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TODAY

Comedian Chris Fonseca will perform at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom as part of Disability Awareness Days.



INSIDE

The Ducks have caught little more than rain lately, with five of the last six games cancelled **9**

Arkansas twisters leave more than 330 homeless, injure 50 and kill four **8**



WEATHER

Showers, partly cloudy.
High 60. Low 45.

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Fall term graduates can walk

CEREMONY: Fall or summer term graduates should consult their individual departments

By Jennifer Schmitt
Higher Education Reporter

The deadline to apply for June graduation has passed, but students who will graduate at the end of summer term or after fall term of 1996 can still participate in the commencement ceremony.

Students who haven't applied for graduation won't have their names in the program, but can walk, said Estelle Forster, graduation specialist.

Only the names of students receiving a Ph.D. are called out at the University commencement, said Mary Hudzikiewicz, commencement organizer. Because the names of the other graduates aren't called, students who want to participate in the ceremony just need to show up and walk with the rest of the graduates, she said.

"Since they don't have to register in order to participate, we have to take it on faith that they are going to graduate

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Secretaries' contribution celebrated

WORK: The event is now in its 44th year, as part of Professional Secretaries Week

By Laura Kephart
and Jennifer Schmitt
Higher Education Reporters

All year secretaries endure paper cuts, short-tempered bosses and carpal tunnel syndrome, and what do they get in return? One day devoted to honoring the unsung heroes of the professional world.

Today is Professional Secretaries Day, falling right in the middle of Professional Secretaries Week.

This momentous week, originated by Professional Secretaries International, is now celebrating its 44th year.

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Kicking off Disability Awareness Days, Bob Crow of "Bluejour" plays in the EMU Courtyard Tuesday. To celebrate disability awareness there will also be live comedy tonight at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom and an information and technology fair tomorrow at 10 a.m. in the EMU Fir Room.

Events to foster disability awareness

EDUCATION: Comedian, panel and technology fair highlight the week

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

As the first annual Disability Awareness Days continue this week, more than 500 members of the University community will no doubt be especially pleased.

That group, which includes all students, faculty and staff on campus that have some sort of physical disability, is one that is becoming increasingly active and visible.

Hilary Gerdes, coordinator of services for students with disabilities, said this week's events will help other members of the University community become aware of issues surrounding disability.

"I think there is still a lot of ignorance and lack of understanding," she said. "It's critical that we increase people's sensitivity."

The Disability Project Committee, a student and faculty board that helped organize the event, is hoping the next few days' events will do just that.

Chris Fonseca, a nationally known comedian, will perform in the EMU Ballroom tonight at 8 p.m.

Gerdes said Fonseca, who is Hispanic and has cerebral palsy, is able to talk on both cultural diversity and disabilities. "We think

comedy is a real good way to reach people about these issues."

Donna Sower, a student who serves on the committee and is visually impaired, said disability always needs to be looked at in a positive light.

"It's important to laugh aloud about the challenges but still understand the difficult things we have to deal with," she said.

On Thursday, an Information and Technology Fair will highlight the latest systems and devices that allow people with disabilities to live easier. The event, in the EMU Fir Room from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will be followed by a panel featuring University faculty and students.

"Issues and Images: A Forum on Media and Disability" will discuss how images portray people with disabilities, whether it be in broadcast or print media. Beginning at 3:30 in the Fir Room, the five-person panel

DISABILITIES

A paraphrased section of The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990).

Any individual with a disability eligible to receive services provided by a state or local government agency must be provided such services.

Public entities must make reasonable modification to rules, policies, or practices, or may have to

remove architectural, communication or transportation barriers, or may have to provide auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities.

Agencies are prohibited from providing services in separate or segregated settings, when such services may be provided in community-based settings.



MATT GARTON/Emerald

will include journalism professors Alan Stavitsky and Debra Merskin as well as graduate student Jennifer Sutton, who is blind.

Gerdes said the issues discussed at the forum will no doubt stir strong emotions.

"It should be a very lively discussion," she said.

Sower said she hopes all the events will make students and faculty more open to

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