

# NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

## Abortion-rights groups criticize state Supreme Court justice

**OLYMPIA (AP)** — Abortion-rights groups criticized a new state Supreme Court justice Monday for appearing at an anti-abortion rally, saying it might impair his view from the bench.

But critics stopped short of calling for Justice Richard Sanders to withdraw from cases involving abortion, at least for now, because the situation falls into a fuzzy area between judicial rules and the First Amendment right to free speech.

Sanders defended his appearance last Friday before a cheering crowd of several thousand who marched to the Capitol and demanded limits to Washington's voter-approved abortion-rights law.

Only a few hours after he was sworn in, Sanders told the crowd he was joining them in a "celebration of human life" and that nothing should be more fundamental to the legal system than protecting "innocent human life."

Sanders, who spoke openly of his opposition to abortion during his judicial campaign, also thanked the crowd for helping elect him.

Although he did not speak specifically of abortion or any laws, Sanders carried a red rose, the symbol of the anti-abortion movement.

On Monday, groups that support abortion rights questioned whether Sanders could have an unbiased view from the bench on such a sensitive legal issue.

"He said things that would indicate a fairly strong anti-choice position," said Lisa Stone, director of the Northwest Women's Law Center in Seattle. "I'm troubled by it."

"I wouldn't want to restrict his free speech rights. [But] I'm accustomed to a somewhat more traditional view of judges."

## San Francisco passes measure recognizing symbolic marriages

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — The city's Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a measure Monday that gives gay couples the right to a symbolic wedding ceremony beginning in April.

"San Francisco is once again illustrating that this is a humane, compassionate and equal-opportunity city for all people who live here," said Supervisor Carole Migden, sponsor of the proposal.

The measure must have another reading Monday, then becomes law March 21.

The civil ceremonies would recognize domestic partnerships, but would not be legal marriages. They would only solemnize the rights the city has granted gay couples since its domestic partnership law took effect on Valentine's Day in 1991.

The measure would not entitle partners to traditional benefits given to married people.

The 1991 ordinance gives domestic partners visitation rights in hospitals, shared health plans for city employees and bereavement leave for city employees when a domestic partner dies. Private employers are not required to grant the same benefits.

Only couples registered as domestic partners in San Francisco would be eligible for the ceremony. At least 3,000 unmarried couples, most of them gay, already have filed for that designation, at a cost of \$35 a couple. Migden expects about 1,000 gay weddings in the first year.

Weddings would be performed by the county clerk, or anyone else deputized by the clerk, and could be held anywhere from City Hall to churches where clergy members agree to perform the ceremony.

## Farrakhan visits Durban, preaches 'Million Man' message

**DURBAN, South Africa (AP)** — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan said Monday that he was touring Africa to spread the message of the Million Man March he organized last year in the United States.

More a rally and prayer meeting, Farrakhan's march was a call for black men to take responsibility for their own lives and families, and to dedicate themselves to fighting the scourges of drugs, violence and unemployment.

"We want to take the day of atonement and reconciliation and make it a worldwide day," the controversial black Muslim leader told reporters in Durban on the second day of his three-day visit to South Africa.

Durban is the main city in KwaZulu-Natal Province, an area of eastern South Africa that has seen thousands die in recent years in a power struggle between the African National Congress and its main black rival, the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party.

Soon after arriving in South Africa on Sunday, Farrakhan held talks with President Nelson Mandela. On Monday, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies criticized Mandela for meeting with Farrakhan, who has often been accused of making antagonistic remarks about Jews, whites and women.

Still, the board acknowledged that Mandela lectured Farrakhan on tolerance, saying South Africa rejects racism and sexism and reveres all religions. After the meeting, Farrakhan told reporters he agreed with Mandela.

In a statement, the Jewish group said: "The board is comforted ... that President Mandela took the opportunity to point out to Farrakhan ... that it is imperative for all of us to promote religious tolerance and to reject any form of discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex or religious belief."

## CORRECTION

On Monday, Jan. 29, 1996, the article titled "Student group financed for 1996" stated that MEChA received a 1996-97 budget allocation of \$15,265 from the ASUO Programs Finance Committee. MEChA actually received a budget of \$15,065 for the 1996-97

fiscal year. The total for money given out to date as of Saturday, Jan. 27, 1996 was reported as \$83,061. The correct total amount of money given out for the week as of Saturday, Jan. 27, 1996 was \$69,774. The Emerald regrets the errors.

## ET ALS

### MEETINGS

**EMU Budget Committee** will meet today at 5 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 346-3720.

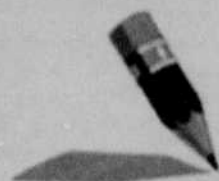
### MISCELLANEOUS

**ASUO** is sponsoring its annual

Programs Faire today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the EMU concourse lounges. For more information, call 346-0629.

**Pagan Student Union** will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room A. For more information, call 334-6842.

## Oregon Daily Emerald



The Oregon Daily Emerald is seeking a student representative to serve on its Board of Directors.

The ODE is governed by a ten-member volunteer board of directors, which includes two student body representatives appointed by the ASUO president. These students, appointed for a two-year term, must be enrolled for a minimum of six (undergraduate students) or three (graduate students) credit hours and may not be on the staff of the ODE.

Board members meet monthly to consider financial, policy, legal and personnel matters, including selection of editor and general manager. The board does not, however, get involved in editorial content. Additional attendance is sometimes required for committee meetings.

Application deadline is **Friday, February 9** and term of office is effective upon appointment.

Submit letter of application and resume to **Zach Kelton, ASUO, Suite 4, Erb Memorial Union.**

*The ODE is an equal opportunity employer committed to a culturally diverse workplace. Minorities are especially encouraged to apply.*

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