



Rain, rain go away
Fourth inning end to game against UP
SPORTS, PAGE 8



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nellie Oehler is retiring for the second time from teaching students how to preserve food products like salsa, jam and pickles.

Food preserver says goodbye after 40 years

■ Nellie Oehler remembers teaching classes on microwave use, food safety in Lane County

By Daniel Acee
THE DAILY BAROMETER

On June 30, an accomplished OSU faculty member will put down her oven mitts and turn off the stove on more than 40 years of work in food preservation — for the second time.

Nellie Oehler has spent most of her career in OSU's family and community development extension services at the Lane County OSU Extension Office in Eugene.

"My first retirement lasted about two hours — it was just too early

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New club available for free thinkers

■ Campus Freethought Alliance welcomes those who take different view of religion

By Regi Seitz
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Gone is Vishnu, Jehovah, Satan, Zeus, Jesus or any type of god. The only thing left lingering is free thought.

There is a new student group for atheists, agnostics, humanists and skeptics called the Campus Freethought Alliance.

The group is affiliated with the Secular Student Alliance based in New York.

"I intended this club to be a safe place for free-thinkers to express themselves without being pressured or judged," said Shireen Noroozi, founder and co-president of the club, and a freshman in English

Currently, 16.1 percent of the U.S. population does not affiliate with any religious group or ideology, according to a survey done by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

"Many of these people consider themselves to be skeptics when it comes to religion," said Ellen Johnson, American Atheists president.

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Theft from Bookstore at all-time high

■ Top crime on OSU campus rises in academic year; dollar amount determines crime

By Tara Pistorese
THE DAILY BAROMETER

The number of thefts recorded at the OSU Bookstore has skyrocketed since the 2006-07 school year, according to Dan Schwab, director of student conduct at OSU.

Theft is the number one crime at OSU's campus.

"I think we are being more effective this year in identifying shoplifting," said Steve Eckrich, general manager of the OSU Bookstore.

The cumulative number of on-campus thefts cited by law enforcement in the 2006-07 academic year was 28. Of those, 14 took place at the bookstore. As of April 15, there have been 51 on-campus thefts, 38 of which took place at the bookstore.

"I think it is important to understand that it may not be an increase in theft, but an increase in detec-

tion," Eckrich said.

Eckrich expressed concern that students may not understand how the theft trend may be affecting them.

"Because the OSU Bookstore is a non-profit, student-owned organization, when students steal from us they are actually stealing from other students," Eckrich said.

Schwab shares Eckrich's concern. "My perception is, most of the crimes on campus occur by non-students," Schwab said.

There are three potential theft charges a perpetrator may face when caught stealing: theft in the first, second and third degrees.

"Theft [in the first degree] carries with it a Class C felony. That would be the legal charge that a person would receive," said Sgt. Vonn Schleicher of the Oregon State Police.

Penalties for theft vary depending on the cost of the item and include legal and campus consequences.

"[A person charged] could look at being excluded from the bookstore, and depending on the seriousness

of it could be excluded from the campus," Schleicher said.

While certain cities have a city ordinance that is called shoplifting, Corvallis uses the terms almost interchangeably.

"Shoplifting is just a terminology used when you go into a store and pick something up and don't pay for it. It is theft," Schleicher said.

A person is charged with theft in the first degree if the items stolen value more than \$750.

Items that are worth anywhere between \$50 and \$749 carry a charge of theft in the second degree. And a person caught stealing items worth less than \$50 is charged with theft in the third degree.

A theft crime in the second or third degree is associated with a misdemeanor charge under state law.

"We are here for the students," Eckrich said. "And whenever we see theft, that is taking resources away from the students."

Tara Pistorese, senior reporter
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231

"Sometimes it is just really little, silly things. People aren't always aware of the consequences."

— Craig Anderson, media services.

"Books are super expensive. It doesn't surprise me people are trying to steal them."

— Sarah, a sophomore in exercise and sport science.

"If there were more used books through private classifieds like Craigslist, I'd be happy..."

I don't like having to buy books in the bundled packages."

— Jarvis Caffrey, a junior in radiation health physics

'Five Under 35' Oregon legislators answer questions

■ Democratic representatives discuss university, state trends, funding, policies during visit

By Katy Weaver

Last night, an audience of students, faculty and community members relaxed on the couches of the MU Lounge while carrying on a discussion with five members of the Oregon House of Representatives, as if it were just another daily conversation.

