

Art & Dance

The University Museum of Art will host a Japanese dance performance and woodblock print art exhibit

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Oregon splits with UW

The men lost to Washington at McArthur Court 81-71, while the women upset the No. 13 Huskies on the road, 76-69

PAGE 13

TODAY

Campus will be closed on Monday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

WEATHER

Today

Rain
High 55. Low 44.

Saturday

Rain
High 57. Low 47.

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Conference targets local social issues

Panel speakers will discuss environmental racism and its effect on minority communities

By Kristina Rudinskas
Student Activities Reporter

Environmental justice, social equality, sovereignty, NAFTA and the EPA are just a few of the issues that will be addressed at the University this weekend.

The Coalition Against Environmental Racism's fourth annual Environmental Economic Justice Conference begins today at the University's law school. The conference, titled "Redefining Justice: Seeking Solutions from the Ground Up," will include nine speaker panels.

"Environmental issues are social issues as well," said Claudia Villena, co-director of this year's conference. "This conference is unique in the way it views environmentalism from a different perspective."

Environmental racism deals with the high levels of toxins and pollution that minority and low-income communities are exposed to because of their socio-economic status. The problem is especially rampant in urban areas.

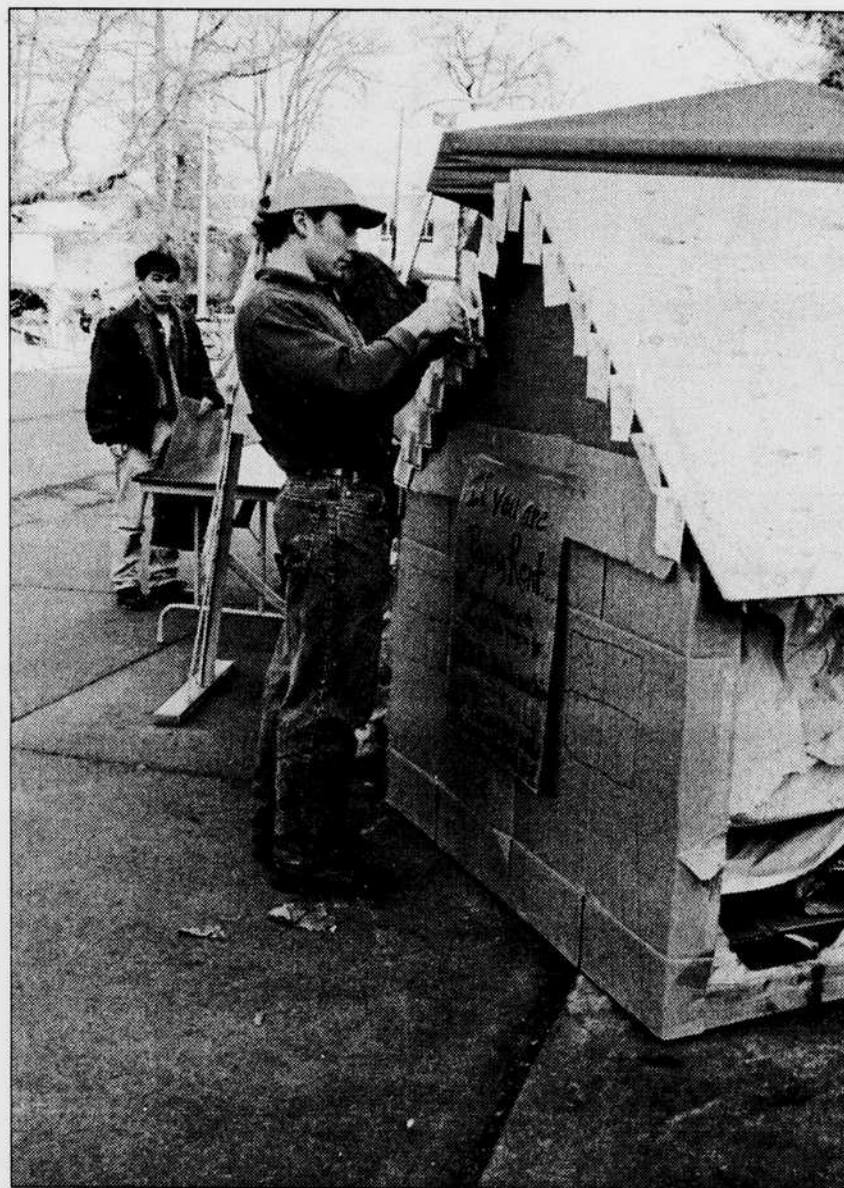
The student-run conference has received nationwide attention, said Bob Collin, the first environmental justice professor at the University and a speaker at the conference. The environmental justice department has grown to include 70 undergraduate students in the past two years.

