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Convocation commemorates U.S. Constitution

Large University crowd hears scholar discuss document, its birthday and its intents

By Mike Drummond
Emerald Associate Editor

The "unique American idea of constitutionalism" came to the fore when Stanley Katz, legal historian and president of the American Council of Learned Societies, gave the keynote address at this year's fall convocation.

The theme of this year's convocation — celebrating the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution — drew a full crowd at the EMU Ballroom Monday afternoon.

Flanked by President Paul Olum, ASUO President Kasey Brooks, law professor James O'Fallon, and Law School Dean Maurice Holland, Katz took the microphone after being introduced by his friend and University history professor Richard Brown.

Katz, in his speech entitled "Beyond Confederation: Origins of the Constitution and American National Identity," offered an historical dissertation of the American Constitution, and followed its development through two centuries of political and social change.

Katz said the document on which this nation was founded had its origins in England's

Katz noted the inherent contradiction in U.S. constitu-

tionalism: In retrospect the document seems to follow a "fundamentalist, antirevolutionary tradition," but the Declaration of Independence evokes the contrary, he said.

"The Constitution stands as a bulwark against revolution on the one hand and legislative sovereignty on the other," Katz said.

American response to the English constitution contained a radical change in that laws were drafted by popular consent, rather than resting on the dictates of parliament, Katz added.

Moving from an historical analysis to a contemporary prognosis of the Constitution, Katz cited two differing views of America's most important document.

Katz quoted from President Reagan's Constitutional Celebration address, when he stated, "The 1787 Constitution profoundly and forever altered not just these United States, but the world. In a very real sense, it was then in 1787 that the Revolution truly began. For it was with the writing of our Constitution that the hopes and dreams of the revolutionists could become a living and enduring reality."

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Rights commission opposes possible anti-cruising law

By Stephen Maher
Emerald Associate Editor

Although the future of cruising in Eugene may be in doubt, those who partake in such activities received a boost from a Eugene human rights commission Monday.

The Eugene Commission on the Rights of Youth passed a motion asking the Eugene City Council to examine the enforcement and social costs of a proposed anti-cruising ordinance before adopting such a law.

The proposed ordinance would prohibit the repeated driving of a motor vehicle along or across a "congested public thoroughfare" between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. Such roads would be posted with signs notifying drivers of its designation.

The proposed ordinance is being studied as a solution to the crime and traffic congestion problems which have plagued Willamette Street for years.

The City Council is expected to study the proposed ordinance

at an Oct. 21 work session. The ordinance is patterned after similar municipal codes around the country, including one in Portland.

But Commissioner Mikal Krummel said it was important for the city to weigh costs to the community other than enforcement costs and crime.

"Unless the city is willing to look at those other social costs, there's going to be problems elsewhere," Krummel said.

Commissioner Jon Silvermoon agreed with Krummel, saying he couldn't support the ordinance unless the community, including the private sector, provided other recreational activities for cruisers.

"I think there's an issue here about the community providing recreation," Silvermoon said.

Eugene Police Sgt. Tom Mason, head of the bureau's traffic enforcement unit, disagreed, saying the anti-cruising ordinance was necessary because everything else had failed.

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Photo by Jim Seufert

University President Paul Olum and ASUO President Casey Brooks looked on as Richard Brown (on the far left) spoke to Stanley Katz moments before Katz spoke Monday afternoon.

Electronic conferencing expands for University students on campus

By Kelvin Wee
Emerald Reporter

Electronic conferencing is fast becoming the new mode of communication at universities across the nation. In spring of this year, University students were introduced to their own conferencing system called Campus Information Exchange (CIE).

CIE was sponsored by the Oregon Computing Association until September this year when it became an independently recognized ASUO program. At present, CIE operates out of equipment at the University Computing Center, but will soon need to purchase its own computer to run the growing service.

"We will ideally be running off our own computer within the next two months," said Steven VanDevender, the computer director for CIE, "and although we are not too picky about what computer we may get, it will have to meet several of our needs."

VanDevender, a senior in Computer and Information Sciences, added that the computer has to be a time-sharing system capable of handling at least 20 users simultaneously and should have a

disk storage capacity of about 100 or more megabytes and a memory of about two or more megabytes.

CIE currently boasts a membership of 340 University students, faculty, staff and alumni. For these members, CIE provides a variety of conferences that caters to different interests and needs. Apart from personal letters that are sent from one member to another, there are conferences that deal with recreational and entertainment topics — such as sports, television shows, and humor — and others that provide information on minority issues, school affairs, health issues, classifieds and even jobs.

Until recently, CIE was primarily a source of information and entertainment for its members. A new feature was recently added on the system that will include conferences dealing with academics.

"We were approached by a couple of professors who wanted to have conferences where their students could obtain class notes or ask questions about the classes there," said Taimi Ames, CIE's internal director. "We feel that this is good for CIE in that it will not only boost our

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