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'Engaging Africa' kicks off

■ The symposium, which continues today, aims to increase understanding of Africa's importance

By Brooke Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Beng people of Africa believe babies are reincarnated, have spiritual power and are capable of un-

derstanding human language.

This is one part of African culture that Alma Gottlieb, an anthropology professor at the University of Illinois, shared Thursday evening in her presentation to kick off "Engaging Africa: A Symposium Exploring the Future of African Studies." The free event, sponsored by the University's Oregon Humanities Center, continues today with panels and presentations in the Gerlinger

Alumni Lounge.

The symposium will feature presenters from throughout the world and will cover such topics as globalization, African studies and how to be a writer in underdeveloped countries.

Steven Shankman, an English professor and director of the Oregon Humanities Center, said the pur-


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Renters' rights

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Brooklyn said that in addition to being active in the process of developing a code, students need to be at the forefront of the effort.

"Just like the ASUO did with the party ordinance," she said. "Instead of just oppose the ordinance, they wrote their own ordinance — we need to make sure the lines of communication remain open."

Jacobson, however, disagreed with the stance taken by the other two candidates on housing issues.

"Generally, a housing code wouldn't be in the best interest of all students," he said. "Especially if accompanied by price control. If it wasn't so sad, it would be funny that the other candidates think that's a solution."

Eugene history

The city of Eugene has looked into developing a housing code in the past, forming the Department Advisory Committee for the Housing Code Project in 1996. The nine-person group attempted to develop new

housing standards that had been abolished during budget cuts in the early 1980s. The committee determined that Eugene would benefit from a housing code, but funding prevented the recommendation from becoming a realization. In the end, Eugene was left without a housing code.

This year's Executive has made significant gains in improving relations with the City Council, which will allow next year's Executive the opportunity to enter with a recent history of good relations, ASUO Community Outreach Director Christa Shively said.

On campus, the current Executive is looking into developing a Web site containing information on renters' rights and housing issues.

"I know that I didn't receive any training on how to be a renter," Shively said. The ASUO "saw the Web site as a good way to pursue alternative outreach."

Legal assistance

For now, with the lack of a renters' code of rights, there are many available resources for students on campus seeking advice on dealing with housing problems.

ASUO Legal Services in the EMU offers students advice and some limited representation. Appointments are free for students.

"Easily, the most important thing for tenants is to put everything in writing," said L. Nicole Miani, an attorney with ASUO Legal Services. "All rights in the Landlord-Tenant Act are dependent upon the landlord having received written notice."

Miani said the problems that ASUO Legal Services sees most frequently involve breaking leases, obtaining repairs and getting security deposits back.

There are many things a potential tenant can do to improve his or her odds of an enjoyable rental experience, she said. Public records provide information that can be helpful in deciding on a place to live.

"Look at the [civil court] filings and see if they've been habitually sued," Miani said. "If they're suing a lot or evicting a lot of tenants, that would be a red flag."

Another option potential renters have is to talk with other people living where they plan to live, or to ask landlords for references, Miani said.

Elections

continued from page 1

acobson and Cook from the ballot before it saw election results to ensure an unbiased vote, elections board member Ken Best said.

Best said about 1,528 students voted, but added that the exact numbers were not available because other board members probably locked them up before leaving the office.

The four other board members left the ASUO office promptly after posting results and were unavailable for comment.

Best attributed the low turnout results to technical problems with Duck Web, short preparation time and a general lack of election interest by the student body.

Duck Web crashed multiple times during the election with the combined traffic of voters and students registering for classes, which may have led to frustration and lost voters.

Best added that Duck Web voting ran more smoothly last year. Best was elections coordinator last year.

This year the elections board also had only a couple of weeks to prepare for the elections, as opposed to the couple of months it had last year. Best said this threw the board members behind and didn't give them enough time to publicize the election.

Although a couple of grievances were filed this year, Best said this year's election didn't cause as much controversy as last year's, and not as much attention was drawn to the election. He said the timing of this year's grievances didn't cause as much excitement because decisions were made during the primaries.

"Problems like grievances tend to get the campus fired up," he said. "Since this year the grievance results were announced with election results, it didn't cause as much controversy."

But Brooklyn Campaign Manager Melissa Unger said the elections board unfairly kept observers and members of the press out of the ASUO office as the board prepared results.

Election rules state that any

Unofficial results for the 2001 ASUO primary elections:	Senate Seat 3, 2-year term:
Voter turnout: 1,528	Eduardo Morales 449
Executive Race:	Mimi Luong 334
Nilda Brooklyn and Joy Nair 624	Senate Seat 4, 1-year term:
Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook 356	Justin F. Zuiker 696
Eric Bailey and Jeff Oliver 237	Senate Seat 5, 1-year term:
Sho Ikeda 101	Andrew R. Elliot 674
Eric Qualheim and Brian Boone 62	Senate Seat 6, 2-year term:
Brad Schatzel and Kevin Stolle 39	Ben Buzbee 675
Associated Students Presidential Advisory Committee:	Senate Seat 7, 1-year term:
Katelyn Carey 767	Arlie Adkins 27
Student Recreation and Advisory Board:	Senate Seat 9, 2-year term:
Jon Lucchesi 737	Dave Sanchez 737
Brad Gerke 16	Senate Seat 10, 1-year term:
Building Fee Committee — 1-year term:	Dominique Beaumonte 123
Patrick Smith 21	Sean Henderson 83
David Schottle 14	Senate Seat 11, 2-year term:
Kyle Knepper 10	Suzie Shauger 188
Programs Finance Committee, at-large, 2-year term:	Senate Seat 12, 1-year term:
Edwin Prasad 716	None qualified
Programs Finance Committee, at-large, 1-year term:	Senate Seat 13, 2-year term:
Ruslan Tkebuchava 13	Ben Lacy 155
EMU Board, at-large, 2-year term:	Senate Seat 15, 2-year term:
Jackie Reed 310	Rebecca Cambreleng 62
Kerri Anne Morgan 300	Erin Foote Pursell 36
Logan Farrell 265	Dan Isaacson 26
Brenda Tincer 171	Gregory McNeill 24
Senate Seat 1, 1-year term:	Maco Stewart 15
Nadia Hasan 747	Steven Lockfield 11
	Senate Seat 17, 2-year term:
	None qualified

Source: ASUO Elections Board

campus publications that print at least monthly can have two observers, and each presidential candidate can have one observer, other than the candidate, in the room where the ballots are counted.

"There should be people in the room to overlook the elections board to make sure the board isn't biased," Unger said. "They should have to be careful, and they aren't

having to be careful when there's no one in the room."

As usual, this year's election also brought about some humorous writings for different races. These included names such as former ASUO President Wylie Chen and former Vice President Mitra Anoushiravani, Homer Simpson, "Me," and the inanimate concrete knob located next to the EMU Amphitheater.