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TODAY

Jill Campbell from Yale will speak about 18th century women's literature at 1501 Kincaid St. at 3 p.m. Call 346-3911 for information.

INSIDE

In-line skates have gained popularity, whether it be for exercising, speed skating or roller hockey

Michael Johnson heads an all-star cast for the Prefontaine Classic Sunday at Hayward Field

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WEATHER

Mostly sunny.
High 65. Low 45.

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TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Women march together to send message

■ **MARCH:** Event raises awareness of violence against women as a societal, not a women's, issue

By Laura Baker
Multicultural Issues Reporter

The sight of hundreds of women walking through the streets at night alone, without fear of rape or violence, sent a message to the Eugene community Thursday that these women will take back the night.

This is the annual Take Back the Night march sponsored by the ASUO Women's Center and Sexual Assault Support Services.

"As a woman this event is really important to me," Jen Luck, ASUO Safety Advocate said. "[The march is] one of the most empowering events we have for women. Part of the reason is that we get to march alone and be out in the front."

The rally began with a tae kwon do demonstration by a local women's group and singing by the women's choir, Soromundi. Interspersed with the singing were speakers talking on issues of empowerment and stopping violence against women.

Mustafa Kasubhai, a University Law School alumnus, spoke on the need for the support of men in the fight against violence. "Guilt doesn't change things," Kasubhai said. Instead, he said, men must take responsibility and work toward real change.

Jessica Frahs, ASUO Women's Center events coordinator, emphasized that violence against women is a societal issue, not just a women's issue. Frahs said she sees more men participating in the rally and march, which is important in ending the violence against women.

"We need everyone to come together," Frahs said. "Their support is vital."

Although some concern has been raised by both men and women about the fact that men are not allowed to walk beside women during the march, it has not overshadowed the importance of this march, say supporters.

"It is a night where women come together," Erin Curtin, a University stu-

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Participants in the Take Back the Night march join together to fight the fear of rape and violence. Hundreds of people rallied in support of the annual event which started Thursday evening on the East Lawn of the EMU.

CHAD PATTESON/Emerald

Court rules on election complaints

■ **ASUO:** The Constitution Court ruled that it had no authority to enforce a law that would disqualify the newly elected ASUO Executive

By Thom Schoenborn
Managing Editor

Twenty days after it allowed the postponed ASUO General Election to happen, the ASUO Constitution Court issued its opinion in the cases that delayed the election. The court ruled it would review all election complaints, but the elections will stand unless they find something in the complaints to overturn them.

The opinions were from two petitions, one filed by Judah Eckenberg and one filed by Chris Kantrowitz and Farrah Bostic, against the Elections Board and the Bill Miner/Ben Unger campaign.

In the opinion for Eckenberg's case, the court decided it had no authority to enforce Elections Rule 6.14, which states that a candidate who breaks a local or state law will be disqualified.

The court reasoned that only a municipal court could decide if the Miner/Unger campaign had broken the Eugene law which prohibits displaying posters on public property like telephone poles and traffic signs. Without a decision from a local court saying the campaign was guilty, the Constitution Court has no jurisdiction.

The court also mentioned it was disturbed by the broad stroke of the rule; any local law, like jaywalking, could disqualify a candidate.

The court separated the Bostic/Kantrowitz petition into four parts.

The first part requested a scrutiny and restructuring of the Elections Board, which the court is prevented from doing by virtue of the concept of 'separation of powers.' The requested relief is the responsibility of the executive or legislative branch, the court wrote.

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Workers rally against end of health care

■ **PROTEST:**

Classified employees are upset by a proposal to couple a raise with ended health care benefits

By Laura Cadiz

Higher Education Editor

Approximately 65 University classified employees rallied outside Johnson Hall Thursday afternoon in protest of a salary offer.

"We decided it was time to not be silent," Sue Bettin, local president for the Oregon Public Employees Union, said. "It was time to unite and let our voices be heard together. It's better for our voices to be heard together.... It makes a different message."

Oregon State System of Higher Education's offer to the Higher Education OPEU

Bargaining Team included: a two percent raise in January 1998, a two percent raise in January 1999 and the elimination of health care coverage in 1999.

And University classified employees are not happy with that offer.

"We would lose money, not gain it," Bettin said. "We would have to take \$108 out of our own pockets each month to cover medical expenses."

Bettin also pointed out other state employees are getting a larger raise, as state workers will receive a six percent increase of the two-year term of their contract. State

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MICHAEL CRISP/Emerald

Protesters gather outside of Johnson Hall Thursday afternoon. Demonstrators made signs, participated in cheers and watched a skit parodying earlier negotiations.