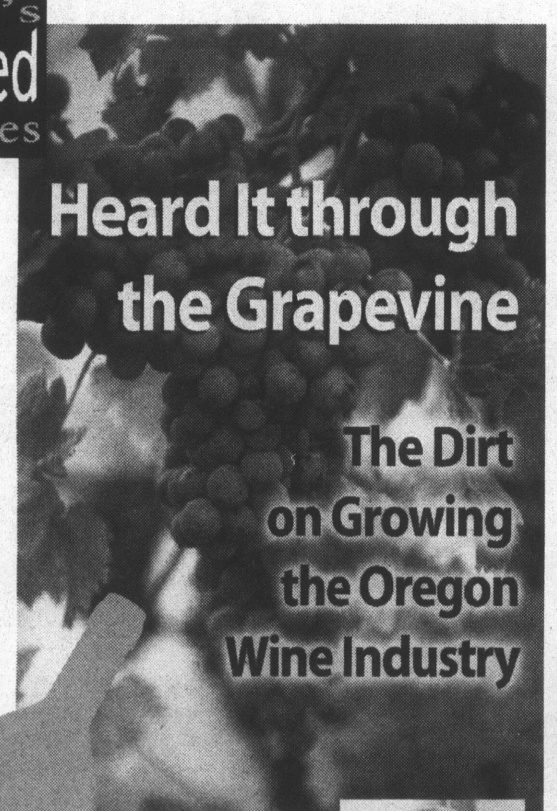

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Letters to the Editor

Abortion demonstration Blanket assumptions

As vice-chair of Students for Life, I'd like to clear up some misunderstandings that have been apparent to me in the pages of the Barometer these last few days. It has been my perception that the memorial that we held last Thursday has been interpreted, by members both for and against, as an overtly Christian display, and that we, as members of the pro-life community, prescribe strictly to the views contained within the label of "Christian." I would like to point out that Students for Life, and the pro-life movement as a whole, does not prescribe to, nor is affiliated with, a religious belief or political party.

While it is true that a vast majority of our supporters are and do confess both Christian and conservative views, this does not constitute the whole of our group, our grounding, nor our aim as an organization. Students for Life was created to raise awareness and to educate students about abortion. In that respect, we are open to anyone who supports this ideal.

I would like to make clear that blanket assumptions made by both parties for and against our cause are not appreciated. We want to promote an environment where education and reasoned debate can take place for the benefit of all parties involved.

On this note, I would like to thank the protesters who took time out of their day to peacefully protest our display and to talk with us. Your willingness to discuss the issue and the honest display of your beliefs is both appreciated and respected. I hope to see more like you in the future who feel that it is beneficial to reason and protest in a calm, collected manner.

Ian Oberst, junior, computer science, vice chair, Students for Life

restriction of, women's rights.

Mr. Flair and his fellow anti-choice comrades need to realize that this country should not be ruled by their religion, and that what a woman does or does not do with her body is her decision — not theirs, not the government's, and certainly not Jesus's.

Taylor Boulware, senior, English and history

Abortion demonstration Cross toss a call to unite

I was the girl featured on the front page of the Jan. 21 issue of the Barometer "hurtling... [a] cross." I want to make it clear that I am not a "pro-abortion activist ... disrespectful of Christianity."

I am simply an average student who was walking through the quad on Friday morning and I was disgusted by what I saw.

Abortion is truly a tragedy if you look at it on both sides. Some of the reasons for abortion are rape, substance use and abuse, lack of education, abusive relationships and self-esteem issues. It is not a simple question like, "to murder, or not to murder?"

This black-and-white, pro-life-vs.-pro-choice argument needs to come to an end.

It is not getting us anywhere! It is time for us open our eyes to shades of gray and unite against the ills that CAUSE abortion, not the act itself. A true follower of Christ would remember that He did not hate on sinners; he befriended them to spread the word. Let us adhere to His compassionate example, stop the name-calling, finger-pointing, and cross-planting.

For Christ's sake, end the hate, spread the love, and we can make this place a better world.

Emily Allstot, sophomore, undecided

Flair letter

A woman's decision only

In response to Isaiah Flair's letter in the Jan. 24 issue of The Daily Barometer, I once again must ask myself, when will Christians learn that not everyone believes, or should believe, as they do? The Barometer picture of a student throwing a cross was not an insult to Christianity, but a reaction to the disgusting display forced upon our campus by Students for Life. The picture captured a moment of free speech — something that was denied to pro-choice activists earlier that day when campus security forced them with threats of a reprimand lest they remove their chalk statements from the quad.

Mr. Flair's statements are untrue and ignorant. To say that the "only viable future of our human race" depends upon outlawing abortion is absolutely ridiculous. If Mr. Flair knew his history or checked his facts, he would acknowledge that abortions have been happening "whether by modern means of the safe and legal medical procedure or by ancient means of herbal remedies" since the dawn of human existence. Considering that the global population is reaching 6 billion people, I don't think abortion poses much of a threat to the viability of the human race. Furthermore, if Mr. Flair is so concerned with creating a "humane civilization" and calls himself "pro-life," then why doesn't he argue for the social issues that will result in better lives for people, and by extension, fewer abortions? Issues like improved and expanded health care, realistic sex education, and economic improvement need to be the focus," not the

Schiller letter

Emotionally-charged attacks don't help

I would like to respond to Daniel Schiller's letter to the editor titled "Reproductive Slavery" (Jan. 24). In the letter Daniel uses the term "reproductive slavery" and blames Christians for slavery and injustice in the world. These emotional jabs do very little to further discussion on the topic and only lead to further conflict and name calling.

