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TODAY

An Evening in Beckett's
Shorts, a collection of
plays, will be performed
this evening at Robinson
Theatre.



INSIDE

The new movie about former University tack
legend Steve Prefontaine opens this weekend.

The UO women's basketball team remains
unbeaten at home this season with a win over ASU

9
11

WEATHER

Cloudy.
High 45. Low 30.

University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

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Remodel begins with a few holes in the wall

■ **EMU:** Work begins in the former bowling alley well before the planned start to construction in June

By Laura Cadiz
Higher Education Editor

To get a head start on the EMU renovations, workers took the first step in the excavation process yesterday afternoon. Construction workers started drilling holes in the wall where the bowling alley once was.

"It's a fairly recent decision to do this, to get a head start," said Susan Racette, EMU business manager.

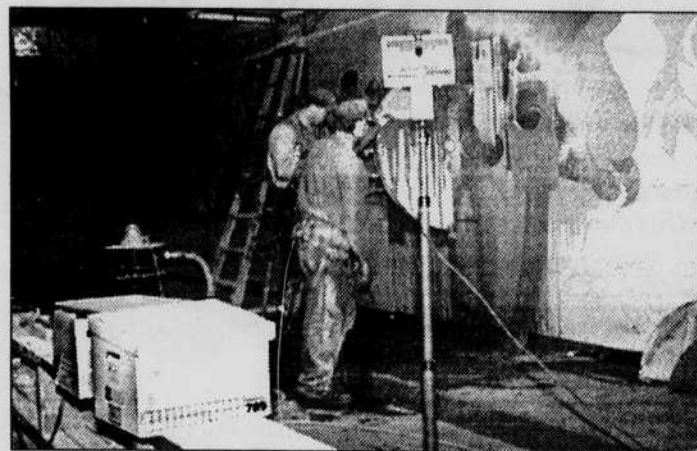
This construction was originally planned to take place in June, but because the bowling alley lanes were sold in December, workers were able to begin the excavation process sooner.

"Once the lanes were out of the area, it made it possible to do this in an area without closing anything," Racette said.

Racette said construction workers need to explore the inside of the walls to determine their next step in the excavation process. If the area is open, the construction will take less time and less money. If it's full of dirt and rocks, it will take longer and cost more, she said.

"It's all unknown, they need to get in there and see what's there," she said. "We need to find out if it's a structural wall."

The EMU is supposed to be fully renovated by August 1, 1998.



MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

Workers use a giant saw to cut the basement wall of the EMU.

Art at the University



CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

A museum patron studies photos of Chinese artists whose works are on display at the Oregon Museum of Natural History.

Museum showcases Chinese country art

■ **EXHIBIT:** The UO Museum of Natural History display contains paintings made in a program sponsored by China's leaders

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Editor

Animals, crops being harvested and animated people are a few of the common features of the collection of vivid paintings in the current exhibit, "Harvested Images: Folk Paintings from Pixian County, China," at the University Museum of Natural History.

Scenes of fields and farm life are the backdrop for these paintings, which merge art and the outdoors into one. The exhibit offers a look at country life in east-central China, where artists work with the Pixian Cultural Bureau to cre-

ate paintings in the off-season, when there is no planting or harvesting to be done.

In the exhibit, however, it is emphasized that the farmer-artists each use their own vision to create the images.

"I don't know about the theory of painting. I only know that I can paint what I feel in my heart," wrote artist Luo Cai.

This "theory" of painting is largely based on themes reflecting everyday life as a farmer: harvesting the mainstay crops of wheat, soybeans, rice and cotton in China. Farming is primarily done by people and animal-powered labor, which adds to the richness of the detailed paintings in "Harvested Images."

"There is a certain universal character to this work, common to folk paintings from many cultures, where bright, pri-

mary colors are favored, and people and things are rendered without anatomical correctness or strict perspective," said Rosario Aglialoro, University art graduate and co-organizer of the exhibition.

The 40-year history of the Pixian farmers paintings is showcased in these paintings, which begins in the mid-1950s when cartoon-like imagery was used to show Chinese citizens fostering agricultural production. This included a feel of communal solidarity under the leadership of the Communist Party. The second stage is from the mid 1960s to the late 1970s, when the "Socialist Realist" way of life changed the farmers' perspectives and artwork. The third stage, which includes the present, has moved to the realm of folk art geared toward tourist

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Conference to cover racism and environment

■ **JUSTICE:** Sponsored by CAER, the discussion examines pollution of poor and minority neighborhoods

By Ryan Maughn
Community Reporter

Winona LaDuke, who recently ran for vice president of the United States with Ralph Nader for the Pacific Party, will lead off the list of speakers for the Third Annual Grassroots Conference on Environmental Racism and Justice, beginning today at 7 p.m.

Environmental Racism is a term which describes the tendency for resource depletion and pollution to occur more frequently in lower class and minority regions because the residents often lack the political power to combat such exploitation.

LaDuke is a grassroots activist working for social and environmental justice. Since graduating from Harvard, LaDuke has been involved with various politically driven events including the "Honor the Earth" tour that featured the Indigo Girls.

She serves on the board of directors of Greenpeace USA, is board chair of the Indigenous Women's Network, and was called by several publications "the most prominent Native American environmental activist."

The conference, organized by the Coalition Against Environmental Racism (CAER), will continue on Saturday at 9 a.m. with several speakers, including William Harris,

AT A GLANCE

- **WHAT:** Third Annual Grassroots Conference on Environmental Racism and Justice.
- **WHEN:** Today at 7 p.m.
- **WHERE:** The University Law Center
- **INFO:** Call 346-4073 for more information.

Turn to **JUSTICE**, Page 6