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TODAY

Philosopher Michael Lerner will be speaking in Geringer Lounge at 4 p.m. about the spiritual and ethical side of humanity.



INSIDE

The women's basketball team is taking tonight's game against the Sun Devils very seriously

Ganas program members hope to inspire bicultural leaders

7
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WEATHER

Mostly cloudy.
High 40. Low 30.

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MLK Awards

Faculty awarded for progress

■ **AWARD:** Several staff members have made outstanding progress in promoting racial unity on campus

By Ben Kwasney
Higher Education Reporter

Four University employees were honored yesterday for their work in upholding the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The award is for what they have done, but more important it's for what they have been and what they are," said University President Dave Frohnmyer, who presented the awards.

THE AWARDS

■ **RECIPIENTS:** Lyllye Parker and Marshall Saucedo, administration category and Lara Moore and Chris Silva in the classified employee category

The 1997 Martin Luther King Award for Classified Employees and Officers of Administration was given to Lyllye Parker and Marshall Saucedo in the administration category. The winners of the classified employee award were Lara Moore and Chris Silva.

Staff members were nominated by colleagues for furthering human understanding and interaction by demonstrating moral courage, promoting cultural diversity and racial justice on campus, and welcoming people of various ethnic racial and backgrounds. They were also selected for efforts to reduce racial and social tensions on campus and setting a caring, human example.

As a young African-American growing up in Eugene, Parker recalled being told in the eighth grade that she would have to be a hairdresser or homemaker. Now a student advisor in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Parker said she is in a position to help African-American students.

"I thank the University of Oregon for affording me that opportunity," Parker said. "I'm very grateful."

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AMANDA ERICKSON/Emerald

University President Dave Frohnmyer presents Marshall Saucedo, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, with an award for his service to the University

Gay rights to be focus of legal forum

■ **LAW:** Speaker Evan Wolfson will discuss the future of same-sex marriage and current legal issues facing gays and lesbians

By Autumn DePoe
Student Activities Reporter

"Queer Marriages and the Law" will be the topic of forum tonight featuring Evan Wolfson. Wolfson is co-counsel on Hawaii's same-sex marriage case and director of the Lambda Marriage Project, part of the Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Wolfson will discuss the general legal status of lesbian, gay and bisexual rights in the United States, including the Hawaii decision and its appeals process.

For the first time in U.S. history, a Hawaii court ruled that civil marriage law cannot discriminate against lesbian and gay couples.

The December decision, now being appealed by the state of Hawaii, was "a historic moment for lesbians and gay men," Wolfson said. "This case made a major breakthrough toward ending second-class status for gay families. This decision marks the beginning of the end to sex discrimination in marriage."

The prospect of ending marriage discrimination against same-sex couples has fueled backlash campaigns like the federal Defense of Marriage Act, Wolfson said. He noted that DOMA does not ban marriages for gay couples but could discriminate against legally married gay couples by reserving federal benefits and protections for married heterosexual couples. Sixteen state bills have also passed against equal marriage

ON CAMPUS

■ **WHAT:** Legal forum featuring attorney Evan Wolfson, director of the Lambda Marriage Project

■ **DATE:** Tonight

■ **TIME:** 7 p.m.

■ **PLACE:** EMU Ballroom

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Robbers attack University students in two separate incidents

■ **CRIME:** Two students were threatened with a knife, and another was yanked off her bike near the University

By Ryan Maughn
Community Reporter

The Office of Public Safety is still investigating two robberies that took place Friday, Jan. 17, both of which involved University students, according to police reports.

The first, a Robbery III and Assault 4 offense, happened on East 15th Avenue at approximately 8:30 p.m.

A student was riding her bike home from campus when she was attacked by the suspect, who wrapped his hand around her face and pulled her off her bike. The suspect then began to choke the victim with her helmet strap, said Sgt. Dave Poppe.

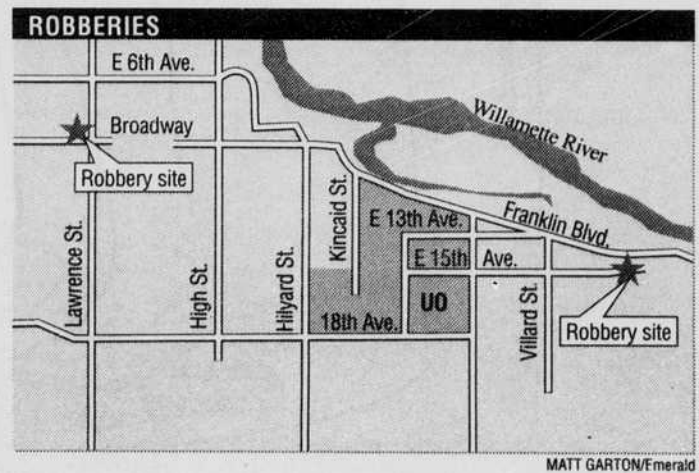
A police report stated that the victim couldn't scream or breathe because of the pressure on her throat. Finally the victim

unsnappped her helmet and the suspect began choking her with his hands, while at the same time trying to force off her rain pants.

The victim was then able to scream and the suspect fled shortly after, but not before he robbed the victim of a briefcase, a wallet, her bike and other belongings she had with her. The suspect left his bike at the scene; the bike is now in police possession as evidence.

According to police reports the second robbery involved two University students who were walking home from campus on the 900 block of Lawrence Street at approximately 10:30 p.m. when they were

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MATT GARTON/Emerald