Instead, it would be more beneficial to look at where the point of conflict is in the debate over abortion. The two fundamental questions in the abortion debate are whether a human life has value and when is a child alive. Human life has value; even most pro-choice activists would agree that killing another human being is wrong, unless in self-defense. If this were not the case, then murder would not be illegal. So the true point of conflict is, when does a child become alive?

Most people who believe that abortion is OK will say that life does not begin until the child leaves the mother's womb. In contrast, many of those who believe that abortion is wrong will say that life begins at conception. From a biological stance, a child in its mother's womb is either a human from conception or it is a parasite until it is born. Either way, this is the point at which most discussions over abortion should start and focus on. Using emotionally charged attacks and name-calling only furthers to clutter the discussion.

The question is not whether a person has a choice, but whether a person is alive.

John Soltau, senior, liberal arts



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Questions? Beth Rietveld, Faculty Senate Diversity Council, 737-1330, beth.rietveld@oregonstate.edu

Scorsese's 'Aviator' squares off against Eastwood's 'Baby' at Oscars

By David Germain
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Martin Scorsese may finally be positioned for Academy Awards glory, but his Howard Hughes epic "The Aviator" will have to duke it out with Clint Eastwood's boxing drama.

The best-picture and director honors are shaping up as a two-film race between Scorsese's and Eastwood's flicks, with "The Aviator" having the inside track as front-runner by leading the pack with 11 nominations Tuesday.

The other best-picture contenders were "Finding Neverland," a whimsical portrait of the creation of J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan"; "Ray," a fiery film biography of Ray Charles; and "Sideways," a quirky romance about the misadventures of two buddies on a wine-tasting road trip.

Scorsese could be the story come Oscar night Feb. 27. The filmmaker behind such modern classics as "Raging Bull," "Taxi Driver" and "GoodFellas" has never delivered a best-picture winner, and Scorsese has never won a directing Oscar despite four previous nominations.

"We don't want to jinx anything, but ultimately there is no one more deserving, absolutely," said Leonardo DiCaprio, a best-actor nomi-

nee as Hughes in "The Aviator" and the star of Scorsese's 2002 film "Gangs of New York," which had 10 Oscar nominations but lost in every category.

"I have the ultimate respect for him as a director and as a person. What he has contributed to the world of cinema is phenomenal and unprecedented. All I can say is, I'm voting for him."

Along with his directing slot, Eastwood was nominated for best actor as a cantankerous boxing trainer in "Million Dollar Baby." Eastwood previously had acting and directing nominations with 1992's "Unforgiven," which won the best-picture and directing Oscars.

Jamie Foxx landed dual nominations. Foxx is considered the favorite in the best-actor race for his dazzling emulation of Charles in "Ray," and he also was picked in the supporting category for "Collateral," in which he plays a cabdriver forced to drive a hitman on a killing spree.

"It's mind-blowing. It's a celebration right now. It is happiness right now," Foxx said. "If we win, it's going to be more happiness, but right now, it's simply time to be happy and reflect on what a fantastic year it's been for me."

Joining DiCaprio, Eastwood and Foxx in the best-actor race

were Johnny Depp as playwright Barrie in "Finding Neverland" and Don Cheadle in "Hotel Rwanda," starring as hotel manager Paul Rus- esabagina, who sheltered refugees from the Rwandan genocide.

The best-actress category presents a rematch of the 1999 showdown, when underdog Swank won the Oscar for "Boys Don't Cry" over Annette Bening, who had been the front-runner for "American Beauty."

Along with Swank in "Million Dollar Baby," Bening was nominated for "Being Julia," in which she plays an aging 1930s stage diva exacting wickedly comic revenge on the men in her life and a young rival.

Both actresses won Golden Globes, Swank for best dramatic actress, Bening for actress in a musical or comedy.

Also nominated for the best-actress Oscar: Catalina Sandino Moreno as a Colombian woman imperiled when she signs on to smuggle heroin in "Maria Full of Grace"; Imelda Staunton as a saintly housekeeper in 1950s Britain who performs illegal abortions on the side in "Vera Drake"; and Kate Winslet as a woman who has had memories of her ex-boyfriend erased in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

Bush and black leaders try for fresh start in his new term

By Nedra Pickler
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush told black leaders Tuesday that his plan to add private accounts to Social Security would benefit blacks since they tend to have shorter lives than some other Americans and end up paying in more than they get out.

Social Security was one of many issues that came up during Bush's private meeting with 14 clergy and 10 leaders from business and non-profit groups.

Exit polls showed that Bush received just 11 percent of the black vote in November's election, a slight increase over the 9 percent he received four years earlier.

Bush and his strategists are under no illusions of winning the black vote for Republicans in the near future. But they believe that any advances on this and other minority voting blocks could make the difference in close elections.

Bush planned to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus, a group of 43 Democrats, on Wednesday. The caucus had an adversarial relationship with Bush in his first term, but Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N.C., the group's new chairman, said members are hoping to find common ground with Bush in his new term.

Many of the people at the meeting with Bush Tuesday were the president's political supporters. Attendees said Bush promised more trade with Africa and support for home and business ownership by blacks. They also said his supporters in the room praised Bush for opening federal dollars to churches and religious organizations and encouraged him to push for a constitutional ban on gay marriage.

Bush said this month it will be virtually impossible to overcome Senate resistance to passing an amendment under current legal conditions.

"We felt very strongly that we hope that the president would make this a priority on his

agenda," said Robert L. Woodson Sr., founder of the Washington-based National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. Woodson said many black pastors encouraged their congregations to vote for Bush on the issue, but Bush didn't respond to the request. "He was noncommittal on it because he has more priorities," Woodson said.

Perhaps his top domestic priority currently is to overhaul the Social Security system. Although he has not revealed details of his plan, he wants to let younger workers invest a portion of their Social Security taxes to private investment accounts in exchange for a reduction in future guaranteed benefits. The administration says retirees or those near retirement age would not have their benefits reduced.

