

Speakers address racism experiences

By Rivers Janssen
Emerald Reporter

A University law student chilled the crowd with a personal story of racism Thursday, setting the tone for a weekend of diversity-aimed lectures at the law school.

Jane Suskin, a second year law student, told about her experiences five years ago living near Grants Pass with a friend. Her friend's son, a five-year-old African-American, was followed by several Ku Klux Klan members on his way home from school. In full regalia, they told the boy to leave town immediately.

"She didn't feel like she could go to the authorities," Suskin remembered, "because the Klan were the authorities."

As a result, she and her son had to leave.

Suskin was one of five speakers at the EMU rally, co-sponsored by the law school. The rally opened the "Celebrating Human Diversity" conference that will run through Saturday.

Dave Frohnmayer, dean of the law school, shared his personal experiences with discrimination. A high school student in southern Oregon, he was shocked to discover the mayor and leading citizens of his town were all Klan members. He said it awakened him to the frightening reality of racism and the growing need for diversity in Oregon.

"We are only a generation away, or perhaps a day away, from discrimination against our brothers and sisters," Frohnmayer said. "Diversity by my definition is having an identity within a community....In the law school, we must be a part of that identity, otherwise we and our society will revert to a

kind of tribalism."

Donna Albro, director of Affirmative Action at Lane Community College, said true diversity can happen only if people recognize their similarities rather than differences.

"We need to realize who we are as human beings," Albro said. "Who we are with respect to the past, the present and the future. We need to realize that what happens in Africa happens here. What happens in Antarctica happens here. All our destinies are linked in terms of existing as human beings. The linkages between us are stronger than the differences."

Clarence Spigner and Dominick Vetri also expressed frustration at the bigotry and lack of diversity they see on campus and in the state.

Vetri, co-chair of President Brand's Task Force on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns, said the diversity conference tells gays and lesbians and people of color that the University values their presence.

He criticized the Oregon Citizens Alliance, repeatedly calling them "Oops Crackpots Again," and expressed hope that people will recognize the roots of bigotry.

Suskin said she was concerned about who wasn't represented at the University, a theme reiterated by most of the speakers. She urged people to observe the world outside of the University, and not to believe everything the University tells them.

"People have to turn off the TV, to not trust the newspapers," she said. "We have to see for ourselves what's happening on the street. We need to look around for the issues that aren't talked about."

AIR FARES FROM PORTLAND

Los Angeles.....\$198
New York.....\$338
Costa Rica.....\$639
London.....\$788

AIR FARES FROM SEATTLE

Amsterdam.....\$788
Tokyo.....\$898

International Fares - add Tax
Restrictions apply



HOLIDAYS ABROAD
2850 Willamette
484-7373

special coupon

\$2 OFF*
COMEDY NIGHT

BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT LIVE!



**FRIDAY
APRIL 10
8 p.m.**

*One coupon per ticket
UO Access Committee X3724
Tickets available at Ticketmaster
& EMU Main Desk

Montgomery Ward

SPECIAL SATURDAY HOURS

THE BRAND NAME SAVINGS STORE

9am-9pm

EVERYTHING

IS ON SALE*, PLUS TAKE AN

EXTRA 10% OFF

*Excludes SUPER BUYS, all other other discounts and free offers.

ALL ELECTRONICS, FURNITURE, FINE JEWELRY, LAWN CARE, APPLIANCES, HOME FASHIONS, APPAREL, EXERCISE

"The Best Health Care For Women Should Promote Two Things: Confidence. And Confidentiality."

Confidence. It's what you take with you when you leave the Feminist Women's Health Center. Because you have the facts that help you understand your own body and make the best choices for your reproductive health.

We are the place in Eugene for birth control (including the cervical cap) as well excellent gynecological care, free pregnancy tests, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, abortion services, self-help clinics and fertility information.

Our staff offers the information and support you need to participate with your on-going wellness. Information, of course, that's just between us. And that's one more reason to feel confident.

Feminist Women's Health Center
633 East 11th Avenue • Eugene, Oregon 97401
503 - 342 - 5940

Medicaid / Insurance • Se Habla Español

--- PLUS ---
0% INTEREST!
NO DOWN PAYMENT!
NO PAYMENT TIL JULY!

Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Offer good through April 11 on purchases of \$225 or more in Fine Jewelry, Major Appliances, Electronics, Sofas, Sleepers, Sectionals and Chairs on a Montgomery Ward credit card.

--- COUPON ---

--- PLUS ---
SATURDAY SPECIAL

APRIL 11
from 4pm to 8pm
HOT TURKEY SANDWICH/ small drink \$1.19
HOT DOG, chips/small drink 59¢

while quantities last.

--- COUPON ---

--- PLUS ---
Open A Montgomery Ward Account And **Receive A FREE GIFT!**

--- COUPON ---

Saturday, April 11th from 4pm-8pm
THE EASTER BUNNY WILL VISIT OUR STORE WITH TREATS FOR THE KIDS!!

130 FOR SALE 130 FOR SALE

Looking for a good deal?
Read section 130 in the classifieds.