

Court alters home videotape laws

By HENRY CRUMME
Of the Emerald

Using home videotape recorders to record television programs now is illegal, according to a decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The court's judges overturned a lower court decision in the case of Universal City Studios vs. Sony Corporation of America. Ruling in favor of Universal, the court decided Oct. 19 that taping television programs on home video recorders constitutes copyright infringement.

However, no owner of home videotape equipment need fear a midnight visit from officers of a copyright law enforcement agency. For now, the ruling affects mainly the corporations that build and market the machines, holding them liable for damages.

Taping TV programs now illegal

The high court suggested that video manufacturers pay royalties to the holders of television copyrights, but what the suggestion means for small video distributors and consumers is difficult to tell.

For Victor Blum, owner of Eugene's Video Plus, the short-term effect of the ruling upon his business is favorable.

"There's a lot of panic buying going on right now," he says.

But the long-term effect on small distributors depends on later court decisions. If the court imposes a royalties system upon manufacturers, the price for videotape recorders may go up, forcing manufacturers to demand a surcharge for blank tape, Blum says. Eventually the consumer will pay for the

copyright infringement, he says.

"The ruling is not only unenforceable, but the reaction of the normal middle-class Joe will be 'try and stop me!'" says Marc Abrams, University journalism professor. Furthermore, the litigation is only binding within those western states served by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, he says.

Abrams also notes a problem with royalty payments. "How does one judge how much home recording goes on? And what is a fair price?"

George Bynon, director of the University's Instructional Media Center, says he doesn't think the ruling will affect IMC policy very much.

The IMC already has strict rules regulating the use of

copied materials, he says, including taping programs only one week in advance of showing them and showing them only once before erasing them.

"The ruling doesn't have anything to do with the fair-use clause or with educational purposes," he says. "What is at issue is the copying and later use of recorded materials in the home."

However, the ruling may result in increased equipment costs for the IMC, which could mean higher student fees, Bynon says.

The steadily growing number of videotape recorders in the United States already has hit three million. Some local video distributors say they think the Oct. 19 ruling will not change sales levels, although the possibility of soaring costs might make videotape recorders too expensive for some homes.

Calendar

November 5
to November 11

Thursday

FILM

"Paths of Glory" Bijou Theatre at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. with "Burn!" at 7:15. \$2.50.
"Andy Warhol's 'Frankenstein'" Bijou Theatre at midnight. \$1.50.

MUSIC

Noon Gig: Randy and Dana Rothwell. EMU Skylight Rectory.
Jo Federigo's: Emmett Williams and Forrest Moyer. Free.
O'Callahan's: Rock Band. Cover.
The Place: Los Xplorers. Cover.
The Trawler: Mike and Carleen. Free.

THEATRE

"Vanities" Oregon Repertory Theatre. 2 and 8 p.m. \$3.50 to \$7.

MISCELLANEOUS

"Guatemala: The Unnatural Disaster." Teach-in with videotape presentations and slide shows in EMU Room 110.

Friday

FILM

"Marathon Man" 180 PLC. 7 and 9:30. \$1.50.
"My Brilliant Career" 150 Geology. 7 and 9:15 p.m. Adults \$1.75, children \$1.
"Paths of Glory" Bijou Theatre at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. with "Burn!" at 7:15. \$2.50.
"Andy Warhol's 'Frankenstein'" Bijou Theatre at midnight. \$2.50.

MUSIC

Beer Garden: Mystery Guest. EMU Dining Room. 4 p.m.
Guy Boveri (Spanish keyboard). Beall Hall. 8 p.m. University students and children free, general public \$2.
The Burners: Benefit dance at the WOW Hall. 8:30 p.m. \$2.75.
B.J. Kelly's: Gregg Tripp. Cover.
Jo Federigo's: Emmett Williams and Forrest Moyer. Free.
O'Callahan's: Hot Whacks. Cover.
The Place: Los Xplorers. Cover.
The Trawler: Mike and Carleen. Free.

THEATRE

"Marco Polo Sings a Solo" University Theatre in the Pocket Playhouse. 8 p.m. University students \$2.75, general public \$4.50, other students \$3.50.
"Live Matinee" Cinema 7. 8 and 10 p.m. \$3.99.
"Taxi Tales" Oregon Repertory Theatre at midnight. \$3.50.
"Vanities" Oregon Repertory Theatre. 2 and 8 p.m. \$3.50 to \$7.

MISCELLANEOUS

"Guatemala: The Unnatural Disaster." Teach-in with videotape presentations and slide shows in EMU Room 110.

Saturday

FILM

"Beatles Film Festival" 138 Gilbert. 7, 9 and 11 p.m. \$2.
"Chac: The Rain God" 177 Lawrence. 7 and 9 p.m. Adults \$1.50, children 75 cents.
"Star Trek - The Motion Picture" 180 PLC. 7 and 9 p.m. Adults \$1.50, children \$1.
"Thief" 150 Geology. 7 and 9:30. \$1.50.
"The Wizard of Oz" 180 PLC. 1 and 3 p.m. Adults \$1.50, children \$1.
"Bad Timing: A Sensual Obsession" Cinema 7 at 7:30 with "The Innocent" at 9:40 p.m. \$3.
"Paths of Glory" Bijou Theatre at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. with "Burn!" at 7:15. \$2.50.
"Andy Warhol's 'Frankenstein'" Bijou Theatre at midnight. \$2.50.

