

New theater group to perform 'Alice in Blunderland'

By Matthew Rendall
Of the Emerald

"Alice in Blunderland," a "musical peace play" directed by University graduate student Maurice Gauthier, will be performed this weekend in the EMU Forum Room. It is the first production of the new Eugene community theater group UNITY PLAYERS.

With musical interludes of singing, piano and soft guitar, the allegorical play tells the story of a girl's visit to "Blunderland," a country

threatened by greedy merchants of "fairy dust."

Created by an Ohio group called Legacy, "Alice" reflects traditional liberal perceptions and criticisms of the arms race. Actor Stephen White, who plays the Walrus, said its "main message" lies in the growth of social awareness in its protagonist.

Susanne Beaman plays a Flower, Olivia Newton-Oyster. Beaman appeared as the Mother in the University Theatre production of "Manarquik."

However, most of the UNITY PLAYERS are new to the stage. Children play several small "gnomes."

UNITY PLAYERS, according to the group's press release, "is one of over 160 groups across the U.S. and in five foreign countries" to produce "Alice." Several local "peace groups" have cosponsored the play and will send representatives to the production.

The theater group hopes to produce more plays in the future, White said. He mention-

ed that other playwrights had already made contact with him.

"This is all very much a beginning," he said.

Despite "Alice's" thinly veiled allegory, White said the production's goal was not to propound a specific political philosophy, but to raise consciousness.

"For me," White said, "it was part of my efforts for the peace movement to do this." The play, he commented, may be more politically "galvanizing" for its performers than for

its audience.

That "Alice" might be preaching to the converted did not appear to concern White. "Oh no. In fact, we hope our friends will come," he said.

"Alice" will be performed in the Forum Room on the ground floor of the EMU Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door beginning an hour before the performance. They cost \$1 for adults, \$.50 for children, and \$2 for families.

ASUO appointments announced by Brooks

ASUO President Kasey Brooks announced appointments to three different student government bodies Thursday night.

Margaret Costigan was appointed to the newly created Counseling Center Advisory Board, and Dan Stotter was appointed as the Riverfront Park Research Liaison.

Stotter was one of the organizers of a ballot measure to prohibit research park development on the southbank riverside field. The measure passed in the April ASUO elections.

Brooks also appointed two students to the Oregon Daily Emerald board of directors. The one-year position will be filled by James Randall, a former chairman of the Incidental Fee Committee. The two-year seat belongs to Duane Dungannon, a student senator and editor of the Oregon Commentator.

These appointments do not require approval by the student senate, Brooks said. This is because there are no provisions for senate approval in the ASUO Constitution, she said.

Brooks plans to present appointments to Student Projects, Inc., the ASUO Health Insurance Committee and the Constitution Court at today's student senate meeting, she said.

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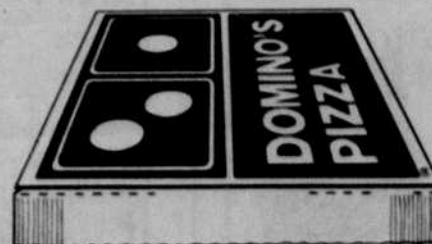


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