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Mall flowers are in full bloom during exhibition

■ **EXHIBIT:** The annual Rhododendron Festival will begin with a contest

By Joshua Schriftman
 Freelance Reporter

Five new gardens sprouted up throughout Valley River Center Monday morning. The Eugene Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society's annual Rhododendron Festival has begun and will continue through this weekend.

The society is headed by Michael Hopewell, an associate professor in the Lundquist College of Business at the University, and it will follow up the exhibition with a judged show Saturday morning and a plant sale through Sunday.

The gardens on exhibit were placed in Valley River Center after months of preparation and one night of intense and difficult work.

According to Harold Greer of Greer Gardens of Eugene, the participants started moving in the plastic sheeting and the mulch just after the mall closed last Sunday afternoon. The final bush was not put into place until sometime around 2 a.m. On Monday afternoon, Greer was still at the mall making final preparations for the show.

Greer's exhibition, which covers 1,000 square feet, is the largest on display. And it is the tallest as well, with one rhododendron tree that measures more than 12 feet.

The other four gardens in the



This display of rhododendrons by Greer Gardens is the largest of five on display at Valley River Center. The Eugene chapter of the American Rhododendron Society sponsors the festival each year.

exhibit are from Gray's Garden Center, The Emerald Empire Chapter of the Oregon Association of Nurserymen, Wendell's Garden Center, and Heatheroak Rhododendrons, owned and run by Michael Hopewell.

These landscaped gardens include footpaths, birdbaths, benches, trees, bushes of all sorts and sizes and one iron flamingo.

Pepper Berkeley of the society said there are over 5,000 unique varieties of the rhododendron plant. She explained that the climate of the Pacific Northwest was perfect for rhododendrons, and

that is why so many varieties exist in Eugene.

The society will be judging plants, arrangements and trusses, which are clippings from plants. There will be cash prizes awarded to the winners in both amateur and professional categories.

Anyone interested in entering the contest can do so at no charge. Entries will be accepted at the Central Pavilion, starting at 7:30 a.m.

After Saturday's contest, a plant sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, and

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, during which time most of the displayed plants will be available for purchase.

The weekend show will feature exhibits from the American Rock Garden Society, the Emerald Cactus and Succulent Society, the Eugene Dahlia Society, the Hoya Society, the Willamette Orchid Society and the Master Gardeners.

For those interested exclusively in the local varieties, another festival will be held in May in Florence.

Lawyer allowed to keep 'Bad Food' sign in upstairs window

NEW YORK (AP) — A lawyer who put a hand-lettered "BAD FOOD" sign in his second-floor window above a fast-food restaurant has a First Amendment right to keep it there, a judge ruled.

State Supreme Court Justice Charles Ramos on Wednesday rejected a \$2 million lawsuit brought against Aaron Chess Lichtman by Kenny Rogers Roasters. Lichtman's neighbor at Broadway and 71st Street.

The restaurant claimed that the



sign is a "malicious falsehood" aimed at putting the place out of business.

But the judge said the sign represents Lichtman's opinion, not a statement of fact, and is protected by the right to free speech.

Ramos said the outcome might be different if Lichtman were to stand outside the restaurant and "scream at customers that they would suffer from abdominal distention after eating Roasters' food."

food."

Lichtman said the sign expresses his opinion about the food and is also a protest against the restaurant's odors and its signs, which surround his windows and make it appear that his law office is part of the eatery.

Fake jail fight staged for touring juveniles backfires on inmates

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A plan hatched by a jail guard to scare two touring juveniles by staging a fight among three inmates backfired when the show

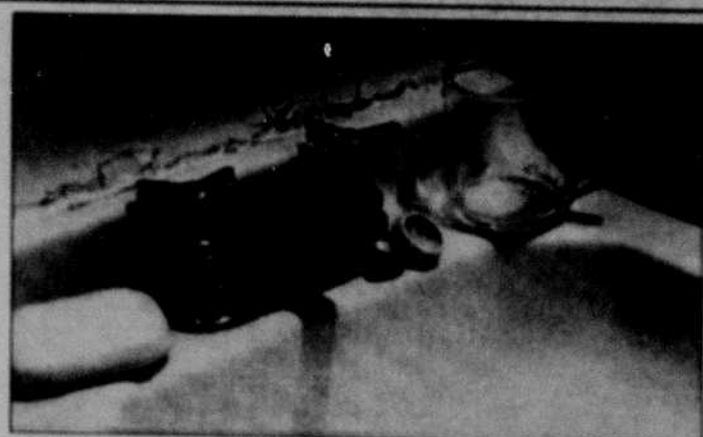
was canceled and nobody told the prisoners.

When the fake fight broke out, guards at the Duval County Jail subdued one of the inmates and put him in a restraining chair.

The officer who came up with the idea, Sgt. Joseph J. Wollitz, was ordered suspended for 20 days. Another guard was reprimanded, and a third resigned.

"We can't ask inmates to perform violent acts with each other to impress anyone," Corrections Director John Rutherford said Thursday.

Rutherford said investigators found that Wollitz had staged at least one similar show before.



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