MUSIC

Saturday Market: Chris Sorenson and Friends. Noon. Free.
B.J. Kelly's: Gregg Tripp. Cover.
Jo Federigo's: Emmett Williams and Forrest Moyer. Free.
O'Callahan's: Hot Whacks. Cover.
The Place: Los Xplorers. Cover.
The Trawler: Mike and Carleen. Free.

THEATRE

"Marco Polo Sings a Solo" University Theatre. Pocket Playhouse. 8 p.m. University students \$2.75, general public \$4.50, other students \$3.50.
"Live Matinee" Cinema 7. 2 p.m. \$2.99.
"Taxi Tales" Oregon Repertory Theatre at midnight. \$3.50.
"Vanities" Oregon Repertory Theatre. 2 and 8 p.m. \$3.50 to \$7.

MISCELLANEOUS

Textile "Ask Us" sessions at the University art museum. 12:30 to 4 p.m. \$5 per item appraised.
"Uni-Con I," a science fiction convention with special guest Robert Anton Wilson at Grand Illusions. \$4 for lecture or other activities, \$6 for everything.
7th Annual Doll & Toy Festival at the Lane County Fairgrounds. Adults \$1, children 25 cents.

Eugene Country Dancers "Harvest Ball" at the Westmoreland Community Center. 7 p.m. \$7.
"Randy Hill's Magic Mania" Aunt Lucy's Wine Loft. \$3.
Just Friends on KWAX-FM (91.1). 9:30 p.m.

Sunday

FILM

"Interiors" 180 PLC. 7 and 9 p.m. \$1.50.
"Bad Timing: A Sensual Obsession" Cinema 7 at 7:30 with "The Innocent" at 9:40 p.m. \$3.
"Paths of Glory" Bijou Theatre at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. with "Burn!" at 3:30 (\$2) and 7:15. \$2.50.
"Andy Warhol's 'Frankenstein'" Bijou Theatre. 1 p.m. \$2.
Zoo Zoo's: Champagne brunch. 11 a.m.
B.J. Kelly's: This Side Up and Driving Sideways (anti-nuke benefit). Cover.
Jo Federigo's: Larry Natwick Trio. Free.
The Place: Los Xplorers. Cover.

THEATRE

"Vanities" Oregon Repertory Theatre. 2 and 8 p.m. \$3.50 to \$7.

MISCELLANEOUS

7th Annual Doll & Toy Festival. Lane County Fairgrounds. Adults \$1, children 25 cents.

Monday

FILM

"Bad Timing: A Sensual Obsession" Cinema 7 at 7:30 with "The Innocent" at 9:40 p.m. \$3.
"Paths of Glory" Bijou Theatre at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. with "Burn!" at 7:15. Students \$2, general admission \$2.50.

MUSIC

Original works by University composition students. Beall Hall. 8 p.m. Free.
B.J. Kelly's: Blues Jam. Cover.
Jo Federigo's: Larry Natwick Trio. Free.

THEATRE

"Vanities" (actors' benefit performance) Oregon Repertory Theatre. 2 and 8 p.m. \$3.50 to \$7.

Tuesday

FILM

"War Without Winners" EMU Forum. 2:45 p.m. Free.
"Unforgettable Fire" (slide show) EMU Room 110. 8:30 p.m. Free.
"The Atomic Age - A Trail of Victims" EMU Room 110. 9 p.m. Free.
"Bad Timing: A Sensual Obsession" Cinema 7 at 7:30 with "The Innocent" at 9:40 p.m. \$3.
"Paths of Glory" Bijou Theatre at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. with "Burn!" at 7:15. \$2.50.

MUSIC

Keri Baim (organ). Beall Hall. 12:30 p.m. Free.
Bernard McWilliams (viola). Beall Hall. 8 p.m. Students free, general public \$2.
B.J. Kelly's: Robert Cray Blues Band. Cover.
Jo Federigo's: Klaus Roehm and Larry Natwick. Free.
O'Callahan's: Bosworth Brothers Band. Cover.

MISCELLANEOUS

Marge Percy, poetry reading concert. 150 Geology. 8 p.m. \$1.

Wednesday

FILM

"Hiroshima" EMU Forum. 2:30 p.m. Free.
"Bad Timing: A Sensual Obsession" Cinema 7 at 7:30 with "The Innocent" at 9:40 p.m. \$3.
"Paths of Glory" Bijou Theatre at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. with "Burn!" at 7:15. \$2.50.
"Andy Warhol's 'Frankenstein'" Bijou Theatre at midnight. 96 cents.

MUSIC

Daniel Sabo and Victoria Ebel (piano). Beall Hall. 8 p.m.
B.J. Kelly's: Robert Cray Blues Band. Cover.
Jo Federigo's: Klaus Roehm and Larry Natwick. Free.
O'Callahan's: Bosworth Brothers. Cover.

Compiled by Matt Meyer

Campus Information:

686-INFO, ask for tape 651

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