Michelle Bernard, senior vice president at the Independent Women's Forum, a Washington-based group that opposes traditional feminist ideology, said Bush stressed that he does not want to abolish Social Security, only mend it.

"There was a lot of discussion about how the Social Security system as it stands today has a negative impact on African-Americans simply because, regardless of your education background or socio-economic level, African-Americans tend to have a shorter life expectancy than others," she said.

Democratic congressional leaders are united against Bush's idea to overhaul the system, and some Republicans have said they are reluctant to change a program that tens of millions of Americans rely on for retirement security. They are urging Bush to sell the idea to the public so they can get behind it politically, and the meeting with blacks was part of the White House effort to build support.

"African-American males have a — have had a shorter life span than other sectors of America," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan. "And this will enable them to build a nest egg of their own and be able to pass that nest egg on to their survivors."

White House says this year's deficit will hit a record \$427 billion

By Allan Fram
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The White House will project that this year's federal deficit will hit \$427 billion, a senior administration official said Tuesday, a record amount partly driven by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The official, among three who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said the estimate was a conservative one that assumed some higher spending than other analysts use. Last February, the White House projected that the 2004 shortfall would hit \$521 billion, only to see it come in at \$412 billion.

The official said the figure represented progress because it would be smaller than last year's record \$412 billion shortfall when compared to the size of the growing U.S. economy. That ratio is a key measure of the deficit's potency.

"Our projections will show we remain on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009," one of President Bush's budget goals, the official told reporters.

Even so, the number was among a blizzard of figures released Tuesday that illustrated how federal deficits remain a problem that Bush and Congress must reckon with.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget

Office said that thanks to tax cuts and hurricane aid passed since its last calculations in September, the 10-year deficit had worsened since then by \$503 billion, not counting war expenditures.

The congressional analysts projected that this year's deficit would hit \$368 billion — which would be the third highest ever — excluding war costs. Adding expenditures for Iraq and Afghanistan operations would push this year's red ink to about \$400 billion, said Congress' nonpartisan budget analyst.

Underscoring budget pressures hounding lawmakers, senior administration officials invited reporters to the White House to outline their upcoming request for an additional \$80 billion, or slightly more, to help pay this year's costs of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I am grateful that Congress in a strong bipartisan fashion has consistently voted to support our troops, and I urge it to do so again," Bush said in a written statement.

There is little doubt lawmakers will follow Bush's lead, as they have repeatedly since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The latest proposal would bring war spending so far to about \$308 billion, including \$25 billion to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Congressional Research Service, which provides

reports to lawmakers.

Bush plans to send his 2006 budget to Congress on Feb. 7. It will not include a request for more war funds for that year, the officials said, saving that request for later.

Tuesday's forecast by the Congressional Budget Office was widely awaited at the start of a year when Bush and Republicans are likely to propose tight spending restraints — and battle Democrats and some GOP lawmakers over those plans.

The budget office projected \$855 billion in shortfalls for the decade ending in 2015. The office estimated that deficits would gradually fade into slight surpluses by 2012 — but not many were taking that forecast at face value.

In making those estimates, the budget office assumed that current tax and spending laws would be unchanged, as it is required to do by law. The practice is designed to give lawmakers a neutral starting point to work from when crafting legislation.

As a result, the budget office projections omitted war costs and some of Bush's top legislative priorities.

The budget office said assuming U.S. troop strength in Iraq and Afghanistan stays steady through next year and then declines gradually, those wars would add \$590 billion to the decade's deficits.

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Afghan farmers replacing poppy with wheat in early boon for counternarcotics drive

By Stephen Graham
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SURKH ROD, Afghanistan — The top U.N. drug official is heading to Afghanistan to check out reports that farmers are heeding government calls for a "holy war" on the rampant drug trade by slashing opium cultivation.

Foreign and Afghan officials are forecasting a drop of between 30 percent and 70 percent in this year's crop, as once verdant expanses of poppies are being sown with wheat instead.

In eastern Nangarhar province and southern Helmand, poppy production could be down by more than three-quarters this year, the officials said, though reliable statistics are not yet available.

The reports suggest at least an initial response to President Hamid Karzai's U.S.-sponsored campaign against the illegal Afghan narcotics industry, which last year supplied an estimated 87 percent of the world's opium, the raw material for heroin.

"I want to see it with my own eyes," said Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the Vienna, Austria-based U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, as he departed Tuesday on a five-day mission to Afghanistan.

The drop in poppy cultivation — seen in one traditional opium-pro-

ducing region toured by The Associated Press last week — is increasing pressure on the international community to deliver hundreds of millions of dollars in aid for impoverished Afghans who have survived until now by growing opium poppies, but are cooperating with authorities in switching to other crops.

"The first priority which we are supporting is self-restraint and self-eradication, and it is happening amazingly well," Rural Development Minister Haneef Atmar said. "The risks are now too high for (the farmers), and they hope the government will protect them and help them."

Skeptics say drought, disease and falling opium prices — not Karzai's eradication program — are responsible for the drop in cultivation.

Costa, who will meet with Karzai and other senior government ministers, cautioned this week that it could take a "generation or more" to solve the opium problem.

Poppy production soared after the U.S. invasion in 2001 that ousted the Taliban militia, which had curtailed the flourishing drug trade.

The United Nations said that although bad weather and plant disease significantly reduced the opium yield last year, the total output was about 4,200 tons. It valued the trade at \$2.8 billion, or more than 60-per-

cent of the country's 2003 gross domestic product, and warned that Afghanistan was turning into a "narco-state."

