

Evangelista

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over the community for different businesses and organizations and said he is always open to bartering. Part of Evangelista's goal is to make artwork accessible to the public and to people who might not be able to afford it, just as he could not afford the Nintendo game his son wanted.

While some of Evangelista's murals have specific messages, others portray landscapes or other images. "Tuscany," one of his better-known murals in town, is located on 12th Avenue and High Street. The black and white work shows an Italian street scene. Evangelista said he felt as if the street corner was asking for this mural and the

play with gray tones reminds him of the alleys in Eugene and the Oregon rain.

The "Celebrating Eugene" mural, located on 8th Avenue and High Street, is a colorful piece that combines the past and present with a mixture of black and white and the use of colors. The mural shows people who are significant to the Eugene community on a bus, celebrating Eugene. It is also the only work that Evangelista has ever included himself in.

After 20 years of working as a public artist and making his passion for art his profession, Evangelista is making his dream come true by coming to the University to get a college diploma, which will enable him to take his work to the next level: teaching.

"I want to teach what I've

learned on this walkabout of my life," he said.

Evangelista is currently working on a greeting wall with students at Whiteaker Elementary School. He encouraged students to turn in drawings and paintings that he put in a montage. Children will now help him paint the mural, which will welcome participants at next week's community dinner.

Whiteaker Elementary School Principal Marilyn Husser said the project offers students a great opportunity to gain ownership of a product they have helped create from the beginning to the end.

"They [students] have been a part of the process all along," Husser said.

Evangelista has also engaged in a dialogue with graffiti artists for

years. Although he does not necessarily agree with their style or practice, he tries to act as a positive role model and wants to encourage young graffiti artists to find a more appropriate outlet for their creativity. Evangelista himself has had to repaint vandalized murals numerous times throughout the years.

The public artist, who has teamed up with youth groups and offered apprenticeships to young people throughout his career, recently made a proposal to the Eugene City Council that involved offering community service hours to delinquent youths. Evangelista said he hopes to convey that troubled youths are valued and appreciated for their talents and that art provides an opportunity to "plant seeds for the future."

Richard Crawford, a social history photographer who frequently uses Evangelista's murals as backdrops for his work, said he supports Evangelista in his efforts to help young people in the community. Crawford said he noticed Evangelista's art long before he met the artist to ask for permission to photograph his work. Crawford said he thinks Evangelista's murals have become an integral part of the community.

Evangelista is currently working on several projects, including creating individual angels that can appear everywhere people would like to put them within the community. He said he hopes people will send him pictures and drawings of angels for this project. He can be reached at www.realitykitchen.com.

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Y2K: schools

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of higher education are the least prepared for the year 2000, according to a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

One reason is that universities have very diverse computers systems, from Department of Education software to home-grown programs, said Jim Gilmour, University associate director of Student Financial Aid. He is in charge of making sure all the student financial aid systems are compliant.

Gilmour assures, however, that the University's systems are ready for Y2K.

Other schools are not as confident.

Only 61 percent of the respondents to the Department of Education survey said that their most critical systems were ready in October for the new millennium and 97 percent predict that their systems would be Y2K compliant by Jan. 1, 2000, according to the report.

"I see a big problem here, even though we've finally seen progress in this area," John Koskinen, chairman of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, said in an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

One program initiated by the Department of Education to encourage universities to display their Y2K compliance is a school testing honor roll, which lists institutions that have completed a formal test with the department.

The four systems outlined are financial aid programs such as: Direct Loan Origination System, National Student Loan Data, Central Processing System and the Recipient Financial Management System.

Of the 1,300 institutions that use these systems, only about 700 have completed the tests and made it onto the honor roll, Gilmour said.

Bill Lewis, vice provost at Ari-

Precautions the University has taken for Jan. 1, 2000:

Classes will begin on Wednesday Jan. 5, not Monday.

Winter term financial aid checks will be printed in December and released in January.

Darkwing, Gladstone, Oregon/Daisy/Donald, the campus Altavista search engine and the Alpha Unix Cluster will be shut down from Dec. 31 at 5 p.m. to Jan. 1 at noon. UONet will not be affected.

SOURCE: The University Computing Center

zona State University, said his institution did test with the Department of Education and is on the honor roll.

"It's always good to test," Lewis said, although he acknowledges that testing doesn't guarantee that they will be ready.

The University is one of the many institutions that have not completed the test, which consists of verifying the link between the University's systems and the Department of Education.

The test isn't a priority, and there are other things the University needs to be doing at this point, Gilmour said.

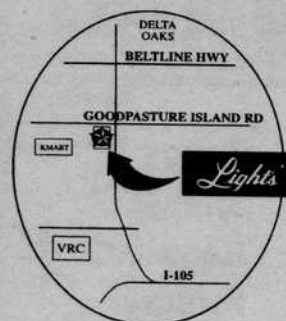
"It's like taking a test and instead of asking about the questions you know, they say copy page six, and you do it and turn it in," he said. "That doesn't mean you know anything but how to copy page six."

The Office of Student Financial Aid will be able to do its job even if there is a temporary break in the connection to the Department of Education, Gilmour said.

In many ways, it is difficult to know what will happen, said Susan Hilton, University Y2K coordinator.

"There is no one good acid test to find if it's Y2K ready," she said. Systems are updated on a daily basis, but she believes that the University has done everything in its power to get ready.

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