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Wednesdays
April 15th, 22nd & 29th
and May 6th

Cafeteria, Student Health Center

FREE

Call 346-4456 to pre-register

Sponsored by the Lifestyle Planning Program in the Student Health Center.

Winning isn't all, say lawyers

By Rivers Janssen
Emerald Reporter

Two lawyers engaged law school audiences this weekend with similar messages: The power of the judiciary must be used for social justice over personal prestige.

Elden Rosenthal, a prosecutor of skinhead leader Tom Metzger, said Friday that lawyers have a responsibility to look beyond the money and esteem of certain cases, and instead try cases that are important to society's well-being.

"You and I are guardians of a system that just doesn't exist anywhere else in the world," Rosenthal said. "The poorest members of the Portland community, if they've got a case, can be represented in a courtroom."

"There's a lot more to being a lawyer than knocking down that big paycheck," Rosenthal said.

Mary Dunlap, a San Francisco civil rights lawyer and leading advocate of gay and lesbian rights, sounded a similar tone on Saturday.

"Lawyers scale the idea of winning a case often much too narrowly," she said. "Everyone together can fight, or should fight, every battle that comes

along."

Both lawyers have been involved in important social justice cases. Rosenthal, named one of the best lawyers in America after the Metzger trial, chilled and shocked the crowd repeatedly with his descriptions of the Metzger case.

From the start, Rosenthal said he recoiled at the thought of Tom Metzger getting off scot-free. Three Portland skinheads had been convicted of brutally murdering an Ethiopian man, and Metzger had looked the other way.

Although Metzger had recruited the youths for his White Aryan Resistance, he avoided responsibility for the murder by claiming his racist, violent literature was protected by the First Amendment. He said he never actually ordered the killing, he only trained the skinheads and took them under his wing.

Rosenthal and another lawyer, Morris Dees, eventually brought a civil suit against Metzger on behalf of the Ethiopian's family. They won \$12.5 million for the defendant, very little of which was collected.

The nationally publicized case brought many lessons to the forefront for Rosenthal.

The first was to "keep it sim-

ple, stupid," he said. They knew Metzger had printed racist material with the intent of inflaming skinhead emotions. They could have tried to bring a civil rights action against Metzger, but doing so would increase the chances of losing. And Rosenthal didn't want to make Metzger look like a hero.

They settled upon a wrongful death civil suit, a suit that couldn't put Metzger away, but was able to muffle his voice.

Dunlap commented on Bowers vs. Hardwick, a Supreme Court case that eventually upheld sodomy laws in the state of Georgia. Although the case was lost, Dunlap encouraged the crowd that a loss doesn't always mean the end.

"The lawyerly definition of winning or losing sometimes gets in our way," she said. Dunlap claimed Anita Hill is proof of that because she introduced the issue of sexual harassment into offices across the country, despite the fact that Clarence Thomas now sits on the Supreme Court.

The lectures were part of the "Celebrating Human Diversity" and "Claiming the Past/Creating the Present" symposiums.

Are You Such A Person?

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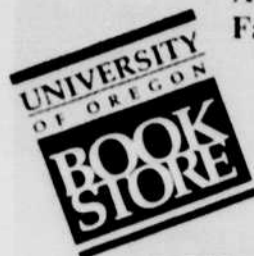
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- 2 Sophomore Student
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Nominations will be taken at the Annual Meeting. Individuals may nominate themselves. For more information, contact General Manager, Jim Williams in person or at 346-4331.



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4:00-5:30 p.m.

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in the Student Health Center

• \$10 refundable deposit if you attend all 5 sessions
Sponsored by the Lifestyle Planning Program
in the Student Health Center

Preregister by calling **346-4456**