

University briefs

Lecture will discuss corporate funding

Alfred F. Andersen, a retired scientist and author will speak about the impact of corporate funding for research universities.

The presentation and discussion will be on Sunday at 7 p.m. in the EMU River Rooms 109 and 110. For more information please call (541) 461-9381, e-mail at: Tom.Paine.Inst@att.net or check out the Web site at www.csf.colorado.edu/sustainable-justice

Local activist to speak on toxin disclosure laws

The Committee to Re-establish OSPIRG will hold an open house today at 5 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder room with local activist Mary O'Brien.

O'Brien was author of the local initiative to pass the Eugene toxics right-to-know law.

Eugene's toxics-right-to-know law is one of the toughest disclosure standards in the country.

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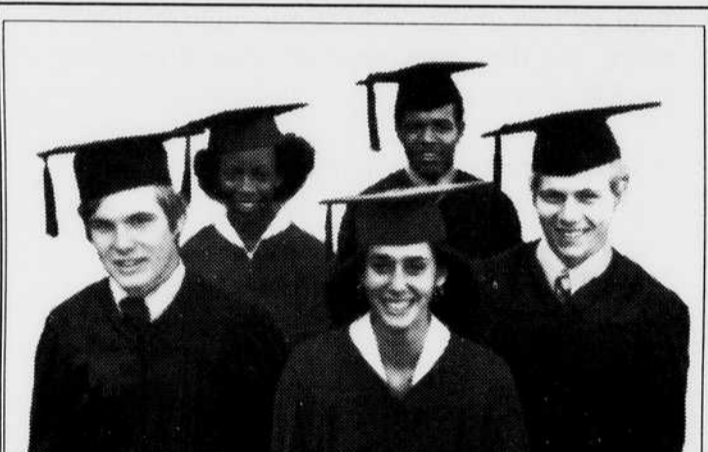
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Jazz

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said Kevin Hoferer, a graduate student in music performance, a jazz ensemble saxophonist and a GTF for Owen for three years.

Owen developed two-year programs in jazz composition, arranging and repertoire. The school also boasts award-winning ensembles, including three big-band ensembles, a vocal jazz ensemble and 10 small jazz combos.

Owen attributes the success of the program in good part to the students. "It's great to have bright students who are on top of things and eager to go," he said.

Students also have a positive reaction to Owen. "The students like him very much and admire

and respect his expertise as a musician," Mitchell said.

Owen has been recognized for the work he has done with students. In 1991, he won an Ersted Award, one of the University's awards for excellence in teaching.

"He has a talent for really zeroing in on what an individual needs musically," said Hoferer. "It's a very unusual thing. I haven't met a lot of professors who can do that."

The award-winning Oregon Jazz Ensemble is also under Owen's direction. "There are few groups in the Northwest that I think could stand up to them," Owen said.

Now, 10 years after the pro-

gram was established, Owen is gradually finding more time for his personal work as a musician. Writing music is his primary interest, he said. Bobby McFerrin, Dave Weckl, Anne Marie Moss and many University and college ensembles across the nation have performed his work.

Despite the intensity of his work, Owen is happy about his experience at the University. "I didn't know what I was getting into and that was probably a good thing," he said.

The music school is equally pleased about what Owen has gotten into.

"I am sincere when I say we are fortunate to have him," Mitchell said.

Medical marijuana sought nationwide

By John Hughes
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government should allow medical use of pot, now that five states have joined the parade by approving ballot measures on the issue, medical marijuana advocates said Wednesday.

Voters in Washington state, Oregon, Arizona, Nevada and Alaska passed measures Tuesday allowing medical use of marijuana.

California voters approved the cultivation and use of medicinal marijuana in 1996.

"The election last night was an incredible victory," Ethan A. Nadelmann, director of the Lindesmith Center, said at a news conference Wednesday at the nation's capital. "The people have spoken clearly that this should be available."

Dr. Rob Killian, who sponsored the Washington state measure, said about 1,200 patients in his state will be helped by the ballot question. He called on the federal government to make marijuana available to suffering patients nationwide.

"No one has proven to me why I should be thought of as a criminal because I give marijuana to my patients," he said.

But federal officials said the state outcomes don't change federal policy on pot.

