

Former Olympian highlights Congress

A University alumnus who placed a close second to Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics is returning to campus for another Olympic event.



Mack Robinson

gram entitled "Peak Performance." The program will consist of a six-person panel discussion to begin at 4 p.m. in the EMU Dad's Room. Athletics

honor at a Eugene Hilton luncheon Wednesday in honor of his 70th birthday. He will arrive in Eugene tonight after serving as youth ambassador to the ARCO-Jesse Owens Games in Anchorage, Alaska.

Robinson ran just one stride away from Owens in the 200-meter run at the historic Berlin Games.

A native of Pasadena, Cal., Robinson earned conference championships in the low hurdles and the long jump during his two-year stay at the University. His efforts helped lead the Ducks to an undefeated dual meet season in 1938. Robinson, who transferred to the University from Pasadena Community College, also held a national AAU title in the 200-meter run.

Another member of Robinson's family has earned a niche in sports history. In 1947, his younger brother Jackie suited up with the Brooklyn Dodgers as a second baseman and became the first black to play major-league baseball.

West coach Doug Brown of Eugene will also be a panel-member.

Robinson will be guest of

Photo courtesy of University archives

Play's upfront messages are 'pertinent'

As the house lights dim, a casually dressed quartet of musicians wander onstage and go into a spontaneous version of the classic "Green Onions." The rest of the cast filters on in the same informal manner, and the band goes through a practice run of their song "Feel the Love." Joe, the band's manager, watches from stage left. The only person missing is the lead singer, Heather Jones.

Heather is a TV actress turned pop star whose success had been based on saccharine love songs and an unthreatening image. She's done a little growing, however, and a little learning since then. And now she's written a new collection of songs for a radically new act that she's ready to audition for Joe.

"I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the

she's trying to give her act meaning.

The conflict comes when Joe expresses his dissatisfaction with this new direction. He argues that Olivia Newton-John and Linda Ronstadt are not "ball-breakers," his term for independent women. It becomes evident that Joe represents the attitude Heather is addressing in her music.

The show moves quickly and defines the characters early on. The strongest character is, of course, Heather, played with confidence and assurance by Priscilla Lauris. Lauris provides a powerful, dynamic voice for the show's engaging musical numbers and carries that presence into her character. Her backup singers hold their own in the skits they perform together.

The sound is crisp and clean, which is vital to the production as the songs' lyrics contain much of the show's punch.

The only problems come when the band overpowers the singers, which is rare, and when the harmonies come a little off register, also rare.

Overall, director Lynda Czajkowska has created a well rehearsed aura of informality which makes the show feel genuinely spontaneous. She conversely has the cast heighten their acting style for the skits within Heather's act, making a solid distinction between the acting in the these routines and the acting of the characters.

By the end of the show, the manager-performer relationship in the act becomes an appropriate metaphor for the rela-



Emerald photo

Priscilla Lauris (center) shines as Heather Jones in the Robinson Theatre production of "I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On the Road."

Road" is the story of Heather's new outlook on life and relationships. The schlocky love songs that she used to sing now nauseate her. After an unsuccessful marriage and a hard look at herself, her parents, and society in general, she's ready to sing about what life is really about and how it could be better.

Her new act is a mix of upbeat songs with sharp, perceptive lyrics; soft, touching ballads; and short skits that both parody and define the problems she addresses in the songs. In short, Oregon Daily Emerald

The character of Joe the manager is sketchier than Heather. Bob Hirsh plays him as a diplomatic Dabney Coleman, with a little less presence and more understanding, but ultimately suffering from an inability to overcome his own prejudices. Hirsh does an admirable job of making Joe personable and likable despite his faults and despite the lack of depth the script provides.

The music is what keeps the show moving so quickly, and it provides the high points as well.

tionships of men and women, which is the focus of the show. Though a little short at an hour and a half, "I'm Getting My Act Together" is a pleasant show with wit, good music, a relaxed atmosphere, and an upfront but unforced message. Its "hip" message may be dated and obvious by now, but it doesn't make it any less pertinent.

The show plays July 19, 25 and 26 and Aug. 3, 4 and 10 at the Robinson Theatre. All performances are at 8 p.m. Call 686-4191 for ticket information.

By Sean Axmaker

George Rodé

• CLOSE TO CAMPUS •
N.I.A.S.E. Certified Technician

European Auto REPAIR

Tune-ups • Brakes • Fuel Injection

1917 Franklin Blvd. Eugene, Or. 97403 485-8226

SAN JUAN BIKE TOUR

August 31 - September 8

Lopez • Orcas
San Juan Island • Victoria

\$295 includes:
Transportation, Ferries, Food, Camping Fees, Butchart Gardens, Victoria Restaurant and Professional Leadership.

\$50 Deposit holds space

686-1775
6th & High

the

Hair Loft

for Men and Women

\$35. permanent wave for \$25. throughout the month of July . . .

when Hair Loft celebrates **10** years of the **best!**
We use only the **best** wave suited to your hair.

HAIRCUT EXTRA! No other discounts are valid on this offer.

2855 Willamette (across from Willamette Plaza) 686-1496
1259 Alder (across from Sacred Heart) 485-1202
430 Coburg Rd. (behind McAydeals Cleaners) 484-6445
19th St. (next to the Grant Grander) 484-2565

emu BREEZEWAY CAFE

for students on their way!
Breeze in — Take out!

Now Featuring:

**Soft Serve Frozen Yogurt
Yogurt Sandwiches**

PASTRIES muffins, donuts, croissants, etc.
GOURMET COFFEE 30¢ cup
ICE CREAM several flavors

BREAKTIME SPECIAL:
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
99¢ coffee & chocolate croissant

BREEZEWAY CAFE
formerly Baskin-Robbins
EMU Breezeway
Open 8:00-4:30, Monday thru Friday

