

Symposium highlights folklore: from graffiti to storytelling dolls

By Laurie Schwartz

Of the Emerald

"It won't be long now," said the monkey when he caught his tail in a lawn mower.

You might be surprised what folklorists study. In addition to proverbial sayings like the one above, folklorists also study jokes, anecdotes, songs, graffiti, riddles, stories, dancing and anything else that reflects the interaction of human beings through traditional forms.

Upcoming events in the Folklore Symposium currently underway at the University include a slide show about a Southwest Indian woman who invented a new form of ceramics, a lecture and demonstration by a former professional violinist who became enamored with Southern folk fiddling and a highly regarded movie about subway graffiti artists in New York City.

Many scholars used to think folklore consisted of anonymous, repetitious and conformist artifacts from backward, uneducated communities, said Robert Georges, a UCLA professor who gave the keynote address Wednesday.

But folklore is found in all societies and is a creative and constantly evolving process, he said.

Jokes reflect the rapidity with which humans respond creatively to issues, he said. Jokes about the Challenger disaster ("What does NASA stand for? Need Another Seven Astronauts"), for example, may be an attempt to defuse the hostility that tragedy breeds, he said.

The Folklore Symposium continues today with Barbara Babcock, a professor from the University of Arizona, showing slides of ceramic storytelling dolls, an art form that Pueblo potter Helen Cordero initiated in 1964. Now 200 other potters in the Rio Grande pueblos make these dolls.

Babcock will lecture about how the new art form challenged traditional gender roles in the pueblo, and about the social, political and economic implications. The event will begin at 3:30 in Room 204 of Condon Hall.

Before Cordero started making storytelling dolls, "all Pueblo figurines were dismissed (by art dealers) as just tourist art, as junk, and now it's fine art," Babcock said in an interview Wednesday.

Cordero's dolls sell for \$3,500 to \$7,000. The dolls have led to financial independence for many of the women potters in the pueblos, and have in a sub-



Courtesy Photo

Ceramic storytelling dolls, such as the ones created by Helen Cordero, have led to financial independence for many of the women potters in the pueblo.

tle way disrupted the power balance between men and women, Babcock said.

Babcock says that although she is an outsider, she has a mother/daughter relationship with Cordero, who is in her 70s. "Sometimes I feel as if I'm nothing but her press agent," Babcock joked.

Alan Jabbour, director of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, will speak Friday at 3:30 about the distinctive fiddling styles in the South as an example of folk creativity.

Jabbour will demonstrate some of his points with his fiddle during his presentation, which will be held in Room 129 at the Law Center.

Originally from Florida, Jabbour played in symphonies as a violinist when he was young, but was drawn to the folk music of the South. He traveled through small towns in the South, asking at country stores where he could find fiddlers.

"Many of the older musicians felt like nobody was learning their art and passing it on," he said. Jabbour played fiddle with

them and recorded their tunes for archives.

At 8 p.m. Friday, "Style Wars," an hour-long documentary about subway graffiti, breakdancing and rapping will be shown in Room 129 at the Law Center.

HEADED FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL?

The Graduate Exam Preparation Program offered through Academic Learning Services is getting rave reviews!

GRE preparation begins April 2
GMAT preparation begins May 11
LSAT preparation begins May 19

Register this week at the Academic Learning Services, 108 Library 686-3226

HAIR TODAY

Haircut \$12.95

Includes Shampoo, Conditioning and Precision Cut

Special Sale Days

Monday and Thursday

\$10.95

All Cuts Are
✓ Professional
✓ 100% satisfaction guaranteed

561 E. 13th (across from Max's)

Open Saturdays

485-4422

Free Parking



UO Bookstore

Northwest Bestsellers

Week of March 30 - April 3, 1987
Hardcover

NON-FICTION

1. **How To Be Your Own Nutritionist**
by Stuart Berger
2. **Fitzgeralds And The Kennedys**
by Doris Goodwin
3. **Betty: Glad Awakening**
by Betty Ford
4. **Dancing On My Grave**
by Gelsey Kirkland
5. **Wintergreen**
by Robert Pyle
6. **Echoes In The Darkness**
by Joseph Wambaugh
7. **This 'N That**
by Bette Davis
8. **Reckoning**
by David Halberstam
9. **Communion**
by Whitley Streiber
10. **Season On The Brink**
by John Feinstein

FICTION

1. **Fine Things**
by Danielle Steel
2. **Bolt** by Dick Francis
3. **Windmills Of The Gods**
by Sidney Sheldon
4. **Red Storm Rising**
by Tom Clancy
5. **Eyes Of The Dragon**
by Stephen King
6. **Santorini**
by Alistair MacLean
7. **Watchers** by Dean Koontz
8. **It** by Stephen King
9. **Anywhere But Here**
by Mona Simpson
10. **Only When I Laugh**
by Len Deighton

UO 13th & Kincaid
BOOKSTORE M-F 7:30-5:30
SAT 10:00-4:00
686-4331

RESUMES

Give your resume a professional look by having it typeset at the Oregon Daily Emerald's **Letter Perfect Graphics** located in Suite 300, EMU, or call 686-5511

Monitor this Situation and Save

\$1695
30MB
Fixed Disk Model "D"
with monochrome monitor
and Leading Edge® Word Processing
with Spelling Correction

\$795

That's the incredible special introductory price of this Leading Edge® Model "D"® Personal Computer

It comes complete with 512K RAM, one disk drive, parallel and serial ports, four expansion slots, monochrome and color graphics outputs, a Selectric®-style keyboard, a time of day clock/calendar, and an unprecedented 15-month warranty.

As you can plainly see, however, it doesn't come with a monitor.

But since it already comes with the circuitry necessary for monochrome graphics, including Hercules™ graphics emulation, and color graphics, we figured we'd leave that part up to you. You add the monitor you want. You add up the savings.

Come in and see the Leading Edge Computers and see why people are saying "when it comes to computers and software, Software Express is the place to go!" We're in Delta Village across from Valley River Center. 342-1298



One Stop
Computer
and Software
Store

software
Express

Open: Mon.-Sat. 10-6

Leading Edge and Logo and Model "D" are registered trademarks and Model "D2" is a trademark of Leading Edge Products, Inc. AT and Selectric are registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corp. Hercules is a trademark of Hercules Computer Technology.
©1987 Leading Edge Hardware Products, Inc.

Coming Soon:
The Leading Edge® Model "D2"™
Personal Computer
An affordable
AT compatible