

Asbestos firms may be sued

From Emerald and AP wire reports

A federal judge has cleared the way for thousands of school districts across the nation to join a class-action suit seeking damages from 55 asbestos manufacturers in removing the substance from their buildings.

The suit, with almost \$1 billion at stake, will be the first nationwide class action for property damage in a products liability case, an attorney for some of the schools said.

U.S. District Judge James McGirr Kelly, in a ruling writ-

ten Friday and released Monday, granted the class-action status to three school districts in Pennsylvania and one in South Carolina that are trying to recover damages and the cost of removing the substance from their buildings.

Under Kelly's ruling, the suit automatically will add 36,000 public and non-profit schools that have been ordered to be tested for asbestos, including about 14,000 that the federal government says have asbestos in their ceilings or in insulation, the attorney, David Berger, said Monday night.

Locally, workers began removing asbestos from the east

wing exterior of the University's Science I building Sept. 24. According to the job contract, the \$107,020 project is expected to be completed around Oct. 15.

The project was initiated last spring when 259 students and faculty members petitioned the University to do something about the rapidly deteriorating asbestos coating on the structure.

Eventually, asbestos in the building's interior will also be removed. And the Physical Plant has a plan underway to identify other asbestos locations on campus.

Last week Muriel Jackson, University assistant for administration, said that an appropriate course of action with regard to other campus buildings will be determined after the current Science I project is completed.

Asbestos fibers, when inhaled, have been known to cause cancer and a variety of lung problems.

Harrah's cars auctioned off

SPARKS, Nev. (AP) — A car collector who sold a 1936 Duesenberg convertible in 1961

for \$5,000 has bought it back for \$800,000.

Jack Nethercutt, owner of Merle Norman Cosmetics, spent more than \$2 million for 19 cars at the two-day weekend auction of 335 cars from the Harrah's Automobile Collection.

The auction netted \$10.2 million for Holiday Inns, which is selling off most of the collection created by the late casino owner Bill Harrah. Holiday Inns now owns Harrah's casinos.

Holiday Inns plans to sell about 450 of the remaining 750 cars, with the others going into a permanent exhibit to be funded by donations.

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the Cutwater fortune.

The soul "transmigration" actually works... sort of.

Edwina just happens to pop up in the wrong body, the right side of Roger Cobb's to be exact. The initial adjustment opens the way for one of Martin's most successful bits of physical comedy as Edwina and Roger fight for control of his body. But when they do finally agree to work together, Edwina still walks like a socialite — much to Roger's embarrassment.

The craziness comes out when Edwina takes control and Martin pulls off two characterizations in one body. His finest moment occurs during a court case where Roger dozes off and Edwina attempts to try the case.

That's about as good as the film gets, however. The script, by Phil Alden Robinson, opens up wonderful opportunities for physical comedy but fails to develop any outstanding jokes or offhand witticisms. The plot complications are fairly predictable and the ending is contrived.

Under a lesser cast this film could have fallen flat, but Martin and Tomlin (in her limited role) bring out the best and attempt to skip over the rough ground.

There are too many missed opportunities in "All of Me" to hype it as a great comedy. The manic intensity and creative spark seen in earlier Martin-Reiner comedies, particularly the underrated "The Man with Two Brains," is noticeably absent from this effort, making the picture more "commercial" but less inspired.

One thing is for sure: "All of Me" seems destined to improve the flagging careers of Martin and Tomlin. It's just too bad Universal decided to play it safe, because Martin could have used this kind of push in a better effort.

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