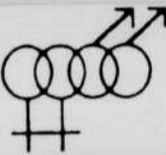


## Panelists agree: Misrepresentation has many causes

□ Gays and lesbians ignored, misrepresented in media, but not always from outright prejudice, reporters say

By Tammy Batey  
Emerald Reporter

### Pride Week



April 13 - 17, 1992

The media ignore and misrepresent gays and lesbians, but this may not be the result of outright prejudice, said four panelists at a discussion Tuesday on the media's representation of the gay community.

KEZI-TV reporter Jean Powell said because television is a visual medium, only the most visible members of a group appear in news stories. Queer Nation, the radical gay rights group, receives more media attention than other gay groups because they dress and act more radically, she said.

KEZI-TV reporters work at presenting issues and groups fairly, Powell said. Many of her colleagues time the amount of coverage they give opposing groups to make certain these groups' views are equally represented.

"In my newsroom, I think you can find people of all political views," she said. "It's a moral issue. You have to rely on a balanced newsroom so they catch (biases). When something goes on the air, people don't remember the reporter, they remember KEZI."

Powell said gay groups can go far in having their views put on the air by talking to the right people.

"There's a lot to be said for developing a relationship with someone in the press," she said. "Not to overpower them so they won't take your calls but enough to inform them about issues."

Only the most outspoken members of any underrepresented group get their views expressed through the media, said Jim Godbold, assistant managing editor of *The Register-Guard*.

The fact that only a few people from a group appear in the media isn't because of prejudice toward gay people, he said. Instead, it's a result of what women in the women's movement call the "Rolodex syndrome."

"Instead of broadening the voices and faces you have you tend to have the same people everytime," Godbold said.

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Ellie Dumdi, chairwoman of the Lane County Commission, and David Wagner, a University biology professor, cut the ribbon yesterday marking the opening of the Eugene Nature Sanctuary in Alton Baker Park.

## Officials designate nature preserve

□ Wild flowers in Alton Baker Park are now safe from the 'mad mower'

By Hope Neelson  
Emerald Reporter

He calls it a sacred place; a place where nature is first.

He has been working for 15 years in the area, giving nature walks and wild flower tours. Yesterday he finally got his wish.

David Wagner, a University biology professor, gathered with nature

lovers and city officials Tuesday near the Autzen Footbridge to dedicate a portion of Alton Baker Park as the Eugene Nature Sanctuary.

The Alton Baker Park Nature Sanctuary is located near the north end of the Autzen Footbridge, and encompasses a 20-acre wooded area bordering the Willamette River.

It is a well-known area among local nature study enthusiasts for watching birds, wild flowers and the river bank.

Wagner, also the President of Eugene Natural History Society,

spearheaded the drive to get the nature sanctuary designated because he said he thought it was important to "keep a little in the bank."

"It's for the next generation," he said. "If we don't look after the area now, then it will be lost. Nobody will know what the original vegetation looked like along the river."

Wagner said the area is the home of a large number of wild flowers, and needs to be protected from the "mad mower of Eugene

Turn to **NATURE**, Page 7

## This is the season to be sneezin'

□ The unusually early spring-like weather is causing problems for allergy sufferers

By Colleen Pohlig  
Emerald Reporter

If the thick pollen in the air hasn't signaled people to the fact that it's allergy time once again, the antihistamine commercials dominating television lately most likely have.

The unusually early spring-like weather has caused many trees to bloom early, which in turn has caused some problems for allergy sufferers, said Sharon Harbert, a registered nurse at the Student Health Center.

"We're seeing a lot more people with allergies because of the warm, sunny and windy days we've been having," Harbert said.

Judy Moran, a registered nurse at the Allergy and Asthma Association

in Eugene, said this year's fluctuating weather patterns, with the sunny days followed by the recent rains, are making it tough to predict how this season will be for sufferers.

"There is no way to predict whether this early spring weather will influence grass pollination," Moran said, but she has been seeing an increase in the number of allergy patients this season.

Moran said that "every season is someone's worst season," depending on what that individual is allergic to. In other words, this season may not be as troublesome for one person as it is for another.

Senior Bill Roberson, who's allergic to "everything," said he hasn't suffered from allergies very much so far this season.

"Right now, the rain has kept down a lot of the pollen," he said. "During that stretch of good weather though, my eyes started to water."

Warm, windy weather is the worst for sufferers because pollen is

air-borne, Moran said, and rain washes pollen out of the air.

Asthma sufferers are also having a difficult time right now, said Dr. Richard Buck, one of the allergists at the health center.

"The allergies may be developing coughing, and these symptoms may represent symptoms of asthma," Buck said. "A physician should evaluate this condition."

Moran said the top three trees that give sufferers the most problems are alder, birch and filbert. They pollenate from January to May, depending on the tree.

The Willamette Valley, where grass and tree pollen tend to get trapped, is approaching its worst six-week season, from around Memorial Day to July 4.

The Valley has one of the world's highest pollen counts due to the high amount of grass seed that is commercially grown.

"Many people plan their vacations around this time and go to the

Turn to **ALLERGIES**, Page 7

### HOME SWEET HOME

In this week's "Into the Outdoors," find out about fishing and hiking at the Gordon Lakes and the Fall Creek trail near Sweet Home.

See **SPORTS**, Page 8

### PLAYS

Two plays by Christopher Durang will be performed, beginning tonight, at the University.

See **ARTS**, Page 6



### CANDIDATE PROFILES

Nineteen students are running for positions on the Incidental Fee Committee and a q. and a. with each of them begins with two articles today.

See **IFC**, Pages 3 & 4