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Don't drop it



Photo by Jeff Paslay
Tyler Carlson (right), helps fellow architecture student Kahsoon Wong with Wong's creation, a glass table top. Wong made the table top at the EMU Craft Center.

High court comes to campus

□ Students, public get to see the Oregon Supreme Court in action

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

The Oregon Supreme Court held its annual visit to Eugene Monday, as part of the University School of Law's legal writing and research program.

The six-man, one-woman court held sessions from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Orlando J. Hollis Courtroom in Room 221 Law Center.

The courtroom was filled mostly by students in the law school's legal writing program, who were required to attend. But the Eugene visit also gave members of the public a chance to see the court in action.

During the morning session the court heard two cases. The first, *State vs. McDonnell*, was an automatic death sentence appeal from an aggravated murder conviction in which the court will decide, among other things, whether the defendant's counsel acted in his client's best interest by making a plea bargain with the district attorney.

The second case was *Porter vs. Hill*, involving

Charles Porter, a Eugene lawyer. The legal issues in this case revolve around whether an allegation that the plaintiff filed a lawsuit on a nonexistent debt supports a claim under the Unlawful Debt Collection Practices Act.

In the afternoon session, the first appeal was the case of *Toole vs. FBI Companies*. The case concerns the application of the Oregon Worker's Compensation Law to settlement proceeds of both an attorney malpractice action and a personal injury claim.

In the final case, *SER Mickleson vs. Hill*, the court heard arguments on whether ability to pay is an acceptable defense against criminal contempt for failure to pay child support.

The court will take the arguments for each of these cases under advisement and is expected to render decisions on them within the next year. A majority of justices must agree before a judgment can be given.

The Oregon Supreme Court is composed of seven justices elected by nonpartisan, statewide ballot to serve six-year terms. The members of the court elect one of their number to serve as chief justice for a six-year term.

The court has its headquarters and courtroom in the Supreme Court building just east of the Oregon State Capitol in Salem.

PC virus gobbles data, wants more

□ The clock is ticking toward computer bug's attack date

By Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Reporter

A potentially disastrous virus dubbed "Michelangelo" has infected millions of personal IBM-compatible computers worldwide and is set to cause massive data corruption on March 6, the 16th century painter's birthday.

Although the virus is estimat-

ed to have infected over 5 million IBM personal computers so far, experts say practicing safe computing can safeguard against most man-made viruses, including this one.

"This is one of the most widespread viruses," computer specialist John McAfee told the Associated Press. "It's out there in a large way and could cause lots of damage if it isn't stopped."

This rapidly-spreading virus infects personal computers and then lies dormant until the internal clock reads March 6. The

virus only affects IBM and IBM-compatible personal computers, relying on their standard operating system known as DOS.

The virus is poised to totally garble data on infected hard disks on Friday unless precautions are taken. The virus can be detected and removed by most anti-virus software made after 1991.

Anti-virus software is available for copy at the University's Computing Center, said Linda

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New theater group performs plays of minorities

□ Local organization seeks to explain diverse backgrounds, provide outlet for non-white actors

By Hope Neelson
Emerald Reporter

It's about spreading history. But more specifically, it's the history of minorities.

A new organization called the Martin Luther King Theater Group gave its second performance at the downtown Cabaret Theater in Eugene to a sellout crowd last Sunday.

The first play, *In White America*, stars three African-Americans and three Caucasians portraying the struggles of African-Americans in their effort to gain social equality with whites.

Director Bridgette Jackson-Fahnbulleh said the group plans on doing plays which help to explain the more diverse backgrounds of minorities — namely African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latin Americans and Native Americans.

"We are focusing on people who are left out of the mainstream theater," she said. "People who need a voice."

In *In White America*, actors describe recollections of slavery, such as being chained by the hands and feet to ships and being force-fed. Slave chambers are

describes as hot, feverish, and like the floor of a slaughter house.

Slave owners give other monologues, including correspondence between a former slave who has been freed and a former slave owner.

The owner implores the former slave to come back, saying she raised her slave's children like her own. The former slave retorts in his letter, "Woman, did you raise your own children for the marketplace? Did you raise them for the whipping post?"

The MLK Theater Group will perform *In White America* March 15 in Condon School, for \$5 a ticket. For information call 344-2968.

Jackson-Fahnbulleh said Eugene theater already does a good job of attracting outside talent and putting on such traditional favorites as *Hello Dolly* and *West Side Story*.

But, Jackson-Fahnbulleh said, the MLK group wants to encourage local artists because she believes Eugene doesn't do enough for local talent.

"We tend to lose a lot of good local people who go to Portland or out of town, because they are not recognized locally," she said.

One local actress in the MLK group, Ruby Mathews, said she loves the creative outlet the group provides for her.

The work the group does is particular-

ly meaningful to her, Mathews said, because of the importance of the subject.

"Most of us really don't know a lot about black history," she said. "I learned a lot just from learning the script."

Another actress, Paulette Ansari, normally works in the Springfield School district, and performed in the local storytelling festival this year.

Ansari recalled a time when she opened up a textbook and read how blacks didn't contribute to American society.

"We're talking 400 years and we haven't contributed anything according to the textbook," she said.

The plays performed by the MLK group are a way of changing that kind of thinking, Ansari said.

"The more people are aware of our history, the more they are going to be able to appreciate each other," Ansari said.

Jackson-Fahnbulleh said the group will now perform wherever they can, and they are "fundraising like crazy" to keep going.

The group had been working for two years to get enough money to start performing, Jackson-Fahnbulleh said. But they got turned down for all the grants except one. Groups like the McKenzie River Gathering and Oregon State Com-

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Photo by Michael Shindler
Maya Francine Thomas recollects slavery in *In White America*, which portrays the struggles of African-Americans in their effort to gain social equality with whites.