Under pressure from the United States and Europe, Karzai has called for "jihad," or holy war, against the drug industry, which is believed to benefit guerrillas, warlords and corrupt officials.

Foreign diplomats give some of the credit to Mohammed Daoud, a former militia commander and the government's top anti-narcotics cop. Daoud, a deputy interior minister, summoned provincial police chiefs to Kabul and told them they would be fired if they didn't halt poppy cultivation.

Daoud said in an interview he expected cultivation to fall by 50 percent to 70 percent this year.

A Western official involved in counternarcotics was more cautious, saying the decrease could be 30 percent or more.

Costa's representative in Afghanistan, Doris Buddenburg, said there seemed to be a reduction, but cautioned that production might also have shifted. Farmers in colder regions have yet to plant their fields at all, she added.

The U.S. government is paying thousands of people in Helmand and Nangarhar \$3 a day to clean irriga-



EMILION MORENATTI / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan farmer Abdullah Amiri, 46, works in his wheat crop in a field which last year grew opium poppy in the district of Surkh Rod near to Jalalabad, 130 km (80 miles) east of Kabul, Afghanistan.

tion ditches and repair roads instead of planting poppy.

Atmar, the rural development minister, said he expected about \$1 billion in aid this year from the United States and the European Union.

A drive last week around Nangarhar province found terraced fields planted with knee-high wheat or vegetables. Provincial officials said poppies were being grown only in remote valleys near the Pakistani border and insisted they would destroy the fields.

Farmers in two traditional growing areas of Nangarhar told an AP reporter they stopped planting poppies because they were told to by powerful local landowners and security officials.

"It was good business, but they said we should stop, and wait and see," said Abdul Wahid, a bearded sharecropper resting under a stand of mulberry trees next to his fields.

"If we get help, maybe it's gone for good. If not, we'll plant again."

Jolie, Bono, Gere jostle with government, business leaders at annual meeting of World Economic Forum

By Alexander G. Higgins
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVOS, Switzerland — What do you get if you mix Angelina Jolie with Bill Clinton and Bill Gates at the annual summit of the rich, famous and powerful in the snowy Alps? A discussion with the presidents of South Africa and Nigeria on reducing poverty and fighting AIDS.

Bono and Richard Gere are among the other celebrities drawn to the Swiss ski resort of Davos for the chance to rub shoulders with government and business leaders at the five-day World Economic Forum beginning Wednesday.

Tight security — including

an air force ready to shoot down unauthorized aircraft that stray too close to the 2,500 participants — has been set up to make sure the leaders can chat undisturbed in the resort's hotels and meeting centers — or on the ski slopes above.

"Taking responsibility for tough choices" is the theme for this year's meetings, organized into a tightly packed choice of 220 sessions from breakfast time until midnight. Many more meetings involving national presidents, prime ministers and business leaders take place behind the scenes.

The toughest choices for participants include selecting from the bewildering lists of

discussions — many of which are simultaneous and over meals.

They range from heavy discussions on the world economy or individual country's problems and prospects to more self-centered themes like "knowing your own mind."

A "cultural leaders dinner" Friday gives participants a chance to meet with Gere, who has campaigned for Tibetan rights, and Jolie, a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, who has witnessed the problems of people fleeing persecution. The other scheduled guests include Sharon Stone and Carole Bouquet, as well as architects, musicians and other artists.

Bono, Clinton and Gates will meet with South African President Thabo Mbeki and Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo to discuss "The G-8 and Africa — Rhetoric or Action?"

"Poverty reduction is the keystone of the G-8 agenda for 2005. While most of the developing world is experiencing rapid growth, Africa is falling further behind," the program note says. "One in two Africans lives on less than one dollar a day and the scourge of conflict continues unabated while HIV tightens its destructive stranglehold."

The privilege of joining in the discussions, or perhaps

just being present with a chance of cutting backroom deals, is costly for business leaders. The minimum membership fee for a company is about \$25,000, and the ticket for each business executive to attend costs nearly \$12,000, spokesman Mark Adams said.

The forum has been a favorite of top U.S. administration officials in recent years, including Vice President Dick Cheney and Clinton, but this year's event will be dominated by top European leaders as key U.S. officials stay away because of personnel changes in the Bush administration, organizers said.

French President Jacques Chirac starts things rolling with a preliminary "special message" Wednesday afternoon, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair delivers the keynote address at the formal opening Wednesday evening.

The U.S. Senate is assuring an American presence, however, with a delegation of 10 members headed by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., organizers said.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder will speak Friday, and Jose Manuel Barroso — the new president of the European Commission — will get his first chance to address the world's business leaders Saturday, organizers said.

Europeans make no headway in getting Iran to scrap nuclear enrichment

By George Jahn
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVOS, Switzerland — A confidential summary of talks between key European powers and Iran made available to The Associated Press on Tuesday shows there has been no progress in getting Iran to scrap nuclear enrichment — even though Tehran acknowledged it does not need nuclear energy.

The United States and several other countries fear Iran is seeking to enrich uranium not to the low level needed to generate power but to weapons-grade uranium that forms the core of nuclear warheads.

Iran publicly insists it only seeks to make low-grade enriched uranium for nuclear fuel. But the summary of the last meeting on the issue involving representatives of France, Britain, Germany and Iran says Tehran acknowledged what Washington and its allies have argued all along — that the oil-rich country has no need for nuclear energy.

"Iran recognizes explicitly that its fuel cycle program cannot be justified on economic grounds," the document says.

Diplomats familiar with the talks said on condition of anonymity that the atmosphere between the two sides had improved during the second round held in Geneva on Jan. 17.

But they agreed that no progress was being made on the Europeans' insistence that Iran's present temporary suspension of its enrichment programs be turned into a commitment to permanently mothball all such activities.

