



International Night

Performers at International Night '89 feasted on international cuisines backstage of the EMU Ballroom Sunday night. Traditions and cultures were shared during the sell-out show.

Photo by Maile Field

Students attend lobby conference

Seven University student government representatives spent spring break in Washington, D.C., to attend the United States Student Association's 20th Annual Legislative Conference, "Education: Empowerment for the Future."

They were ASUO President Karen Gaffney; IFC member and USSA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Caucus Executive Director Tim Hughes; IFC member and USSA People of Color Coalition Director Armando Morales; MEChA Director Ana Christiansen; ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Tim Goss; ASUO National Affairs Coordinator Cathline Williams; and, Student Senator Tiffany Weed.

The conference, organized to correspond with National Student Lobby Day, was comprised of workshops, general sessions and regional meetings, all with the intent of making each stu-

dent an expert on a specific subject before they set out to do the actual lobbying.

"Each time I attend the conference and lobby Congress it seems that students gain more credibility as lobbyists," she said. "Congress is beginning to recognize students as a political force, not just as a group that will be gone in four years."

Gaffney and Weed said the conference provided them with information on how other campuses are working to solve problems similar to those faced at the University.

"One of the highlights of the trip was to meet new students and bring back ideas that will help our university," Gaffney said.

Other highlights of the trip for Gaffney included moderating one of the general sessions and leading a lobby skills workshop.

Commissioners approve ice and equestrian arena

By Greg Hough
Emerald Reporter

Lane County Commissioners gave a green light Friday to converting the equestrian facility at the county fairgrounds into an ice arena.

After months of deliberation by county officials and horse arena proponents, the commissioners voted 3-2 to accept bids for both the ice arena and a new equestrian arena at the fairgrounds that will replace the current facility.

Commissioners Jerry Rust, John Ball and Steve Cornacchia voted for the renovation plans, while Bill Rogers and Ellie Dumdi dissented.

Cornacchia, who is commission chairman, announced his vote last during the three-hour meeting and found himself as the tie-breaker vote.

"Since I found I had the swing vote, I used the opportunity to try to get what I wanted done," Cornacchia said.

Cornacchia told the commissioners he wanted a guarantee of a warm-up area for the new equestrian facility, plus a provision for permanent stalls. He said equestrian groups have pointed to these amenities as vital to the successful operation of a new arena.

Peter Brandt, chairman of Friends For A Fair Fairgrounds, which has been fighting the ice arena idea, said he's optimistic that equestrian supporters will find the proposed new horse arena adequate. He hopes to iron out remaining

differences next week in meetings with commissioners, he added.

"I think that the board has shown a willingness to work with us," Brandt said. "I still don't agree with the ice plan — the feasibility study done said clearly ice isn't going to be profitable. I think that actually, in time, the (new) equestrian arena will be the real big thing for the fairgrounds."

Two feasibility studies were done on the proposal. The most recent, done by Property Counselors of Seattle, concluded last month that the \$2.2 million plan would make money if the ice rink could attract and accommodate a Western Hockey League franchise.

Brandt disagrees. "It's going to be real tough for the county to make it work," he said. "The facility is too small for professional hockey and ice shows, and too big for recreational skating."

"Everybody seems to have the concept that this is going to be like the Eugene Emeralds (baseball team), where you pay one or two dollars to go to the ballpark. Here, you'd be paying seven or eight dollars, and some of the seats won't be worth two cents because there'll be pillars (in the arena) in the way."

Bids on the new horse arena will be taken through next week, said Fair Manager Steve McCulloch. Eugene's 2-G Construction firm has become the apparent low bidder, he added.

Woman escapes attack

A female University student successfully fought off a potential attacker when he tried to abduct her Friday night.

The 21-year-old woman was walking in the vicinity of 13th Avenue and Moss Street shortly after 7:30 p.m. when a man parked on the street said he was having car trouble. He asked her for assistance, and when she was inside the car he began to drive off.

After grabbing the steering wheel and stepping on the brake, the woman opened the door and fell out of the

car as it was moving. As she fell she was caught in the seat belt and was dragged a short distance before freeing herself.

The suspect is described as being white, 30 to 35 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall with short, sandy colored hair and light-colored eyes. He was driving a two-door, maroon or burgundy car, described as either a Buick Le Sabre or a Cutlass Sierra, with license number CKT 367.

The car was last seen driving down 13th Avenue in the University area.

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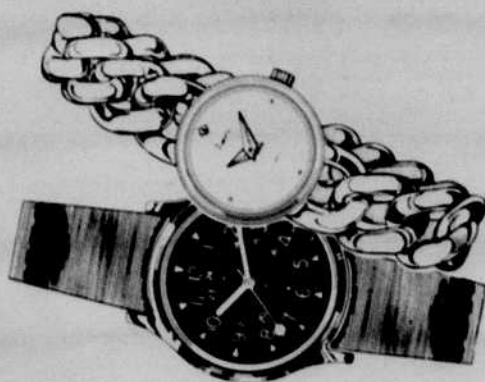
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