

Syngenetic Ice Wedges from Alaska win College Bowl title

By Michael Fisher

Of the Emerald

"You're in them if you get caught between Scylla and Charybdis, and you're listening to them if you're hearing 'Money for Nothing.' Name them."

They hung back, waited for the other team to make mistakes, then calmly executed their game plan.

"Dire Straits," answered the University of Alaska-Fairbanks team at the regional College Bowl finals at the EMU Saturday. In this fashion, the Alaskans captured the title, beating the University of Washington 145-100.

No one expected us to win, and neither did we," said Mike Fontana, one of the UA-F's Syngenetic Ice Wedges of the Late Holocene. "We just came down here to have some fun and get away from the snow."

Eleven teams from colleges in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska, including one from the University, competed in "The Varsity Sport of the Mind," as it is known. Each team qualified by winning its campus tournament.

The University's Gang of Four, which beat the University Inn's team to gain a spot in the regionals, finished in seventh place. The team lost its first match to Idaho State University, but defeated Southern Oregon State University in the consol-



Photo by Derrel Hewitt

Curtis Schmelling and Tom Utterback from Whitman College battle for the College Bowl title during the final competition held Saturday in the EMU.

tion bracket before falling to the University of Puget Sound.

Dave Boyes, Steve Van Devender, Mark Curnell and Mike Maude constituted the Gang of Four, with Tammy Yorba as alternate.

The game involves teams of four answering trivia questions on sports, entertainment, literature and a variety of other subjects. It originated as a television show in the 1960s

and has regained popularity over the past 10 years.

The Ice Wedges — Mike Fontana, Dave Rausch, Jim Menard and team captain Henry de Ment — said awareness of each member's strong subjects helped them the most.

"Our game strategy was to let the one who knew the most about each subject answer each question," Fontana said.

Presentation focuses on legal aspects of family issues for gays and lesbians

By Kirsten Bolin

Of the Emerald

Although artificial insemination, parenting and adoption are pertinent issues to gays and lesbians, these practices are often viewed as departures from general legal procedure, said Gretchen Miller, a University law professor and Eugene attorney.

The legal issues surrounding gay and lesbian families are often ignored by state laws and statutes because this legislation was created only for people in traditional nuclear families, Miller told about 30 people Saturday during a presentation of legal issues that confront gay couples and families.

"The first responsibility is being aware of what the law provides," Miller said. "But we're not just stuck with what the legislation says — we can use our own tools."

Lesbian couples can encounter legal difficulties when a child is conceived by artificial insemination from a known donor, she said.

Problems arise when the father wants some parental rights to the child, but the mother wants these rights exclusively, Miller

said.

Even if a verbal contract giving exclusive rights to the mother was agreed upon beforehand, the courts will probably rule in the father's favor if he changes his mind and wants to play some role in the child's life, she said.

With gay or lesbian couples who have children, the non-biological partner has no inherent rights to the child if the couple breaks up, even if a lot of time, money and energy has been invested, Miller said.

In these relationships, the non-biological partner is advised to enter into a legal agreement with the biological parent that would give him or her some rights to the child in the event of a breakup.

Regarding adoption, gays and lesbians have the legal right to adopt children, despite public uncertainty about the issue, Miller said. In Oregon, the law gives any adult the right to petition to adopt another person and take on those responsibilities.

Miller's presentation was sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Law Students Association.

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