"The two positions cannot coexist," said one of the diplomats, from a West European nation. "If the impasse cannot be resolved, then there will be no solution," clearing the path for Iran to resume work on activities that will allow it to enrich uranium, he said.

Another diplomat agreed there was no progress on the core issue but expressed hope that common ground could be found in future rounds.

A separate confidential memorandum summarizing talks focusing on political and security themes said the atmosphere was "more conducive and productive" than the initial round held Dec. 21.

Iran suspended uranium enrichment and all related activities in November, derailing U.S. attempts to have it reported to the U.N. Security Council for alleged violations of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The International Atomic Energy Agency, in Vienna, Austria, is policing the freeze.

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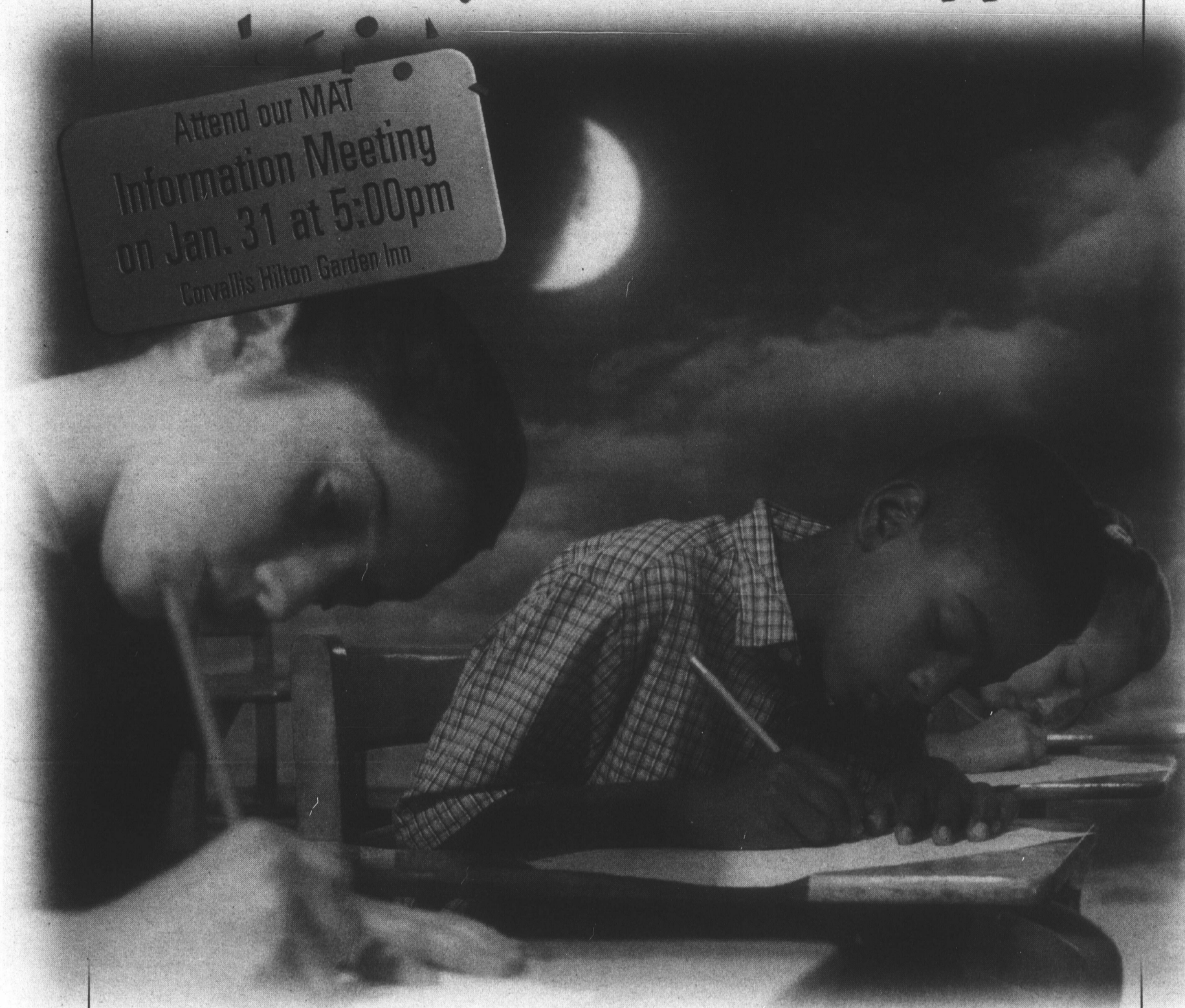
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NHL labor dispute drags on

■ Talks between league and players' association resume to try saving season

By Ira Podell
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The NHL won't be bringing a new proposal to the next round of discussions with the players' association, even though time is clearly running out to save the hockey season. "We're in a critical stage and that means we're down to days," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly told The Associated Press from Toronto, the site of Wednesday's negotiating session. "We'll try to move the process forward and try to get a resolution."

Just like last week, when the sides met for two days in Chicago and Toronto, the discussions will continue in three-man groups and without NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and union chief Bob Goodenow. Both sides believe that having an open dialogue will help generate ideas better than working on a formal proposal. "The players' association said that they felt like we should kind of work through possible joint solutions to this and at least hear what each other has to say," Daly said Tuesday night.

NHLPA senior director Ted Saskin declined comment until after Wednesday's meeting. I think the meetings could be held just as well with Gary and Bob as they're being held without them," Daly said.

The structure was successful in generating ideas and discussion, but it did nothing to soften each side's stance or close the gap in the philosophical differences. "The question is whether one or both sides can be creative in ways where both can achieve their objectives while remaining true to their principles," Daly said. "I continue to hope that that is a realistic possibility. If I didn't, I don't think we'd be meeting."