Last year's conference was influential in educating the public about environmental injustices, Villena said. Gov. Kitzhaber formed the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee in August 1997 to address these issues.

"Last year's conference was a watershed year for students of color who didn't have a voice to speak for themselves," Collin ex-

Turn to **CONFERENCE**, Page 3

The house the ASUO built



WENDY FULLER/Emerald

Sophomore Aaron Weck, a pre-med major, staples a complaint to a house that the ASUO erected to collect information about student housing. Thursday was the first day of the ASUO Executive's campaign for tenants' rights.

Professor wins grant to study Asian culture

Karen Kelsky recently won a fellowship to study Japanese students who study abroad in search of Western culture

By Nicole Kristal
Higher Education Reporter

American popular culture affects more than our own perceptions of ourselves.

It also affects the perceptions female Japanese college graduates have about America.

According to associate anthropology Professor Karen Kelsky, this media-perpetuated image is partly responsible for a large number of Japanese women going abroad.

In her research, Kelsky questions what sort of information Japanese women receive about the West during childhood.

"They're indoctrinated just like we are with Hollywood movies and American television," she said. "They see it and get this very unrealistic image about the West."

Kelsky recently received two fellowships that will enable her to write about this topic in her book, "The Cosmopolitan Woman: Gender, Race and Internationalism In and Out of Japan."

The fellowships, one valued at \$30,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities and another from the University's Center for Humanities, will relieve Kelsky of her teaching duties next year.

"They don't really give you money. What they give you is time," she said.

Kelsky first became interested in Japanese women who go abroad while receiving her doctorate degree at the University of Hawaii. There she noticed a large number of Japanese women studying to receive their master's degrees. She said Hawaii's close proximity to Japan played a role in this movement.

"It was quite a famous phenomenon in Hawaii," she said. "Everyone was like,

Turn to **FELLOWSHIP**, Page 6

Survey shows most City Council members would like compensation

Most members give up to 40 hours a week, which some former city councilors say is a lot of time to give without pay

By Tricia Duryee
Community Reporter

It's no longer a balancing act for the all-volunteer city council. The scales are weighing a lot heavier on their civic responsibilities, leaving less time for their personal and professional lives.

Friends of Eugene, a non-profit organization that works primarily on land use and public policy issues, surveyed current and past city council members and mayors to determine whether the demands of the positions required financial compensation.

The report concluded that the council members and mayor should be compensated. Eben Fodor, Friends of Eugene board member said, "We are expecting volunteers to do this job that can average 25 to 40

hours a week — that's a full-time job. Why would someone be willing to do this?"

Out of the 15 council members contacted for the survey, 11 responded. Results showed that council members lost wages, reduced business incomes and missed professional opportunities as a result of their commitment. Personal and family life was also an issue, especially for members with children.

Bobby Lee, council member for the University area, stated within the survey that he felt his professional income had suffered from being on the council. "I can't get a part-time job, as a full-time graduate student for additional income," he said.

The report found that out of the comparable cities in Washington, Oregon and Northern California, which had a population between 100,000 and 190,000, Eugene and Salem were the only two cities that didn't provide compensation to their city council members. The report suggested taking an average of these figures to come up

with an annual salary of \$12,000 for each member and \$20,000 a year for the mayor.

For the eight members and mayor, the total sum would be \$116,000. "What the \$116,000 represents is miniscule. It's less than four hundredths of a percent, if you have a \$300 million dollar budget," Fodor said.

Many current and past council members agree with changing the regulating City Charter to allow some pay. The charter proposal would then have to be voted on by the citizens of Eugene.

Scott Meisner, current council member, commented, "The workload is ever increasing and issues even more weighty. Full-time council work without compensation limits/prevents many from seeking city office and also creates class conflict for those city councilors whose employers, in essence, 'donate' their services."

Former council member Barbara Keller also stated, "Payment would allow people to run who had to work but hold an inflexi-

ble job or are self-employed and could not afford to give that much time away. It might make for more diverse representation and adequate oversight."

However, not all council members felt alike.

"City elective office is exciting and rewarding. Our entire society depends on the concept of volunteerism. Few volunteer positions offer the kind of compensation available to councilors/mayor — i.e. generous staff support, equipment needs and reimbursement of all out-of-pocket expenses. I do not believe that additional monetary inducement will increase the number, the quality nor the diversity of people willing to serve as councilor/mayor," stated past councilor and Mayor Ruth Bascom within the survey.

She continued, "The essential ingredient must still be commitment and a willingness to put aside other interests and activities."