

National acting contest comes next

Theater students win regional competition

By Thomas Henderson
Of the Emerald

Theater student Joel Morello, winner of the regional Irene Ryan Scholarship Award for Acting Excellence last month, will compete at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., April 21 for the national title.

Morello received the award for his performance at the Northwest Drama Conference and 17th annual American College Theater Festival at Western Oregon State College in Monmouth.

Morello, a senior, and acting partner Shane Henry presented scenes from the

plays "Excursion Fare" and "The Miser." Henry will accompany Morello to Washington to compete for one of two national Irene Ryan Awards.

The \$2,500 scholarships were created by the late Irene Ryan, best known as Granny from the 1960s television series "The Beverly Hillbillies."

"Excursion Fare," an original comic-drama by former University graduate student Dennis Smith, was named the year's best original play in the Northwest region after competition with 50 other productions.

The cast and crew of the play also will

perform at the Kennedy Center in April to compete for national honors.

The play, said University Theatre director Grant McKernie, "represents the best of university theater because it is a literate work that comments in a meaningful and sensitive way on the human condition."

With Morello's help, the University dominated the drama conference for the second year in a row. University Theatre tied its own record for placing the largest number of competitors from one school in the regional finals for the Irene Ryan Award. Theater students Mike Mac-


Donald, Bob Hirsh and Kimberly Anderson were runners-up for the Ryan award.

Almost 700 theater students from more than 25 Northwest colleges and universities competed at the conference.

Anderson, a junior, was last seen on the University stage as Amelia Earhart in "Excursion Fare" and was the acting partner last year of Cynthia Blaise, 1985's regional winner in the scholarship competition.

Anderson's acting partner this year, Eric Johnson, was named best partner. Both Anderson and Johnson received cash awards.

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Microcomputer lab has help for buyers

By Holly Loftin
Of the Emerald

The computing center's support lab offers hands-on experience and unbiased consulting for people considering the purchase of a microcomputer through the bookstore's special discount plan that began last fall.

The non-profit microcomputer support lab gives qualified consumers the chance to try out various computers to find ones that fit their needs. The lab offers an alternative to the sales pressure of retail outlets, says Kathy Heerema, microcomputer support coordinator. "People don't need to feel intimidated," Heerema says.

Oregon's eight state-funded colleges and universities participate in a purchase plan that offers discounts to students, faculty and staff. The bookstore has contracts with Apple Computers, Zenith, International Business Machines Corp. and Hewlett-Packard that enable qualified people to purchase computers and accessories at prices well below retail.

"The support lab is a place where people who are thinking of participating in the purchase plan but need advice can ask questions and get demonstrations of the machines," Heerema says. "The idea behind the lab is to offer a place for independent, competent advice with no sales pressure."

Jim Williams, bookstore general manager, calls the support lab a real benefit. He says

the computer center has technical information about the computers that the bookstore doesn't have. "The computing center also doesn't have biases. It's a unique way for the consumer to get information," Williams says.

The support lab is available to everybody, even if they are not eligible for the purchase plan. "Anyone with any kind of question on microcomputers, whether or not his computer is offered by the plan, can come into the support lab and get help," Heerema says.

"The lab is not just there for problems. Questions such as 'What else can I do with it?' are answered along with questions on additional software," Heerema says.

The lab also distributes computers purchased through the discount plan. When the computers arrive at the University, the lab staff holds orientation sessions for new owners. And if the owners have mechanical problems with their machines, the staff will direct them to the appropriate warranty service.

Since the beginning of the purchase plan in October, the bookstore has received 200 computer orders, 156 of which have been delivered, says Williams. Apple and IBM computers are most popular at the bookstore.

Information on eligibility, prices and ordering procedures is available at the bookstore's electronic counter or in the computing center.

Magician

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somebody and say, 'I want to learn. I'm sincere.'"

And Levin says many aspiring magicians make the mistake of thinking the actual tricks are the most important aspect of

magic. "It's not the trick," Levin says, "it's the presentation. You can go to any magic book and learn magic tricks, but it's the presentation that's really significant. That's what the guy in Chicago taught me."

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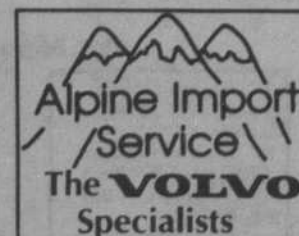
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