

Controversy

continued from page 1

While Barnes & Noble has listed Him in its "Discover New Authors" program, two local bookstores are indefinitely postponing readings until the controversy clears. Mother Kali's had scheduled a reading for May 12 but canceled it.

"We don't know who is right or wrong, we just hesitate to have the reading until a court or something has decided," said Gail Elber, a book-reading organizer for Mother Kali's.

Tom Gerald, book events coordinator for the University Bookstore, said he will hold off having a reading until the controversy clears up.

"We wanted to stay out of it until all legal problems involved were solved," Gerald said.

Friday's reading took on an emotional tone as questions were increasingly prodding, dealing with how some audience members perceived a suspiciously dramatic improvement in Him's writing voice in the past four years.

"I was informed that there would be a protest organized by Kimber Williams," said Him, a Eugene resident who graduated from the University with a degree in biochemistry.

"I just answered honestly," she said of the expected questions of the book.

Him said she does not have anything to worry about and is confident that anyone who reads the 1996 copyrighted manuscript and the published version will see enough similarity to know Williams' contributions did not significantly shape the expression of her life story.

Williams, who received her

masters in journalism from the University in 1995, said Friday's reading was the first time she and Him had been in the same room since 1998 when Him presented Williams with a contract.

The contract brought to the surface a dispute over Williams' role. It called Williams a copy editor and entitled her to 15 percent of the royalties from the sale of the book. Before Him presented Williams with the contract, Williams was under the impression that her name would appear next to Him's, as a co-author.

"If she would have come to me and told me she wanted a copy editor, I would have told her I am not an editor," Williams said.

Him said she does not see it that way, calling Williams a "freelance editor" who rejected the contract. The contract was presented after they had been working together about three times a week for 10 months, Williams said.

Those from the local writing community who came with questions about Him's process, Williams said, had often asked how they could help with the matter, and she suggested specific questions about the book's preparation.

"It's not unusual at book readings to talk to authors about the process of writing," Williams said.

Him's former writing instructors and people who had contributed to her manuscript voiced support for her. Barbara Branscomb, a freelance editor, said she worked with three drafts of Him's manuscript.

"I did a lot of editing on that book, and I struggled with Charithy over every single word that I was recommending she change,"

Turn to **Book**, page 9

VOTE for your Bookstore

8:30-5:00 Board Wednesday, May 10th & Thursday, May 11th

At the EMU and Bookstore lobby



UNIVERSITY of OREGON BOOKSTORE

Your Corner store since 1920. On the corner of 13th Avenue & Kincaid Street
All books are 10% off EVERYDAY for current UO students, faculty and staff.



GOING OVERSEAS?

keep up on campus life with the oregon daily emerald
now available on the world wide web

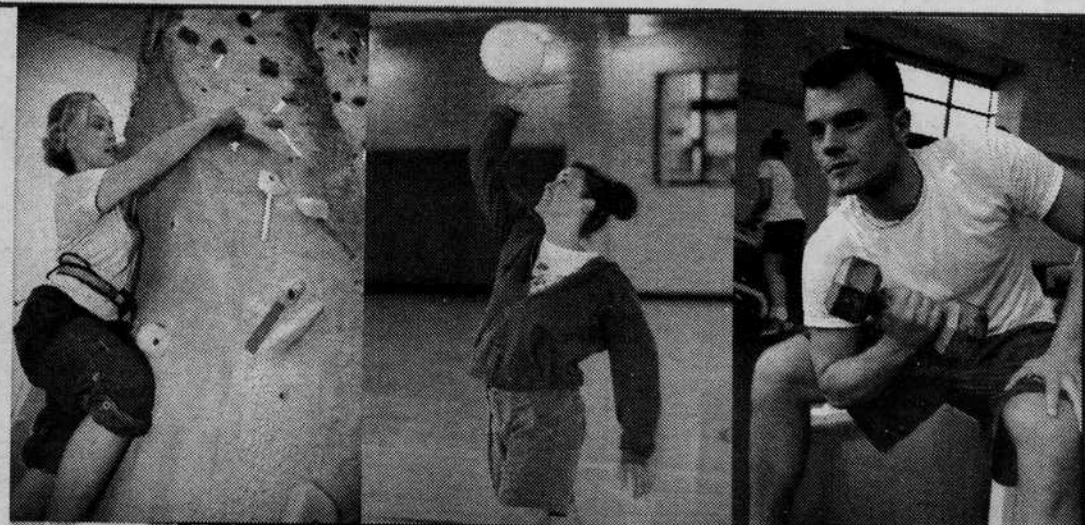
www.dailyemerald.com



MOST UO students [86%] 4 drinks or when they party

NEW VIEW
2000
Office of Student Life
University of Oregon

Data taken from 1998 UO Health Center Survey.



74% of UO students drink
1 or fewer days a week
...or don't drink at all.