Rep. Tobias Read (D-Hillsboro), Rep. Ben Cannon (D-Portland), Rep. Sara Gelser (D-Corvallis), Rep. Brian Clem (D-Salem) and Rep. Chris Edwards (D-Eugene) make up the "Five Under 35," a group of five Democratic representatives, all under the age of 35, who made a special visit to campus last night.

Several of them are OSU alumni. "We really pay attention to engaging young people in the political process," said Gelser. "We tackle many issues that are important to people in their 20s."

The representatives are making it a point to visit campuses across Oregon to discover issues that young people care passionately about.

"This is the most valuable way for us to get input," said Cannon, who is only 31. "This is how we make policies in the state of Oregon. Having an event like this will actually impact our state legislature."

Faculty and students posed a variety of questions, ranging in topics from veterans to biodiesel to the war in Iraq. However, one topic in particular was brought up again and again: the potential \$126 million loss of funds that will affect all Oregon universities and state employees if the legislature-proposed budget withholding passes.

This would translate to a \$12 million loss at OSU, resulting in an increase in tuition, program cuts and a possible reduction of 180 class sections, according to a Daily Barometer article published Tuesday.

Many professors attended the event to speak clearly to the legislators that OSU and other universities simply can't handle the potential budget cuts.

"I've been a professor for 20 years, and things have been going downhill ever since," said Kay Garcia, a Spanish professor at OSU.



CURTIS BARNARD | THE DAILY BAROMETER

ASOSU Vice President Nadine Honda asks a group of Oregon legislators a question about tax reform in the MU Lounge Tuesday night. The legislators, from left to right, are Brian Clem, Chris Edwards, Tobias Read, Ben Cannon and Sara Gelser.

"My students are working harder and harder to make ends meet. Some of them show up to class exhausted after working all night just to make enough money. Something has to be turned around — we are floundering. Let's not hear about any more sports stadiums being built when students can't even get into their classes."

Others echoed the sentiment, fearing the loss of many jobs in their respective departments.

"Our business is in keeping the state green," said Hal Salwasser, dean of the College of Forestry.

"If the salary pool is not released, it will wipe out at least 36 people in the forestry extension lab. These people are doing part-time research and teaching students."

"We urge [the legislators] to release the salary pool. It is a rainy day fund, and it has rained. It's time to use the fund to protect people we have on board."

The legislators responded that they would work to help with the issue. "We need to be competitive in

faculty salaries and not lose people to other states because our pay is so low," Gelser said.

Ryan Mann, state affairs task force director for ASOSU, moderated the event and encouraged individuals to speak up to legislators on situations like this.

"It is up to us to put pressure on them," Mann said.

Another issue that several students brought up at the event was racial profiling, especially when related to illegal immigration and new laws that are being enacted to prevent it.

A new law in effect July 2008 will require Oregonians to present not only a proof of address, identity and date of birth, but also a social security number, proof of legal presence and resources for obtaining identity and legal presence documents.

In addition, Measure 112 on the upcoming ballot will, if passed, allow local police to work with immigration and customs enforcement to deport illegal immigrants.

"There are definitely people getting pulled over by police in Marion

County, just to see if they are illegal," Clem said.

"It is totally un-American and illegal for anyone to do that. We will work to oppose Measure 112. It would mean that local police officers would be in charge of finding out who is illegal, increasing racial profiling."

"Right now, if you commit a crime, then your immigration status gets checked. Besides, a lot of people don't know that being an illegal immigrant is not a crime, it's a civil offense."

Although they talked on a variety of subjects, there was one issue that the legislators wished had been brought up in more detail.

"One big issue that didn't really come up much was health insurance," Cannon said. "Our state, and our country, faces the tremendous problem of finding an effective, affordable health care."

"You are less likely to have health care in your 20s than any other time

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FIVE: Candid advice, encouragement

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in your life. Between 40 to 50 percent of people in their 20s in Oregon have none."

The five legislators began and ended their presentation by encouraging students to get active. If they can be legislators at their age, students can dream big too.

And when walking out, Clem actually started giving students tips for running for ASOSU president, as if it were just another everyday conversation.

