

Free cheese giveaway will continue

Following a controversy about the validity of the cheese and butter distribution at the University, the free giveaway returns this week.

A February debate about whether students should be eligible for the giveaway and whether it should be located on campus involved local, state and federal agencies, and halted the distribution for a time.

But the efforts of Bill Snyder, ASUO coordinator of student events, not only returned the giveaway to EMU, they also made it an official distribution center.

"Bill's hard work in this shouldn't be overlooked," says Sherri Schultz, ASUO vice president.

Being classified an official center means the campus giveaway will occur at the same time, and be advertised the same, as other distributions in Eugene.

In the past, the campus distribution was held after the others and the "menu" was determined by what was left over.

Also, being official may cut paperwork. Official distribution sites in Eugene have required people to sign statements that they meet necessary requirements. The past campus giveaways have also required students to show they qualified for financial aid.

The next giveaway will be Wednesday or Thursday in EMU, according to Snyder, and he's looking for help in making it a success.

The volunteers will be used today through Wednesday.

Anyone interested in helping can call Snyder at 686-3724 or stop by Suite 4, EMU.

Symposium set to study 'Herstory'

The 1984 Women's Symposium, which kicked off Sunday with an opening ceremony and a movie, gets into high gear with a parade from the University Bookstore to the EMU today at 9:30 a.m.

The march, called Herstory on Parade, earmarks today's theme — Herstory.

Other daily themes include politics, oppression, creativity and lifestyles. The week-long symposium culminates Saturday with a concert by gospel singer Rodena Preston.

Guest speakers, workshops, panel discussions and movies highlight the program.

Featured guests include Alta Jerry, founder and publisher of the first women's publishing company; Max Dashu, an independent historian and artist who developed "The Suppressed Histories Archives," a slide series designed to communicate information about women's history; and Gabriella Videla, a Chilean exile who works with women in the shantytowns of Cuernavaca, Mexico, in producing a monthly newsletter.

The majority of the week's events are free and will be held in the EMU. During evening activities, childcare will be provided.

Oregon Daily Emerald

Towing study elicits mixed reaction

By Michele Matassa
Of the Emerald

Almost five months after a city task team began investigating a deluge of complaints about impounding, parties involved in the controversy are clashing head-on in their reactions to the team's work.

The City Council adopted a towing ordinance Monday night, signing into law several "unlawful business practices" developed by the Towing Task Team in response to citizen complaints of abuse by property owners and towers.

In addition to outlawing such acts as towing an illegally parked vehicle when the owner is present and willing to take the car, the ordinance requires towers to notify police before towing and to identify the owner of the property from which the vehicle was impounded, if the impoundee asks.

"The only thing this ordinance did was authorize raising the impound rates," says Leon Swager, owner of Emerald Towing Co., which impounds for about 90 percent of the city's private parking lots.

Swager says the task team did nothing

to cool the heated controversy because enforcing the new regulations will only cost money for towers and, therefore, for towees.

The ordinance also will stir up its own trouble because it places all blame on towers and property owners, Swager says.

"They could give a hoot less about the property owner's problems," Swager says. "The only thing the city is interested in is 'Mr. Property Owner, we've got you. You're here, you're going to be here, we get your taxes.'"

Vic Mann, a Eugene Police Department lieutenant who received a flood of complaints last fall from unhappy impoundees, says impounding rates may increase because of the ordinance, but claims the money would be well-spent if shady business practices are eliminated.

"While it may result in higher costs to the towee, we're hopeful that it will result in fewer disputes," Mann says.

And that would be a welcome relief to Mann, whose experience with angry citizens prompted the formation of the task force.

Drivers now have a grievance system

through the list of unlawful business practices, and property owners can now choose to abandon impounding in lieu of \$25 citations issued by the police department, Mann says.

That citation option is a good way out for property owners who are tired of complaints about their towing policies, 7-11 manager Rita Scarpelli says.

