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UNIVERSITY

PC obscures issues, speaker says

By Jacqueline Woge
Emerald Contributor

To many, the acronym PC stands for "personal computer." To others, PC also stands for "politically correct." Catharine Stimpson, a nationally recognized authority on academic freedom, said she hopes in the future, PC will stand for "plenty of cultures" or "politically civil."

Stimpson, vice provost and graduate dean at Rutgers University, commented on political correctness and academic freedom in a colloquium Thursday in Room 150 Columbia.

In a tightly structured presentation, Stimpson explained the history of the term PC, sketched some of the realities of the American campus and offered a vision of culture that transcends the world of cultural conflict that created political correctness and the issues surrounding it.

"The term PC is now decades old and has had more lives than the cartoon character, Wyle E. Coyote," Stimpson said.

The term changed from describing someone who was stuck on party lines, to slang for someone who accepts all minority causes, to being a

shorthand means for political conservatives to dismiss things, such as affirmative action, Stimpson said.

"There are now two opposing camps of PCers," she said. The two include those championing minority causes and those supporting individual rights, religion and family.

"Simultaneously, the concept of diversity itself is more diverse," Stimpson said, noting that the term "minority" is also more complex. "A lot of things are being jumbled together, including animal rights, civil rights, environmentalism and gay and lesbian issues."

"Stereotypes are blinder than love and far more dangerous," she said.

"What do minority rights have in common?" asked Stimpson of the audience. "They're challenges. On campus, they're calling for change in the direction of curriculum."

Still, "Shakespeare hasn't disappeared, but new questions are being asked" about sexism and anti-semitism in his writing and about others.

"I hope that higher education can set a standard for change," Stimpson said, beginning to outline her vision.

"For every smug politically correct person, there is a smug



Catharine Stimpson

politically incorrect person," she said.

"Being a cultural democracy is often exhausting and irritating," she said. "It's much harder than buying ethnic goods from a mail order catalog or watching *Dances With Wolves*."

Stimpson explained that she does see "a new center evolving in higher education," one where people speak and listen to each other.

"If we move beyond Mr. and Ms. PC, we will have more freedom... a more interesting public culture," she said. "We will not live unless we live and let live."

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Journalist to speak on war, abortion

Ask most newspaper editors to name the story of the year and they'll probably say the Persian Gulf War. Ask Steven Smith and you may get a vote for the abortion clinic protests in Wichita, Kan., which began last July and led to more than 2,600 arrests.

lic lecture today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 129 of the law school.

"War in the Gulf, Trouble in the Streets: Lessons from the 1991 News Year" will be the first Chandler Lecture, an annual series made possible by a gift from Robert Chandler, editor of *The Bulletin* in Bend.

Smith's appearance is part of the School of Journalism's 75th anniversary celebration.



Steven Smith

Smith, managing editor of *The Wichita Eagle*, will describe the frustration and exhilaration of covering the Operation Rescue story in a free pub-

Smith, a Portland native, is a graduate of the University. He began his newspaper career in 1968 as the editor of the South Eugene High School newspaper, *The Axe*.

RELIGIOUS DIRECTORY

A reader's guide to local places of worship and counsel.

CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

1850 Emerald Street
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MASS SCHEDULE:

Sunday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday 5:10 p.m. Evening Prayer followed by Mass
EVERY WEDNESDAY
STUDENT MASS AT 9:00 P.M.
Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

YOUNG LIFE

College Fellowship
Every Thursday
Night at 6:30 p.m.
At
Young Life House
417 E. 13th
342-7513

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday Morning
Education Hour 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Greg Flint
Rev. Doug Smyth
phone: 345-8741
Corner of 23rd and Harris
5 blocks from campus

Episcopal Campus Ministries

1329 E. 19th
686-9972

Thursdays:
5:30 Eucharist Supper
7:15 Class on "What is Anglicanism"
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The Wesley Foundation

United Methodist Campus Ministry
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Fellowship Group
Wed. 7:00 p.m.

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POLICE BEAT

Knife pulled on students

The following incidents were reported to the Eugene Police Department from Oct. 22nd to the 29th.

The theft of a Honda self-powered mower was reported on Oct. 22 by a University Physical Plant employee. The mower was valued at about \$850. The mower was stored in the Physical Plant's maintenance building at 1657 Agate St. and was stolen sometime between Wednesday, Oct. 9 and Thursday, Oct. 17. The police have no suspects.

Computer discs were reported stolen on Wednesday, Oct. 22 from the office of Sharon Yoder, adjunct associate professor for the Center for Advanced Technology in Education. The discs, which included a word-processing program, were valued at \$500. Yoder said in the police report she had left her office in the Agate buildings on Tuesday, Oct. 21 to

do some photocopying and when she returned the discs were gone. The police have no suspects.

A man with a knife menaced two University students Wednesday, Oct. 22. David Christopher Primozich, 20, of 15th Avenue and Mill Street, told police he and Renee Dugan, 22, were walking north on Mill, approaching East 17th Avenue when an unidentified white male crossed Mill and began walking behind them. According to police reports Primozich heard a "click" and without turning around he asked if everything was OK. Primozich said the response was, "it'll be pretty good in a couple of minutes." Primozich turned and the suspect held out a knife so it could be seen. According to police reports, the suspect then walked away after saying, "have a few nightmares on me."

LETTER PERFECT

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