

Professor dies after ball game

By Gary Haniuk

A visiting professor who had been awarded for his extensive research on people with visual impairments died suddenly last month while playing basketball.

Professor Everett Hill died March 21 of a massive heart attack at the Esslinger basketball courts.

"He had been playing routinely, three or four times a week," said Deborah Simmons, a friend of Hill's. "They said he played one game of basketball and then sat the next one out." Hill died while resting on the bench.

Hill came to the University in February and planned to be here for a five-week sabbatical.

Professor Hill's death will deeply affect his area of expertise, Simmons said. "He was among the top researchers in the field of visual impairment," she said. "He will be a tremendous loss in that area because of the work he was responsible for."

Everett Hill was better known by his colleagues as Butch. He was a visiting professor from Vanderbilt University Peabody College. After his stay in Eugene, he was going to head to Norway and Sweden where he had planned to present lectures on information he had gathered from his research.

Originally from Minnesota, Hill had taught at both Western Michigan and Florida State universities before he arrived at Peabody, where he taught for 15 years. His interests ranged from modern-day athletics to music from the 1920s.

Spokesman upholds Native American rights

By Suzie Marta
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

John Echohawk, the 1994 Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics, continues his two week stay at the University by lecturing on Native American issues. Echohawk will give a public lecture Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Hilton entitled "The Nature of Tribal and Indian Law: Current Issues and Trends."

Echohawk also will meet with the Oregon Indian Education Association, attend a reception at the University Multicultural Center and visit journalism classes this week.

Echohawk, the executive director of the Native American Rights Fund, is considered to be one of the most influential Native American rights spokesman of his time.

He is serving as this year's Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics, an endowed fund that brings nationally renowned scholars and activists to the University to lecture on various issues facing Americans. In choosing the Wayne Morse Chair, the committee looks for people who share qualities with the late Oregon senator: statesmanship, integrity, foresight, independence and the fearless championing of the public interest.

University School of Law Dean Dave Frohnmayer said of Echohawk, "I have utmost respect for John. (He) can say more in a few moments of silence than most people

can say in paragraphs."

Echohawk's soft-spoken, thoughtful style covers his success with modesty. He credits the tribal movements as a whole in upholding Native American rights rather than his own work.

"I'm just happy to have played a part in it," he said.

In his lecture given last Thursday, Echohawk reiterated that "an Indian tribe is a sovereign government still today," and that treaties between tribal governments and the federal government are "not grants of rights but documents where tribes are recognized as having inherent rights." He pointed out that there are more than 500 tribal governments, each having its own language, culture, traditions and unique history, and each needing to be dealt with separately by the federal government.

Echohawk discussed the recent U.S. Supreme Court case *Smith vs. Oregon*, which involved denied unemployment benefits due to the use of peyote and the lack of recognition for religious freedom under the First Amendment for Native Americans. He also discussed the "Native American Free Exercise of Religion Act" being presented in Congress and supported by the Clinton administration to overrule state suppression of religious freedom for Native Americans.

Echohawk stressed that the most impor-

tant issues facing Native Americans are religion and education.

"Our experience was one of utter amazement at the substantial amount of legal rights that were not enforced and on reservations not known about," he said.

The Native American Rights Fund, for which Echohawk has served as executive director since 1970, is a nonprofit organization that attempts to get these rights enforced by giving legal counsel to Native Americans nationwide.

"If you don't have an advocate, then your rights aren't worth the paper they're written on," Echohawk said.

One of the biggest challenges Echohawk faces in his work is a general lack of education on Native American issues. Echohawk used the public's overwhelming response to the film *Dances With Wolves* to illustrate this point. He commented that it seemed like the public "just found out that Indians are human beings that still exist and have not been treated fairly."

"Native Americans are human beings with human feelings living in civilized societies," he said.

During his two-week stay, Echohawk lectured in various law and journalism courses, gave public lectures in the area and visited the Eugene 4J School District and the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

Students expand world view at conference

By Natasha Shepard
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

For 850 name-tagged, placard-carrying high school students last weekend, the EMU became the Hague and their decisions became international law.

This year's Model United Nations Conference included delegates from 40 Oregon high schools. Although no one was taken hostage and no wars were declared as in previous years, the conference proved eventful.

Conducted in the face of a presidential assassination and escalating violence in Rwanda and on the eve of free elections in South Africa, the conference included resolutions involving those and other current issues. Some resolutions passed in the General Assembly of the Model United Nations are passed on to the "real" United Nations.

The Model United Nations conference gives high school students an opportunity to become delegates from United Nations countries, write resolutions, debate issues and decide which resolutions should pass. Like the United Nations, the Model United Nations is organized in committees, which this year debated issues ranging from religious hate crimes to the importance of U.N. funding. Students must pass a test on their knowledge of the countries they represent before they are allowed to participate in the conference.

The conference gives students a chance to learn about the world and international relations firsthand, said Christine Allen, M.U.N. State Secretariat.

"They learn to walk in someone else's footsteps ... It's active learning," said Allen, who has been an adviser in the program for more than 20 years. "It's the best program I've ever worked with."

Michael Sutherland, a junior from Sheldon High School in Eugene,

agreed that Model United Nations gives students experience that is almost impossible to gain elsewhere.

"It's a good simulation of how the United Nations works, and it's good for our problem solving," he said.

Because students both write and debate resolutions, there is a sense of pride and accomplishment when a resolution coming from their high school passes, said Aaron Schalock of McMinnville. "If our resolution passes in General Assembly," Schalock said after his school's resolution had passed during committee, "the U.N. will get it. At least we're doing something."

Although the Model United Nations conference represents the culmination of a year's work for the students, the three-day conference is not all international relations and resolutions. The students stayed in hotels along Franklin Boulevard and were treated to a marimba band, a talent show and a costume contest. Committee meetings and activities lasted well past midnight both Thursday and Friday, and frustration and gridlock sometimes gave way to fun, as one delegate moved that debate stay open so that the students could use the time to nap. In the Economics and Financial Committee, the chairman entertained suggestions to begin playing poker.

Model United Nations combines the flurry of fun and activities with a sound learning experience, Allen said. Founding members of the program, which began in 1949, included teachers from North Salem and Grants Pass high schools who observed the workings of the United Nations and thought it would be beneficial to create a role-playing exercise in high schools and universities, Allen said. The program began with 125 students and eight schools and has now grown to include more than 1,000 Oregon students and groups from around the world.

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