

**News brief**

**APASU to host music, comedy Saturday**

As part of Asian Heritage Month festivities, the Asian/Pacific American Student Union hosts comedian Henry Cho and popular Asian pop band KAI this Saturday in the EMU Ballroom.

A raffle will be held during the event, with prizes ranging from Ave-da day-spa passes to restaurant gift certificates. Raffle tickets are two for \$1.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. The cost to attend is \$6, and tickets can be purchased through either the EMU Ticket Office or at the door.

# Laurel Hill breaks in new hoops court

**Community members gather for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on the basketball court they renovated**

By Sue Ryan  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Neighbors in the Laurel Hill community gathered to celebrate their hard work and play ball together Thursday evening at the Northwest Youth Corps center.

Basketball players, including five members of the University women's team, stood in a half-circle facing one of the two new posts. Red ribbons trailed down to the ground from one of the hoops. Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey stepped forward to snip the first ribbon and shoot a free throw. Rain-heavy clouds hovered, but no raindrops fell while players ran through lay-up drills to break in the new court.

"We put in labor and time — together we got the new basketball court," said Jake Bradshaw, co-chairwoman of the Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Association.

The association received a \$1,000 matching grant from the city of Eugene to revamp the court, which is next to Laurel Park. Neighborhood volunteers and the Northwest Youth Corps matched the dollar value of the grant with time and labor.

"We power-washed the pavement,

moved out Dumpsters, dug holes and set in new posts," said Betty Hemmingsen, association co-chairwoman.

The court is next door to the former Laurel Hill Elementary School, which now houses the Northwest Youth Corps, a nonprofit private alternative school. The corps served more than 600 youths between 11 and 19 years of age last year, said Kathleen Colson, the school's administrative manager.

"We offer four programs: an outdoor school, the youth corps, youth works, and Americorps," she said.

Corps members donated labor to help the community association match the dollar value of the city grant.

"They moved in and have been well-supported by the community over a number of years," said Hemmingsen. "We went into this as a joint venture."

Eugene created the matching grants program two years ago. The city allots \$100,000 annually to fund the program, which includes 20 projects so far. Staff members modeled the program after a similar concept in Seattle, said Beth Bridges, city planner.

"The council decided to do it as a way to empower their neighborhoods," she said. "We selected this project in the Laurel Hill neighborhood by polling residents on e-mail about what they wanted."



Adam Jones for the Emerald  
After cutting the ribbon to dedicate the new Laurel Hill neighborhood basketball court, Mayor Jim Torrey, left, hands the scissors to City Council member David Kelly.

Other projects have included planting trees at Trainsong Park and improving Tugman Park. Playgrounds have also been upgraded at Willakenzie School, Tandy Turn Park and in the Edgewood/Evergreen area.

A citizens committee approves proposals twice yearly for funding and will decide on the next set of projects Monday night. The committee consists of representatives from neighborhood associations and Eu-

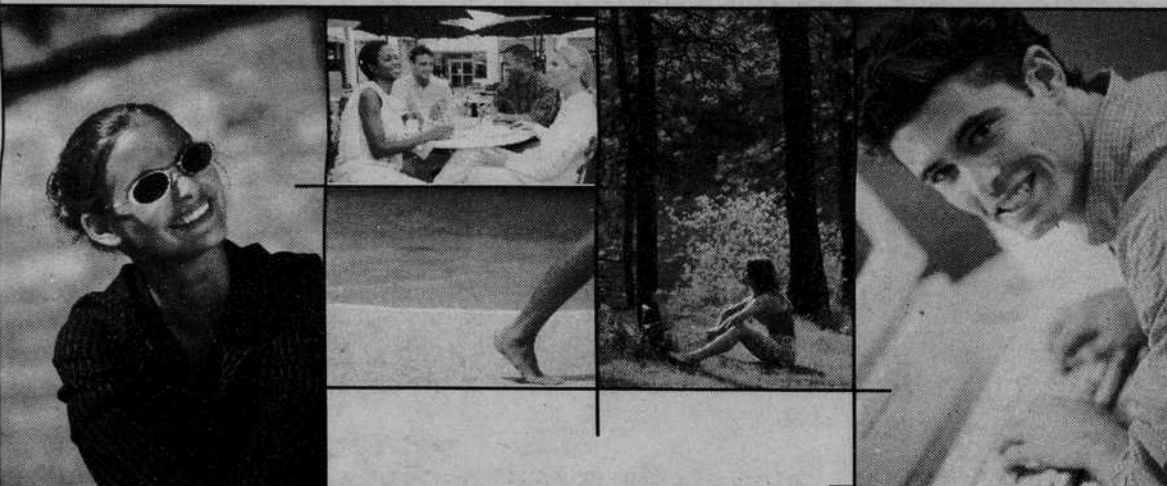
gene citizens who are contacted through the annual voter poll.