The NHL still wants cost certainty, a link between player costs and team revenues. The players' association wants a free-market system. Daly said he has no reason to believe that either side will change its position on Wednesday. If the season is canceled, that will ultimately be the reason. "The main issue continues to be the biggest, but we did have a discussion of all of the different elements of the system last week and I thought it was a useful discussion," Daly said. "We probably will touch on them again."

Daly said his negotiating team met this past weekend to discuss new ideas and address some issues raised by Linden. But it's going to take more than that to end the lockout that reached its 132nd day on Tuesday and has already forced the cancellation of 707 of the 1,230 regular-season games plus the 2005 All-Star game.

"I'm not going to say that if we were to break off tomorrow, that would necessarily be the end," Daly said. "It's going to be something we continue to work on."

No proposals have been made since early December, when the players offered a 24 percent rollback on all existing contracts as part of a luxury-tax and revenue-sharing system. The NHL turned that down and made a counterproposal five days later that was rejected in a matter of hours.

If the season is wiped out, the Stanley Cup wouldn't be awarded for the first time since 1919, when a flu epidemic canceled the final series between Seattle and Montreal. The NHL would then become the first major North American sports league to lose an entire season because of a labor dispute.

The league invited the union to Wednesday's talks. "I think the setup of these meetings is what's important in terms of the small-group dynamic," Daly said. "It's less formal or structured than the meetings we've had in the past and I think that's helpful to the process."

Overall, gymnastics is a sport where it's difficult to have much control over what happens. That's why it's the small things that count. With that in mind, Morales put it best. "We don't really look at it as we are competing against the No. 1 team or what," Morales said. "We compete against teams every weekend that are with us physically. We just go out there and focus on our routines."

Barrett, Emily Emmons, Mickel Silhanek, Leah McVein and player-coach Pattie Aron, finished the tournament 4-1. OSU started the tournament by beating UW team in two games. Its second, third and fourth matches produced similar results as the Beavers beat Eastern Washington, Eugene Bible School and Eastern Washington again in two games.

The "B" squad's only hurdle was its fifth match, when it had to play OSU's "A" team. The "A" team took two out of three games, resulting in a third-place finish for the "B" team. Shannon Bucheit, a sophomore setter for the "A" team, was ecstatic about both teams' performances. "It was good to go into the tournament with two teams and see them both be successful," Bucheit said.

The next tournament for the Beavers will be the Columbia Empire Volleyball Association tourney on Jan. 29 in Beaverton. OSU hosts its first tournament of the season Mar. 12 at Dixon Recreation Center.

Steven Masters, sports writer
sports@dailymeter.com, 737-6378

GYMNASTICS: Lamun says OSU's tough schedule has served as a wake up call

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

regrets. In fact, they say competing against top teams has helped them learn about themselves.

"I think watching other teams that are right up there at the top gives us an idea of where we need to get to, and where we are at in comparison to them," Chaplin said.

Lamun believes facing No. 2

UCLA and then No. 1 Utah has been a wake up call for the Beavers.

"It's opened our eyes to whether we just want to be a mediocre team or a top team," Lamun said. "I think everybody has realized there's something more they can be doing individually to hold each other accountable."

Overall, gymnastics is a sport where it's difficult to have much control over what happens. That's why it's the small things that count. With that in mind, Morales put it best. "We don't really look at it as we are competing against the No. 1 team or what," Morales said. "We compete against teams every weekend that are with us physically. We just go out there and focus on our routines."

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Steven Masters, sports editor
sports@dailymeter.com, 737-6378

CLUB VOLLEYBALL: Despite loss, Beavers pleased with chemistry

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

vs. Beavers.

In the match, the Beavers' "A" team was paired against the Beavers' "B" team.

Both teams battled hard, but the "A" squad was victorious in three games.

The "A" team's final match was in the championship against UW.

Even with a solid effort, the Beavers came up short again to the Huskies, dropping both games.

Despite the loss, team president Lindsay Carroll was pleased with the team's chemistry and the way it performed in its first tournament of the year.

"Even though we weren't successful against Washington, we were real happy with the way we played them so well," Carroll said. "This is the first time in a tournament that we have all played together, so it was nice that we clicked and got down to business."

The "B" team, consisting of Becca Franceschi, Wendy-lin Peterson, Stephanie Crop, Aloysia

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23. Texas A&M
23. Southern Illinois
25. Illinois

JOHN: In coach's absence, teammates were forced to strengthen their bond together

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

As a result of his hypertension episode, John better understands the importance of having assistant coaches who are well prepared to take the helm.

"With the health scare, I think I will delegate more responsibility [to the other coaches]," John said.

"This will make the team better and make me a better leader."

In fact, John's absence, while frightening, has had a positive effect on the Beaver squad. John has noticed a change in his players.

"Our team got stronger this week because we bonded back together," John said. "The coaching staff did a great job."

Junior guards Chris Stephens and Lamar Hurd were delighted by the return of their coach.

"It's very important to us that Coach is back," Stephens said.

"He's the leader of the

team, and he is my leader. Having him back is real good emotionally for us."

"Having Coach back is a huge lift for the team's spirits," Hurd added. "He's the guy we follow."

Now that he has resumed coaching, John is making changes to his lifestyle, as well as his coaching style.

"I've got to do a lot of things," John said. "No more caffeine. Nose sprays are off. I've got to change my diet."

"It's going to have to be a different regimen than what I've done for 20 years. I'm still going to exercise, but I'm probably going to do more."

After going through this experience, John has learned a few things about himself.

"The toughest part of this whole thing was humility," John said. "I've realized that I am not invincible and that it is OK to take medication."

Steven Masters, sports writer
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Sometimes I get too fired up. I don't want to hold my emotions back, but I want to be smart out there on the court.