Katy Weaver, assistant news editor
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231

Correction

A proposed legislative fund withholding of \$126 million could potentially affect all state agencies.

In the face of the potential shortfall, OSU has not proposed a tuition increase. A tuition increase must be authorized by the legislature.

Incorrect information was printed in the Tuesday, April 13 edition of The Daily Barometer. The Barometer regrets this error.

CLUB: Students seek community, identity

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

American Atheists is a nationwide movement that defends the civil rights of non-believers and addresses the issues of First Amendment public policy.

Studies indicate that the segment of Americans unaffiliated with any particular religion has grown faster than any other category.

The growing demographics include believers who are abandoning or questioning the dogmas of their religion.

"Many members within the group have recently left their religions, and leaving can be one of the hardest, loneliest and most confusing events in one's life," Noroozi said.

More than 25 percent of Americans have abandoned their childhood religious beliefs in search of something else, according to Johnson.

"Record numbers of people seem to be questioning their faith," said Dave Silverman, the communications director for American Atheists.

"The best response is to treat religious belief as a private affair and not favor religion over non-religion."

The Campus Freethought Alliance is planning to hold a National Day of Reason and possibly a "coming out" day for people who are fed up with

keeping their atheistic beliefs a secret.

"We talk about discrimination and negative stereotypes against free-thinkers," Noroozi said of the group's meetings. "We try to encourage science, reason and critical thinking."

Noroozi said the group also discusses how to "come out" as a free-thinker to friends and family.

The goals of OSU's free thinkers are to challenge believers in God, psychics and other supernatural occurrences with arguments based on scientific evidence, logic and reason.

Members of the Freethought Alliance hope to continuously educate themselves in regard to scientific discoveries and established fields such as evolution.

Noroozi was inspired to start the club as the result of an experience she had during Connect Week.

"I was bombarded by groups trying to invite me to Christian-themed events or trying to give me free Bibles as if they were gifts," Noroozi said.

"I'm sure that they only had good intentions, but I felt like I was being pressured to lie about who I am just to get free stuff."

"I am not the kind of person who lies to make other people feel good. I knew that there were non-theists at OSU who also needed a network of people who felt the same way."

All free-thinking groups reject the supernatural or any

divine being, but free-thinkers encourage open mindedness. And although anyone is welcome to attend Freethought Alliance meetings, the meetings are not intended for debate over beliefs.

"A lot of members might still be going through sensitive emotions and don't want eager-to-debate theists to indirectly stir up painful memories," Noroozi said. "I would like visitors to be respectful of our worldview and of our members."

To get involved with the Freethought Alliance, e-mail orst@secularstudents.org or join the Facebook group.

Regi Seitz, staff writer
news@dailybarometer.com, 737-2231

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OEHLER: Fresh, local food supply drives Oregonians to preserve food; safety important

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to settle down," Oehler said. Oehler first retired when she became a mother.

Oehler taught classes at the extension office and at Linn-Benton Community College about food preservation and even how to use a microwave.

"In those days you just used [the microwave] to boil water with," Oehler said. "I taught a five-week course at [Linn-Benton Community College] about microwaves. Almost everybody in Corvallis came to take the course."

Oehler's focus in community development is food preservation, and she is well-known for her knowledge in that field. Oehler is thoroughly respected

by her colleagues. According to them, she is an outgoing, humorous, hard-working person who will be missed in the OSU community.

She said that food preservation is now receiving more interest from younger age groups than before.

Also, people are now more inclined to eat locally and are interested in healthful foods, making their own jams, salsas, pickles and other preserved items, said Oehler.

Even as she prepares to retire, Oehler wishes to remind students that food safety is key.

"If you're going to preserve food, it's really rewarding, but make sure you're doing it right,"

Oehler said.

"I find it to be excellent and really rewarding to have such a great food supply. I don't have to deal with raising prices, no food shortage worries and I always know where my food comes from."

"How much more rewarding it is to [preserve] your own healthy convenience food, than it is to buy the more fattening microwaveable instant meals," Oehler said.

"Thanks to Nellie's efforts, hundreds of Oregonians have learned how to handle and preserve food safely," said Carolyn Raab, extension foods and nutrition specialist at OSU. "She's an excellent teacher who is well-respected by both OSU extension volunteers and the public. She'll be missed."

Daniel Acee, staff writer
news@dailybarometer.com.,

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