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Video project is hands-on history

□ Middle schoolers educate University class on local racism

By Lia Saliccia
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Students from Jefferson Middle School who spent their school year learning what life was like for African-American women in the Eugene of the past came to the University Thursday to talk about what they had learned.

Aided by their African-American History teacher, some faculty, parents and a South Eugene High School student, the five 7th- and 8th-graders documented interviews with the first four black women to come to Eugene.

Their efforts have resulted in a video project that will soon join the collections

of local libraries. The school will also celebrate a permanent school holiday commemorating the day the project — a tape of the young boys interviewing the women — was unveiled.

Corey Mainor, 13, and Marcus Nettles, 12, discussed their project with a University ethnic studies class Thursday. Mainor and Nettles told the class of about 25 students that interviewing Pearl Washington, Mattie Reynolds, Annie Mimms and Bertha Johnson taught them what it was like "to live in a society that was openly racist."

Mainor and Nettles said the women they interviewed came mostly from the South to a white town to work tirelessly while their husbands labored on the railroads and in the mills. The women and their families settled in the swampland that is now the Ferry Street Bridge area. Despite hard times, Washington found-

ed St. Mark's Church and a boarding-house that hosted the late singer Sammy Davis Jr. in days when his race excluded him from the hotels in town.

Reynolds, who, along with her husband, owned a local saw mill, will see her daughter graduate from law school despite the fact that she was once told by a guidance counselor at her school that it was impossible for a black woman to go to law school.

Jefferson Middle School has plans to continue its one elective class in African-American History, which in the 1992-93 school year consisted of the five students who completed the project.

Two of the students will be leaving Jefferson for South Eugene High School next year but plan to be back to help with the next video-project interviews with the next generation in the families of the four women.



Photo by Hidaki Tomooka
Marcus Nettles (left) and Corey Mainor of Jefferson Middle School spoke to a University class Thursday about their research into the first black women to live in Eugene.

Off to the races



Photo by Hidaki Tomooka
Hannah Schneider-Lynch, 4, (left) and her brother Zachary, 3, prepare for Sunday's Butte to Butte run. The 20th running of the 10k race marked Hannah's fifth Butte to Butte powered by her father Mike Lynch. Former Ducks Matt McGuirk and Nicole Woodward won the men's and women's classes. See photos, pages 4 & 5.

House votes to send tax measure to polls

□ Bill, which now goes to the Senate, would let November voters decide fate of sales tax

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon House easily passed a sales tax ballot measure Friday, sending it to the Senate on a 39-21 vote.

The proposal is expected to get a friendly greeting in the Senate, where many members want to raise more money with the tax than does the House.

"What needs to be changed is our tax structure to assure our children and their future," said Rep. Delna Jones, R-Aloha, chairwoman of the House Revenue Committee.

All sales tax revenue would be earmarked for schools under the measure, HJR10.

Opponents said the sales tax is doomed at the polls. "Apparently this has nine lives," said Rep. Michael Payne, D-Baker City. "Oregonians will defeat this regressive tax."

Oregon voters eight times have rejected sales tax measures, most recently in 1986. Oregon is one of just five states without a sales tax. "I don't get it," said Rep. Bob Tiernan, R-Lake Oswego. "We are doing something here, creating something that nobody will buy."

But Rep. Tom Brian, R-Tigard, criticized lawmakers who predict failure.

"I think we have a shot at this," he said. "If it fails in November with your help, you had better be back with a better idea or we will be back cutting billions from education."

The proposed constitutional amendment sets the framework for the sales tax. It sets a 5 percent maximum rate, for example, but does not specify what the actual rate would be.

Those details are in a companion bill that would implement the tax if passed by voters.

Provisions in the ballot measure, if passed, would become a constitutional amendment and could not be changed without voter approval.

The House committee most recently has discussed raising about \$1 billion a year from the sales tax.

The main reason for the sales tax plan is the Measure 5 property tax limit passed by voters in 1990.

That measure requires the state to replace money that schools lose because of the tax lid and is costing the state billions of dollars.

WEATHER



Skies should be sunny today with highs near 75. The rest of the week should bring in variable clouds with a few showers at times. Temperatures will remain in the mid-70s.

'ROGER AND ME' GET SUED

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Filmmaker Michael Moore must pay a lawyer \$6,250 for portraying the attorney in false light in the movie *Roger and Me*, a jury decided.

But Moore claimed Thursday's ruling in Genesee County Circuit Court was a victory because the jury said he did not commit fraud in the way the movie was filmed and edited and because the \$6,250 award is significantly less than the \$50,000 Warner Bros. offered in an out-of-court settlement.

"The fraud count was the crushing one for us," Moore said. "The fraud count put the film on trial and the jury found the film told the truth. We are elated."

Attorney Larry Stecco sued Moore, his production company and Warner Bros., the films distributor.

SPORTS

LONDON (AP) — It was a painful Wimbledon for women's champion Steffi Graf.

Graf's father, Peter, says her foot injury was so serious that he urged her to pull out of the tournament. But she played through the pain, flew home to Germany for treatment and received an injection just before beating Jana Novotna in the final.

In addition, Graf's fortnight was disturbed by intruders who repeatedly trespassed on her family's property in Bruhl, Germany, prompting her father to pull a gun on the invaders. "In two weeks, 18 people have come over the wall of our house," Peter Graf said.