

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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## A little bit o' sunshine

While nicer weather seems to be losing its all-too-brief embrace of the Willamette Valley, enough was available Monday for some pleasant outside studying without the aid of an umbrella.

Photo by Mark Ylen

## Scripps writer calls media non-biased

By Stephanie Holland  
Emerald Reporter

The American public does not understand the media's goal of impartially covering the news, the chief political writer for Scripps Howard News Service said Monday evening.

Peter Brown spoke to about 75 people in the EMU Gumwood Room on the topic "The Media in 20th Century America: Whose Side are They on?" in the first of a series of lectures on ethical and social obligations of the news media.

Brown said most journalists have a strict ethical code, though this may not be evident to people who work outside of the journal-

ism field.

"And much of the reason ... is that those of you who consume the words written and spoken by my colleagues and myself have a much different way of looking at the world than do journalists," he said.

Most people are not taught to look at an issue from both sides, he said. The public looks at situations and then decides who is right and who is wrong.

After making a decision about an issue, it is difficult for someone to understand the other side, and even more difficult to understand how journalists could remain impartial about the issue, Brown said.

"In many ways, I think that

(the public's) outlook is a much healthier approach," he said.

Journalists, however, are taught to be neutral about issues, Brown said. Sometimes this means journalists must consciously attempt to remove their own opinions from the story.

"Many say ... that no one can be completely impartial," Brown said. "They may be correct. But I would argue that in the news columns of America's newspapers, and on the nightly TV news, the reports are generally pretty even-handed."

In exploring ethical issues involved in journalism, Brown said it is important to remember journal-

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## Carper reminisces on AIDS education efforts

### Tells of 3,000-mile trip to capitol

By June Russell  
Emerald Contributor

He sits in a corner of the couch, comfortable and relaxed. Sipping tea from the mug in his hand, he tells of marching in parades with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, of meeting with political leaders, state representatives and senators across the nation.

He tells of fatigue, fevers, shinsplints and sprained ankles. He tells of the successes, failures, frustrations, joys and pains of his journey to get his message to America.

Remembering, Richard Carper smiles. "Nothing stopped us," he said. "We survived."

In an effort to raise public awareness about AIDS and the

need for funding for long-term residential care facilities for persons with AIDS, Carper walked 3,300 miles to Washington, D.C., to bring President George Bush a scrolled letter signed by thousands of people he met on his journey across the nation. Carper returned to Eugene Sept. 17.

An AIDS activist since he tested HIV-positive in 1986, Carper conceived the idea for his Persons With AIDS Walk and Roll for Life '89 after his hunger strike last December. Frustrated, he said he chose to walk "to remind the federal government that they were committed to the fight against AIDS."

Although Bush acknowl-

edges \$1.3 billion allotted for AIDS research and education, no funds have been allocated for more than 2 million Americans who are HIV-positive and need long-term health care, Carper said.

He began his walk to Washington, D.C., from Portland May 1 with both political and personal goals. Carper said he planned to "raise awareness that because we have AIDS we don't have to lay down and die."

Carper said he chose a rural route to put a "face" on the disease, delivering 149 speeches and building up a letter writing campaign to the White House and Congress to bring attention to the need for funding of residential care facilities.

His goals, however, became



Graphic by Todd Peterson

more political as he began "realizing that I had to start painting pictures in peoples' minds on history that we are not learning from," he said, drawing an analogy between persons with AIDS and the Jews.

"If we as a nation sit silent

any longer, we are condoning murder," he said. "In the 30s a whole nation sat silent. They sat silent out of fear of revealing their religious beliefs. They were silent because of racism, and a lunatic came to power.

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## Slump in funding keeps center shut

By Catherine Hawley  
Emerald Reporter

The search for a way to find long-term funding for the Willamette Science and Technology Center (WISTEC) has been a struggle, but the science museum's personnel say they are cautiously optimistic it will reopen at the beginning of next year.

The museum, at 2300 Centennial Boulevard in Alton Baker Park, closed in August after a summer fund drive fell short of the amount needed to keep WISTEC's doors open.

Since then, WISTEC executive director Deborah Malchow-McCarty and Sharon McBurney, assistant director, have been trying to find stable financial backing for WISTEC from public and private sources.

The financial problems stem from debts incurred on several exhibits, McBurney said.

WISTEC runs on a budget of about \$170,000 a year. If most of one year's budget can be raised before January 1, the museum will have time to apply for grants, McBurney said.

"I know we can get grants," she said. "It just takes time to write them."

In addition to \$30,000 raised in the fund drive, WISTEC has received money totaling about \$60,000 from the Eugene and Springfield City Councils, the Lane County Board of Commissioners, Weyerhaeuser Co., Bohemia Inc., and private donors.

By mid-November the WISTEC staff should know if they will be able to open or if their doors will remain closed forever.

WISTEC is now looking for financial support from the University and Lane Community College, among other sources, McBurney said. The museum has also approached local school boards and asked them to increase their financial support by using WISTEC more often.

WISTEC will continue to rely on admission and membership fees to pay for about 25 percent of its costs.

"Of course, better exhibits will bring in more people and increase that percentage," McBurney said.

Negotiations have also been taking place to transfer WISTEC from the Lane County park system to Eugene's city park system. The transfer could benefit WISTEC if the city pays the museum's utility bills, McBurney said.

McBurney said WISTEC is getting plenty of support from the community.

"Wherever I go, I get a very positive response," she said. "I think people realize a museum enhances any community."