

Oregon DAILY EMERALD

Thursday, May 23, 1991

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 92, Issue 159



Jazz in the sunshine

Eric Richardson (left) and his brother Drumson, both freshmen at Lane Community College, entertain passersby at the corner of 15th Avenue and Alder Street on Wednesday afternoon.

Photo by Jeff Paslay

West University area goes down in history books

By Chris Nelson
Emerald Contributor

You may not have noticed, but since last week, chances are your house or apartment has found a place for itself in the history books.

On May 17, the State Historical Preservation Office agreed to put the entire West University neighborhood on the National Register as a multiple-property nomination, the first of its kind in Eugene.

The West University neighborhood is loosely bound by the University to the east, South Eugene High School to the south, Willamette Street to the west and Broadway to the north. The nomination includes about 60 blocks of residential and commercial buildings used primarily by students.

Five buildings in the neighborhood were specifically placed on the National Register, including the first-ever nominations for University greek houses: the Gamma Phi Beta house, 1021 Hilyard St.; the Chi Psi house, 1018 Hilyard St.; and the Alpha Phi house, 1050 Hilyard St.

The Dorris Apartments, 963 Ferry Lane, and Christian-Patterson Rental Property, 244 E. 16th St., also signed on to the National Register, while a vote on the Patterson-Stratten House, 1605 Pearl St., was delayed until more research could be completed.

City Planner Christine Taylor, who helped with the

Turn to HISTORIC, Page 4

Leonardo da Vinci alive and well at Robinson Theater

Professor breathes new life into original 'Renaissance man'

By Gerrit Koepping
Emerald Contributor

Art and science were melded together by Leonardo da Vinci at the Robinson Theater Wednesday night.

Dominic La Russo, a University of Oregon professor emeritus of speech and rhetoric and communication, assumed the guise of da Vinci.

The monologue, titled "Leonardo da Vinci: An In-Quest," is a search into the life of da Vinci, his philosophy, his life and times, and what made him who he was.

La Russo discussed da Vinci's belief that science and art were inherently related. Both, he said, "have a common goal, harmony and a common method, dedicated rigor." Both seek to find order because, he said, "it is our faith in order that allows us a degree of certainty."

La Russo elaborated more on da Vinci's linking of art and science when he said the artist needs the knowledge of the physical world before he can create.

"The artist must have the concept of the universe in his mind before it can come out of his hands."

On the other hand, La Russo said, scientists need



Professor emeritus Dominic La Russo portrayed Leonardo da Vinci on Wednesday night at the Robinson Theater, sharing insights into the inventor's life and beliefs.

creativity and the acceptance of their own humanity before they can invent.

Da Vinci lived in both the world of science and art, as both an inventor whose vision of future technology foresaw such things as the bicycle, and an artist famous for the paintings "Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper."

If there is a link between science and art it is likely language that binds the two, Da Vinci believed.

"There is a special affinity between language and painting, that affinity also exists between language and science," he said.

He said that both disciplines are subject to the same universal rules, one of which was the need for language.

Language allows for questions to be asked, and as La Russo said, "the question is always more important than the answer."

The play delves into what questions da Vinci asked and what made him what he was. La Russo traces da Vinci's life from birth to death in a monologue about the impressive figure.

La Russo talked about the turmoil both personally and globally that affected da Vinci. Born in 1452, during a period of political turmoil and intellectual growth, da Vinci saw the coming of the Inquisition and the rise and fall of many monarchs.

Da Vinci was born to an unmarried couple and the jeers of his half-brothers and sisters hurt him greatly.

He later studied art eventually opening his own workshop. Da Vinci quickly established himself as an artist and came to be known for his ability of introducing fresh insight. For instance, La Russo said da Vinci read from right to left because "it broke the chains of

Turn to DA VINCI, Page 4

International

SANGATTE, France (AP) — French and British workers today finished drilling the first main rail tunnel that will provide high-speed train service under the English Channel.

The breakthrough came at 11:30 a.m. (4:30 a.m. EDT) when the massive digging machine Europa chewed through the last few feet of

blue marl about 50 yards under the seabed, said the project's owner, Eurotunnel.

The channel tunnel — called a chunnel by many — is the world's largest engineering project.

When completed in 1993, it will permit high-speed trains to travel between London and Paris in 3½ hours — half the time it now takes to travel between the cities by train and ferry.

The most dramatic linkup

came last fall, when workers connected the small maintenance tunnel serving the two main rail tunnels. It gave Britain its first land bridge with mainland Europe since the last Ice Age, 8,000 years ago.

Sports

The Club Sports hockey team, having just completed its second short season, has

already made plans to join other West Coast college hockey teams in forming a club conference.

The hockey program, started by student Scott Brown last year, is taking off because of his and new coach Mike Sobol's efforts to promote the team in the community.

See story, Page 6

The Oregon track teams

have their last chances to gain NCAA qualifiers at tonight's Les Steers Open at Hayward Field. The meet begins at 5 p.m.

See stories, pages 7 and 8

Oregon's men's golf team opens NCAA West Regional play in Albuquerque, N.M. The Ducks are hoping to finish in the top nine to return to the NCAA Championships for the second straight season.