—Indiana guard Stephen Jackson, who is set to return from a 30-game suspension Wednesday

Softball earns No. 16 ranking

■ Beavers return 12 players from last year's playoff squad

BAROMETER STAFF REPORT

The Oregon State softball team will enter the 2005 season with a No. 16 ranking in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Preseason Top 25 Collegiate Poll.

The Beavers return 12 players from last year's squad that made its sixth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Regional Tournament.

OSU fell one victory short of an inaugural trip to the Women's College World Series, after dropping the Regional championship game to No. 6 ranked Michigan.

The Beavers finished 44-28 last season and received 172 points in the voting.

Oregon State is one of seven Pacific-10 Conference teams ranked in the preseason Top 25, with conference foes California, Arizona and UCLA ranking 1,2,3, respectively.

Other ranked Pac-10 teams include Stanford (5), Washington (9) and Oregon (14).

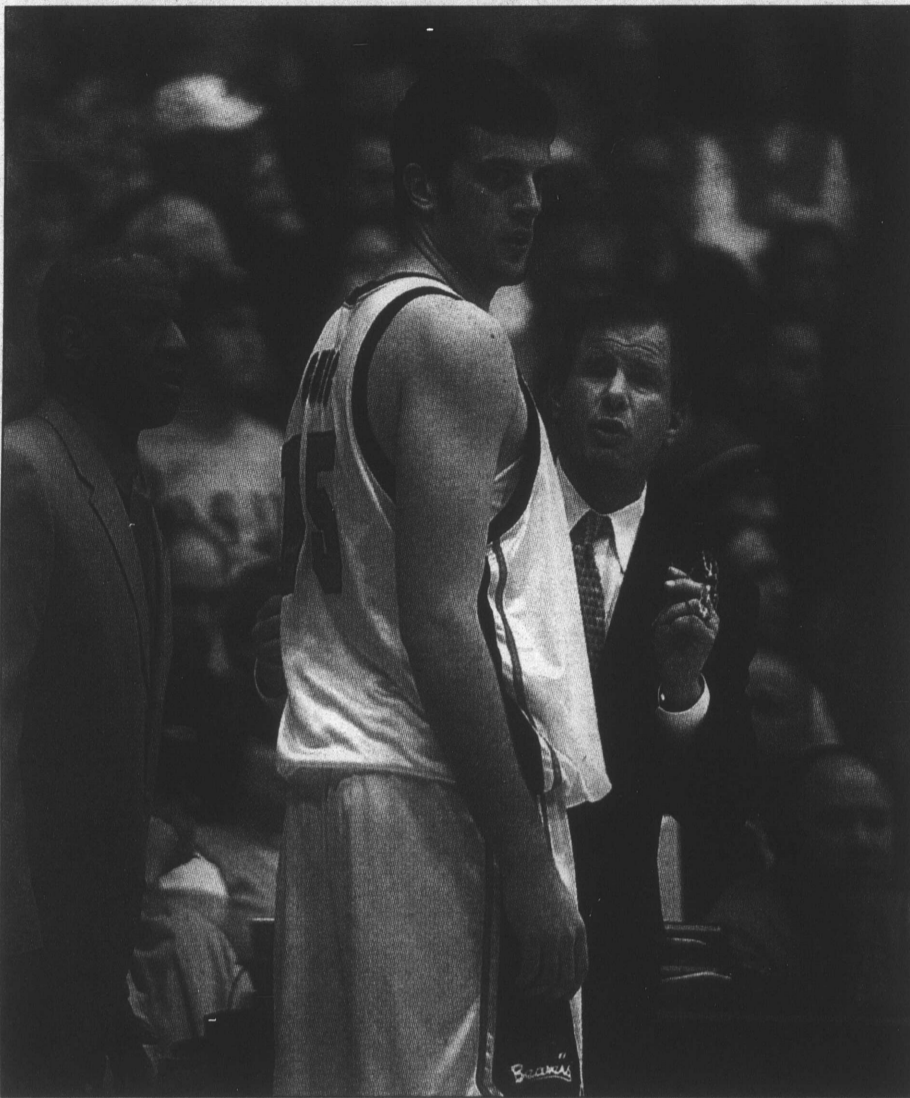
Despite the national ranking, the Beavers were picked by Pac-10 coaches to finish in the bottom half of the league (7).

OSU will be anchored by All-American Vanessa Iapala and Pac-10 honorees Kelly Petersen, Adrienne Alo, and Mia Longfellow.

Coach Kirk Walker will lead the Beavers into the new season on Feb. 4, when OSU travels to the UC Santa Barbara Tournament.

For complete national softball rankings, see page 11.

Coach relieved to be back on bench



OSU head coach Jay John, back, gives instructions to freshman forward Sasa Cuic during last Saturday's game against Arizona, his first since being treated for hypertension.

■ Jay John missed game against Arizona State after being hospitalized last week due to hypertension

By Steven Masters
THE DAILY BAROMETER

After missing one game due to hypertension, Oregon State men's basketball coach Jay John is back on the bench and feeling well.

"Right now, I feel good," John said. "The medication is working and my body is responding well to the medication."

John, who was forced to miss the second half of the Washington game and the entire game against Arizona State last Thursday while recovering from hypertension, is thankful for his family's support throughout the ordeal.

"My family is fantastic," John said. "They have given me so much support through this process."

Hypertension is an arterial disease where chronic high blood pressure is the primary symptom.

John has had untreated hypertension for quite some time and knew the severity of his high blood pressure.

John, who has been coaching since he was 20, returned to the bench Saturday night as the Beavers prepared to face Arizona, and was greeted with a large roar from the Beaver faithful at Gill Coliseum.

John said he was glad to be around his squad again.