"The last time I checked, marijuana was not a healthy substance," said Jim McDonough, director of strategy at the Office of National Drug Control Policy. "Marijuana is actually a harmful substance."

McDonough said the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences is studying whether marijuana could be used as a medicine. The Food and Drug Administration and Institutes of Health also would undertake rigorous studies before marijuana is approved for medicinal use.

"Allowing marijuana or any other drug to bypass this process is unwise," the office said in a statement Wednesday.

Supporters of the state ballot questions say that smoking pot can ease pain, restore appetite and quell nausea for seriously ill patients.

The measures on state ballots Tuesday were backed by New York billionaire philanthropist George Soros and the California-based Americans for Medical Rights.

In Colorado and Washington, D.C., the question of legalizing marijuana for medical use also appeared on ballots.

But Colorado Secretary of State Vikki Buckley ruled that medical marijuana backers fell more than 2,000 signatures short in their petition drive, so the vote didn't count.

In D.C., Congress imposed language that would have prevented the referendum from taking effect, had it passed. Then, under pressure from Congress, the city's board of elections decided not to release the results of the vote.

But backers said their own exit polls showed the question carried in Colorado and Washington, D.C.

John Glenn appears on Tonight Show

By Marcia Dunn
The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — John Glenn took a break from geriatric experiments and Mission Control on Wednesday, checking in with "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" for a few jokes about Metamucil and those "young punks" flying with him.

In a welcome departure from the normally staid interviews conducted from the space shuttle Discovery, Glenn traded a few good-natured barbs with the late-night comedian. The 77-year-old senator said this time in orbit, he's got more food choices — he can mix his Tang with Geritol or Metamucil.

The 10-minute conversation was to be broadcast Wednesday night. While a video transmission will let viewers see Glenn, the Democratic senator could only hear Leno.

"Have you ever threatened to turn the space shuttle around and go home, Senator Glenn, if these kids don't behave themselves?" Leno asked, calling the other six astronauts "young punks."

Glenn said there hadn't been any discipline problems aboard Discovery and besides, "I'm just a working stiff."

Leno: "Is there anybody in Washington you'd like to take into space and just leave there?"

No, Glenn said, but a few senators told him before he rocketed away that once he was in orbit, "they wouldn't provide the money to bring me back."

NASA gave Leno one of the coveted q-and-a spots since he had asked to chat with astronauts before in space.

Despite the jokes, Leno was clearly in awe of Glenn, who was the first American to orbit the Earth back in 1962, and is now the oldest.

"This is the most amazing thing that has ever happened to me," Leno said. "This will help me get the final chapter of my sixth-grade book report on Senator Glenn. I had to write a paper on Friendship 7 in the sixth grade, and I can finally turn it in now."

Leno ended up on the receiving end when he asked the astronauts what they could see down on Earth. Rivers, big airports and that's not all, said Glenn's commander, Curtis Brown Jr.

"Every time we fly by California, we see your chin," Brown said. "Really? Wow!" the comedian said, laughing.

After they signed off, Leno was still laughing.

"I got a shot from space that really made me laugh. Hey. HEY. H-E-E-Y!" he said.

Glenn also took time out from

his experiments to chat with Walter Cronkite, celebrating his 82nd birthday on Wednesday, and NASA's boss, Daniel Goldin.

"You caused trouble with my mother," Goldin said. "Last night, my 86-year-old mother called me up and she wanted to know when she was going into space. And if you think you're tenacious, I don't know how I'm going to tell her no."

"Good for her," Glenn said. "I'm glad she has that kind of attitude. I think too many people, when they get old, think they have to live by the calendar."

On a more serious note, a Hubble Space Telescope manager said Wednesday that a computer and two other Hubble components flying aboard Discovery have held up well against cosmic radiation. NASA wanted to test the equipment up to 350 miles make sure everything would work when installed by space-walking astronauts in 2000.

Besides the computer, based on an older Intel 486, the shuttle is test-flying a data recorder for Hubble as well as a turbine-driven cooler needed to keep infrared camera sensors at minus-330 degrees. The camera's evaporating supply of nitrogen ice will be gone by the end of December, halting observations by the camera until the cooler is installed.