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Craftsman making beautiful music

Local carpenter earns extra money making ancient instruments

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Associate Editor

Gary Smith would like to talk to you if you think you can't play a musical instrument.

The Creswell man knows of one that he says even the least talented can master — the dulcimer, an instrument that looks like a skinny guitar.

The Biblical instrument's name comes from the Greek words "dulce melos," which means "sweet song."

Smith, a carpenter who makes dulcimers to supplement his income, said he was first attracted to the instrument because it is so user-friendly.

The 45-year-old said he was surprised how quickly he learned to play the dulcimer when he first came in contact with one at a commune about 20 years ago.

"I had never seen it before, but within a half-an-hour, I was making music on the thing," he said. "They're that easy to play."

Part of what makes the dulcimer so easy is that its musical range is very small, Smith said. The four-stringed instrument only contains the notes for one major scale; it doesn't have any sharps or flats to alter its tone.

Smith made his first dulcimer using dimensions he had written down from a friend's instrument.

The finished product had some problems, but it was playable and he gave it to a woman he was "madly in love with."

In the past 20 years, the former California resident has made and sold more than a hundred of the instruments. Smith said his dulcimers are now all over the world, including Turkey and Australia. Since moving to Eugene three years ago, he has sold 30.

In the past, he has hawked his dulcimers to music stores. Now, he mainly markets his craft at the Saturday Market, between Eighth Avenue and Oak Street.

So far, Smith hasn't encountered any competition from local craftsmen in the area.

Smith is reluctant to publish how much he sells his dulcimers for, but he said other craftsmen typically charge from \$175-\$500 for the instruments.

To make a dulcimer, Smith first chooses the wood, but not the pre-cut type.

"Sometimes I even start with the tree," he said.

Although he has made the instruments out of walnut and cherry wood, he said he prefers red wood because he thinks it allows for better resonance.

After choosing the wood, Smith cuts it into different sizes. He uses molds to bend the wood into the proper shapes.

Smith then glues the pieces together and holds them in a frame — known as a jig — to dry.

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Photo by Lisa Millegan
Creswell carpenter Gary Smith plays one of the dulcimers he makes and sells to people as far away as Turkey and Australia. Smith, who has been making dulcimers for about 20 years, says even those who think they can't master a musical instrument can play one of them.

Cafe closes for summer

Fewer customers in the summer compounds the financial problems facing EMU Food Service.

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

The EMU Fountain Court Cafe will be closed for the summer in an effort by building managers to offset financial losses within the University's Food Service program.

Frank Geltner, interim director of the EMU, said summer is traditionally a much slower time for food service on campus, when enrollment drops dramatically and fewer faculty and staff members are present.

Fewer customers in the summer compounds the financial problems for the Food Service program, which also includes the Fishbowl Deli, the Skylight Refectory, the Breezeway Cafe and mobile food vans.

Food Service as a whole is showing about a \$14,000 deficit to date for the fiscal year, which ends June 12, Geltner said, and summer months are traditionally the worst.

Other revenue-producing organizations within the EMU, such as the Recreation Center and the Main Desk, pick up the financial slack in the budget generated by Food Service, Geltner said.

Adding to the financial problem is a 1 percent surcharge implemented by the University administration last year on net profits from all campus auxiliary

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Rape survivors often encounter traumatic aftermath

Balancing sensitivity and the need to gather evidence can be difficult in rape cases

By Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Reporter

One of the hardest things Hayley Barker will probably ever face in her life was the return to the dorm basement where the horrifying rape happened.

Barker was there to give police detailed information about what and where each violent act occurred.

And this was less than an hour after she had been raped there.

Barker, the 18-year-old freshman dorm resident who was raped last January in the Hamilton Complex basement, has since withdrawn from the University and is living with her parents in Salem.

Barker is attending Chemeketa Community College and doesn't plan to return to the University.

Survivors of rape usually experience different processes after the assault, depending on the circumstances. Medical and legal procedures and dealings with the police differ for each survivor.

In Barker's case, a male officer arrived at her dorm room after she asked her roommate to call the police. She said the initial questioning, which lasted about 25 minutes, was difficult because she had to tell the officer specific details and was still in shock.

A male police officer is usually the first person a rape survivor encounters immediately after the attack, although the Eugene police department does its best to have a female officer respond to the call, said Bev Collins, EPD community education specialist.

Barker said she believes it would have been much easier for her had the officer been a female, because fol-

lowing such a traumatic experience, it's difficult for a rape survivor to trust men.

"(The police) were pretty apologetic," she said. "They said that it was too bad, but they needed to ask me questions because my mind was still fresh." The hardest part, however, was returning to the very room she had been raped in.

"I'm not even sure if I've accepted it now, but (to return to the basement room) right after it happened was very hard," Barker said.

Tim Birr, EPD public information officer, said police usually take the survivor back to the place she was raped to gather as much evidence as possible.

"It's a difficult balancing act between being sympathetic to the survivor and having to gather as much evidence as possible for the case," Birr said.

Collins said the goals of the officer and the survivor often clash, because the officer wants to catch the suspect while the survivor just wants to get back control of her life.

"This is the point where the survivor starts to back down," Collins said. "They start feeling uncomfortable with the questioning."

Collins said in recent years, the police academy in Salem requires the trainees to go through six months of "intense sensitivity training."

The officers learn about "victim dynamics," giving them a sense of how a victim will usually feel after the crime and why they might be hysterical or in shock.

After the initial questioning, an EPD officer drove Barker to the hospital where she consented to a "rape kit," and tests for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. A rape kit is a detailed collection of evidence that could include semen, saliva, blood, pubic hair and anything else found on the victim's body.

Barker said the hospital exams were terrifying, mainly because a male doctor administered them. At 18, she had never had a standard pelvic exam before.

'It affects your beliefs, who you can trust, your personal relationships. It really opens your eyes up to how scary this world is.'

— Hayley Barker,
Rape survivor

"The nurses were all female but the doctor who did most of the pelvic exam was a man," Barker said. "It was really humiliating, and I already felt violated enough."

Heather Gillman, who was raped on a camping trip at Cougar Hot Springs last June, was also enraged to find that a male doctor was administering the pelvic exam at the hospital.

After surviving a rape, she said, the last thing she wanted was another man to touch her.

"He came right in and just opened up my legs," Gillman said. "I kept screaming, 'What the hell is a male doctor doing here?'"

At Sacred Heart General Hospital, the 10 emergency room physicians are all male. However, the hospital has hired a female physician who will start in the summer, said Beverly Mayhew, a hospital community relations spokeswoman.

"We take (rape) very seriously," Mayhew said. "The fact that we don't have a female doctor yet isn't an indication of our level of concern."

McKenzie-Willamette Hospital in Springfield has a total of seven emergency room physicians, one of

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