"Being back with the team was great," John said. "It was real tough to watch the team play while seated in the basement."

Even with John's return, the Beavers were unable to upset the No. 13 Wildcats, but the most important thing on everybody's mind was seeing John back in action.

"It's real nice to have him back coaching," said senior forward Jim Hanchett. "The most important thing is that he's healthy, and that's what ultimately matters."

It was real tough to watch the team play while seated in the basement.

—JAY JOHN, coach, men's hoops

See JOHN / page 11

Gymnastics forced to sweat small stuff

■ Beavers have raised the bar to perfection this week in practice, seeking better results this Friday

By Raju Woodward
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Coming off losses to the top two teams in the nation, the Oregon State gymnastics team is getting back to basics.

While the Beavers have performed well, the coaches and gymnasts say they could perform at a higher level.

"I know they are capable of doing better," said OSU head coach Tanya Chaplin. "And we've been working really hard trying to correct some stuff and hopefully it will pay off this weekend."

One factor contributing to the team's inconsistency this season is changes in the way events are being judged.

"It's a good thing," Chaplin said. "It makes us work harder and focus in on the little details. When the scores are higher, you tend to overlook some of those things and you can't do that."

As a result, the Beavers held team meetings last week to discuss how they could work on improving individually and as a team.

"We wanted to create a new team atmosphere," said junior Angela Morales. "Because we feel we haven't been as successful as we want to be."

"So I think we feel good about what we've seen from last week and we just want to keep that energy going."

Morales said she was disappointed with her landings in last Friday's meet against Utah because she stumbled a couple times and knew that's what the judges were looking at.

"The judges have mentioned to our coaches that they are looking at the end," Morales said. "That's the last impression they get of us, so that's definitely something we have been working on in the gym."

Fellow junior Chrissy Lamun said the standards have been raised in practice this week. In fact, the coaches are only counting routines that are perfect.

"Our standards for excellence in the gym need to be raised," Lamun said. "The bar needs to be higher and we need to make adjustments."

Added Chaplin, "It's not just about making it through a routine. There's a difference between making it and making it well, making it to the fullest potential you can."

"You have to do that if you want it to happen in competition."

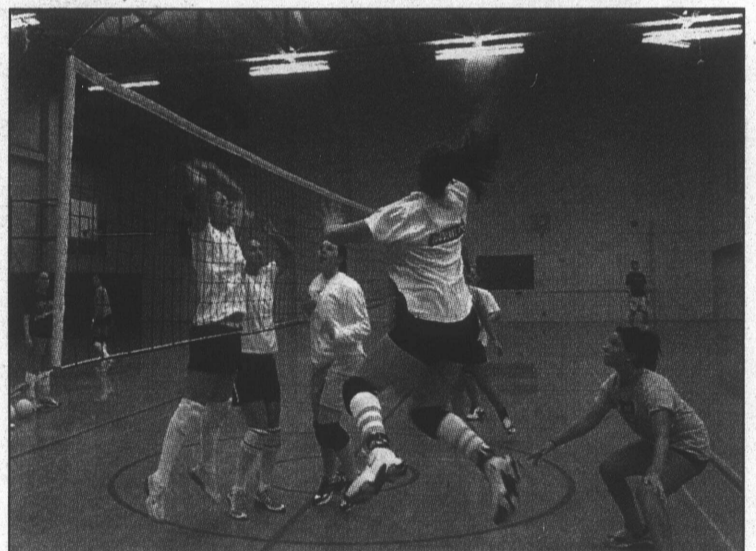
Despite the extra conditioning and more intense practices, Lamun said the team isn't complaining.

"It's been incredible," Lamun said. "Nobody has asked any questions to why we are making stuff harder, why we're doing extra conditioning and why we're doing extra routines."

"Everybody wants to be here, and everybody wants to be better and make the top 10."

As for their brutal schedule, the Beavers have no

See GYMNASTICS / page 11



CHARLIE LITCHFIELD / THE DAILY BAROMETER

The OSU volleyball club practices Tuesday night at Langton, after a successful showing at the UO invitational in Eugene last Saturday.

Club volleyball fares well at invitational

■ Beavers "A" team finishes second, "B" squad takes third

By Steven Masters
THE DAILY BAROMETER

The Oregon State women's club volleyball team put up an impressive showing at the University of Oregon Invitational last Saturday.

The Beavers, who brought two teams to the tournament, finished a combined 8-3.

The "A" team, comprised Lindsay Carroll, Chelsea Sanderson, Shannon Bucheit, Michelle Long, Jamie Smith, Laura Ryssdal, Kelsey McNay and coach Stacie Mills, opened the tournament by edging Eastern Washington 24-26, 25-22 and 15-12.

"I had a lot of fun playing competitive ball with a team that really came together," said Long, a junior outside

hitter for the "A" squad.

Mills, who has been coaching for five years, is a student of the game.

Mills has been playing volleyball for 16 years and played with the team's other coach, Pattie Aron, during their undergraduate years at OSU.

In their second match, the Beavers swept both games against Eugene Bible College.

In the third match, they lost their first match and were eventually defeated 14-25 and 27-29 by the University of Washington.

Playing Eastern Washington University again, the Beavers got back on the winning track by sweeping them 25-15 and 25-15.

The fifth match produced a very unusual match up — Beavers

See CLUB VOLLEYBALL / page 11

It was good to go into the tournament with two teams and see them both be successful.

—SHANNON BUCHEIT, sophomore, club volleyball

Members of the Oregon State gymnastics team gather during a postgame celebration following last Friday's meet against No. 1 Utah. The Beavers travel to Palo Alto this Friday to take on unranked Stanford.

JUSTIN RUNQUIST
THE DAILY BAROMETER