"It doesn't have to be an official neighborhood association to apply. It's any group of people that wants to do something good for their area," Bridges said. "It's pretty nifty and interesting to see how people pull together."

Once the committee makes its selection, the projects move on to the City Council for final approval May 29.

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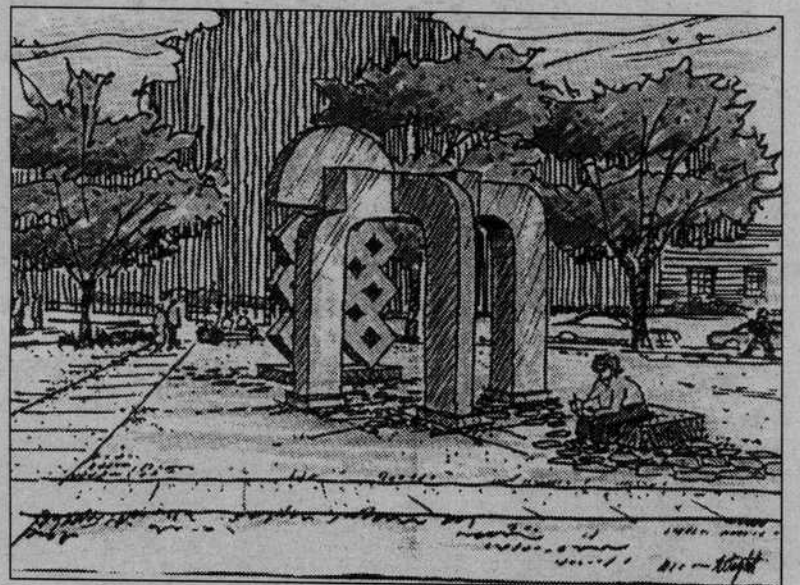
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Courtesy art  
Lee Kelly's stainless-steel outdoor sculpture, Akbar's Garden, will be placed on the west side of the Straub Hall quadrangle in October.

**News brief**

**New artwork to adorn Straub Hall quad**

After a wait of two years, a sculpture commemorating one of the University's largest fundraising campaigns has finally found a place on campus.

Akbar's Garden, sculptor Lee Kelly's stainless-steel outdoor artwork, will likely be located on the west side of the Straub Hall quadrangle in October. The Campus Planning Committee recommended the location for the sculpture during a Thursday meeting held in the EMU.

Eric McCready with the University Development Office said the sculpture was a gift from the Jordan Schnitzer family of Portland, where Kelly lives. McCready said the family had displayed the artwork at their hotel in Berkeley, Calif., but decided to

donate it to the University after the hotel closed down.

"It's a very large, eloquent, stainless-steel piece," he said.

The sculpture is about 20 feet wide and 9 feet tall. It will be located on the side of the quadrangle nearest to Gerlinger Hall.

"This is the first significant piece of art to be added to the campus in some time," McCready said. "This is going to be very visible."

Dorene Steggell, a planning associate with the University Planning Office, said the sculpture is made of furnished steel that will be "very silver" in appearance.

Dean of the Architecture and Allied Arts Department Robert Melnick helped plan the location of the sculpture and said it will be a prominent addition to the campus, but also accessible enough for people to sit around and walk beneath.

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