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Lecture format endorsed as valuable learning tool

□ Instructors are taking steps to encourage better attendance at lectures

By Lisa Miligan
Emerald Associate Editor

Although close to 500 students are enrolled in freshman Lynette Young's geology class, only about 40 percent usually attend the lectures.

A large number of the students that do come spend more time dozing off or writing letters than taking notes. Young rarely sits in the back of the class because the noise of students talking sometimes gets so loud that the professor's voice becomes inaudible.

A similar situation exists in many of the University's 100 large lecture courses held in rooms such as 180 PLC and 100

Willamette. Attendance is low and many students who do come to class wonder why they bother.

Some professors wonder if a better alternative to large lecture classes is to just put the lectures on video and hold class only during test times.

At least one professor expresses bitterness about lecture classes.

"I hate them, I hate them, I hate them," said psychology Professor Robert Weiss.

Weiss was one of four psychology professors who decided to ban Footnotes, a note-taking service, from their classes winter term to encourage student attendance.

But while attendance was fairly good in his psychology 202 class, Weiss said he was still discouraged by students' low interest in the course material.

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Professor dies of cancer

□ Law school and community lose highly regarded legal scholar

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

The legal community lost a teacher, colleague and friend when University School of Law Professor Frederic Merrill died at home Wednesday morning.

Former law school dean Eugene Scoles said Merrill was probably the most unselfish person he has known. Scoles, dean when Merrill began teaching at the University in 1970, called him "an outstanding individual" who always had time for his students and fellow faculty.

"He wasn't the type of person to take a lot of time out for himself, but he would be there whenever you needed him," Scoles said.

"He was very active in what we call 'outside education,'" he said, "working

with alumni, the community and the bar."

An active speaker and scholar in the area of Oregon Civil Practice, Merrill was working on a contracted five-volume hardback series of books, with the first volume due for publication in June.

Scoles said the amount of time Merrill devoted to projects like these spoke to his achievement more than his quiet demeanor might indicate at first glance.

Merrill was a colleague of current law school Dean Dave Frohnmayer during Frohnmayer's first tenure in the 1970s.

"Highly regarded as a teacher and scholar, he exerted a very significant influence on Oregon law," Frohnmayer said. "He pioneered major reforms of court procedures that simplified and made law more accessible to the public."

Born in 1934, Merrill received a bachelor of arts degree with honors in political science in 1959 and his law degree in

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Mow better blues



Photo by Jeff Passay

University student Brian McClenny mows the grass outside of Friendly Hall Thursday morning during a downpour. The National Weather Service calls for a 40 percent chance of showers today and 70 percent chance on Saturday.

COMPUTER LOUNGE

Students will now be able to use the EMU Computer Lounge for more hours at a lower price, but hourly service there has been eliminated.

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READ LIKE A DUCK

The Oregon Athletic Department began a program during winter term, called "Follow the Ducks and Read," in an effort to encourage young people to read more.

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NORIEGA CONVICTED

Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was convicted on eight of ten drug and racketeering charges Thursday following a seven-month trial.

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Comedian's show begins fund-raiser

□ Proceeds from Goldthwait's act will begin account to make hall wheelchair accessible

By Kirsten Lucas
Emerald Reporter

The appearance tonight of nationally known comedian Bob Goldthwait kicks off a longterm effort to raise \$500,000 to make Johnson Hall wheelchair accessible.

Johnson Hall, the administration building, is the last building on campus that remains inaccessible to wheelchairs.

In 1989, the Oregon State Legislature authorized over a million dollars to be spent on making university buildings accessible to wheelchairs.

At that time, a committee formed to decide where the money should be directed. This was accomplished by prioritizing buildings according to student use.

"Johnson Hall was not highest on the list when the list was made," said University Ombud Janet Wentworth. "Buildings that were academic in nature were at the top of the



Courtesy photo

Comedian Bob Goldthwait will perform tonight at 8 p.m. at South Eugene High School.

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Tickets for Bob

Tickets are still on sale for comedian Bob Goldthwait's 8 p.m. Friday show, which has been moved from McArthur Court to South Eugene High School. Reserve seat tickets are \$10 for University students and \$15 for the general public, and are available at the EMU Main Desk and all GI Joe Ticketmaster outlets.

A \$2-off coupon is in today's *Emerald*.

Goldthwait is best known for his appearances in the *Police Academy* movies and his standup comedy, including appearances on *Late Night with David Letterman* and in the *Comic Relief* fund-raisers.

Most recently, he starred in the feature film *Shakes the Clown* and appeared in his own HBO special, *Is He Like That All The Time?*