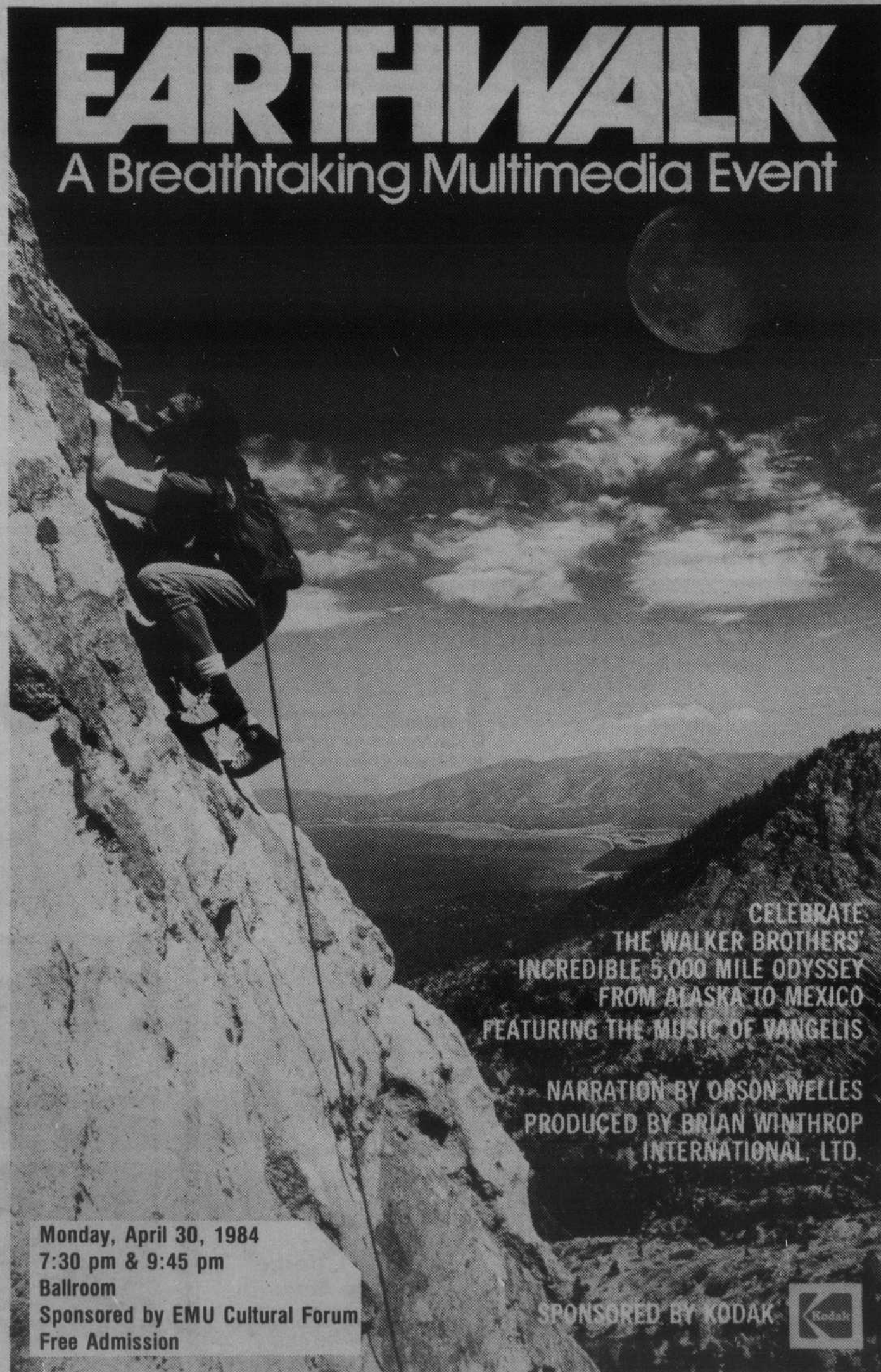
Scarpelli, who runs the campus store at the corner of 13th Avenue and Alder Street, cut off her towing service because misunderstandings resulted in bad publicity, she says.

"People don't see the merchant's side. . . . All they see is the fact that this mean person inside there is towing away poor innocent people," Scarpelli says.

But unlike Swager, she's happy with the new ordinance, she says.

Contrary to Scarpelli's belief, some impoundees are mad only at the towers, not at property owners, says Blanche Patterson, a former "victim" who served on the city task team.

"It has been a racket and I still feel that it's a racket," Patterson says, but the ordinance has given her a reason for hope.



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