

The Oregon Humanities Center presents:

Michael Hobart

Professor of History  
Bryant College  
in a lecture entitled

"Numeracy and the Rise of the Analytical  
Vision of Knowledge"

Wednesday, June 3, 1998  
4:00 p.m. 330 Gilbert Hall

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## Library: Group works on a ballot measure

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City officials have yet to determine how much funding the tentative ballot measure will call for. However, Eugene Public Information Officer Phil Weiler said the specifics of the measure will be determined when the mayor's Library Improvement Committee presents its findings before the City Council on July 8.

Weiler said some of the specifics still to be determined include the size of the main facility as well as the possibility of funding for additional library branches. He added that one option is the construction of a 100,000-square-foot facility, 80,000 square feet of which could be used for library purposes and the remainder for temporary city offices.

Some community members are jumping at the opportunity to promote the passage of such a ballot measure in the November election.

Bill Sullivan, an organizer of ABLE, A Better Library for Everyone, said his group has worked to see the city fund the new facility and to ensure that a ballot measure for library improvements passes in the upcoming election.

Although city officials guaranteed funding for a new facility, ABLE will work to make sure

there is enough funding for the library to expand its services in future years.

Sullivan said ABLE will be transformed into a political action committee to make sure the tentative measure passes handily.

"Our sense is that people are feeling very positive about this," he said. "We're planning a large campaign."

A large campaign might be important in facilitating the passage of the measure, which will require a single majority of votes in the November election.

In primary and special elections, such a measure would have to be approved under the double-majority provision. This rule requires a measure to pass only if it is approved by a majority of registered voters and if 50 percent or more of the voting public turns out at the polls.

Although Sullivan said he is confident voters will approve the proposed library funding measure, he said ABLE will work to put it on future ballots if it fails this November.

In the meantime, Sullivan said the organization is just happy the City Council voted to finance a new facility.

"This is something to celebrate," he said. "If we were not a bunch of bookish librarians, we'd be out drinking champagne."

## Coleman: Plans to help UO recruit diverse faculty

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cate the arts and study the status of blacks in Oregon.

He has developed scholarship programs for minority students and has written countless articles and one book on black writers and musicians.

Through his efforts, he has seen the number of faculty of color in his department increase 500 percent.

"For almost 20 years I was a one-man band," he said.

While he will finish his career as one of the most highly respected professors at the University, he didn't always want to be a teacher. Although he loved reading black writers like Baldwin, Wright and Angelou in his segregated school in Arkansas, his first love was music.

After getting his bachelor's degree from San Francisco State in theater, he spent almost five years on the road working as a jazz musician. He played stand-up bass to crowds of over 10,000 for groups like Peter, Paul and Mary and jazz musician Vince

Guaraldi. He also worked in jazz clubs in San Francisco's North Beach area during the beat generation era.

Eventually, he gave it all up to be with his wife and two sons, both of whom are now musicians.

When he moved to Eugene from the Bay area, most of his friends wondered why.

"They said, 'That's white-bread country,' but I came because I thought I could make a difference."

Coleman said that although he is retiring from full-time teaching, he will stay on to help University President Dave Frohnmayer recruit and retain faculty of color. He said despite his accomplishments, there is still much to be done.

"Academia is still absolutely racist," he said. "People just do it with a rapier instead of a broad axe."

He said retirement will let him spend more time doing photography and playing music, and he may write a book about his experiences.

Got a story idea? Give us a call.

**Emerald**  **346-5511**

### Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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