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7th Annual Weaving New Beginnings



A university event providing students and professors of color an opportunity to establish the beginnings of ties to their new community as a whole.

Date: October 25, 2001
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: EMU Ballroom
Who: UO students, family, and professors of color.

LSAT INTENSIVE REVIEW

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Book review

continued from page 5
ner poise, inner poise." But these mantras are unsuccessful attempts to cope with the overwhelming nature of her daily life.

Bridget's desire to become an "irresistible sex goddess" and super career girl is also challenged. Her overbearing and bullying mother manages to obtain the key to Bridget's apartment and checks up on her constantly as she tries to turn her daughter into a television celebrity.

Another highlight of the book occurs when Bridget arrives at what was intended to be a "Tarts and Vicars" party and finds out that the theme of the party has been changed without her knowledge. Wearing a Playboy bunny costume complete with a cotton tail, Bridget's embarrassing situation leaves readers laughing to the point of tears.

While Bridget's intentions are

good, they don't always work out the way she hopes. For example, she plans an elegant dinner party for her birthday. But the fancy dishes she tries to whip up burn, the soup turns blue and the dinner becomes a disaster.

Fielding's book, which is based in England, uses British humor and references such as "Oh, Bloody Hell" and "Bastard!" that are effective in keeping the journal entries entertaining.

Overall, Bridget comes across as the epitome of all females, with her flaky friends, unusual parents, obsessions over male phone calls, a pregnancy scare and her search that finally leads her to "true love." With its funny female dilemmas and pet peeves of single life, this is the kind of book to read all alone under the covers on a rainy day with a cup of hot chocolate.

Lisa Toth is the features/Pulse editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at lisatoth@dailyemerald.com.

Conference

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"We feel very good about the diversity we saw here," he said. "We had a great turnout of women, church groups, labor and artists, especially."

Zupan said the event, which was held mainly in Grayson Hall and the EMU, had two primary goals: to educate and to help organize a grassroots peace movement. One of Zupan's main concerns was "preaching to the converted."

"It isn't always a bad idea for us to be preaching to the choir, though, because there are a lot of people who had been active who were no longer as involved as they used to be," Zupan said. "Some of them have taken an indefinite leave of absence (from activism), and that's not good."

Originally scheduled as a smaller event focused on economic and cultural globalization, the conference was changed to focus on the attacks of Sept. 11 and subsequent U.S. response.

Keynote speaker Stephen Zunes, chairman of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at San Francisco State University, was added to address U.S. foreign policy. Zunes brought the audience of nearly 600 to its feet several times Friday night at the McDonald Theatre with his critical speech. He drew wild applause when he slammed his fist on the podium and shouted, "These policies won't change until people go down to the Congressional offices, sit down and refuse to leave until we're carried off by the police."

Other conference events included an art show, performances by political bands and a few independent films. A concert by Spearhead immediately followed Zunes' speech.

"I'm here to tell people that you can bomb the world into pieces, but you can't bomb it into peace," lead singer Michael Franti said.

Perhaps the strongest charge leveled against the government at the

conference came from Ann Fagan Ginger, the executive director of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute. She said that because the Constitution requires honoring of all treaties, and the United Nations Charter is a treaty, the government is obligated under constitutional law to obey the charter.

The charter prohibits the use of force in retaliation without United Nations approval. Therefore the United States is not only in violation of international law, but also its own law, according to Ginger.

She also said that the United States response "is disturbing," and "this new McCarthyism is not amusing."

Several community members said they attended the conference to learn about issues not being discussed in mainstream society.

"I'm here to find out about the other side of things, stuff I just haven't heard about yet," said Alex Lowe, a sophomore physics major at the University.

Cottage Grove resident Alice Baker said the conference was "very informative" and that "it really shows how much I didn't know before."

"I think the government fucked up, and I'd like to know what alternatives are available, so it's a good thing I'm here," Baker said.

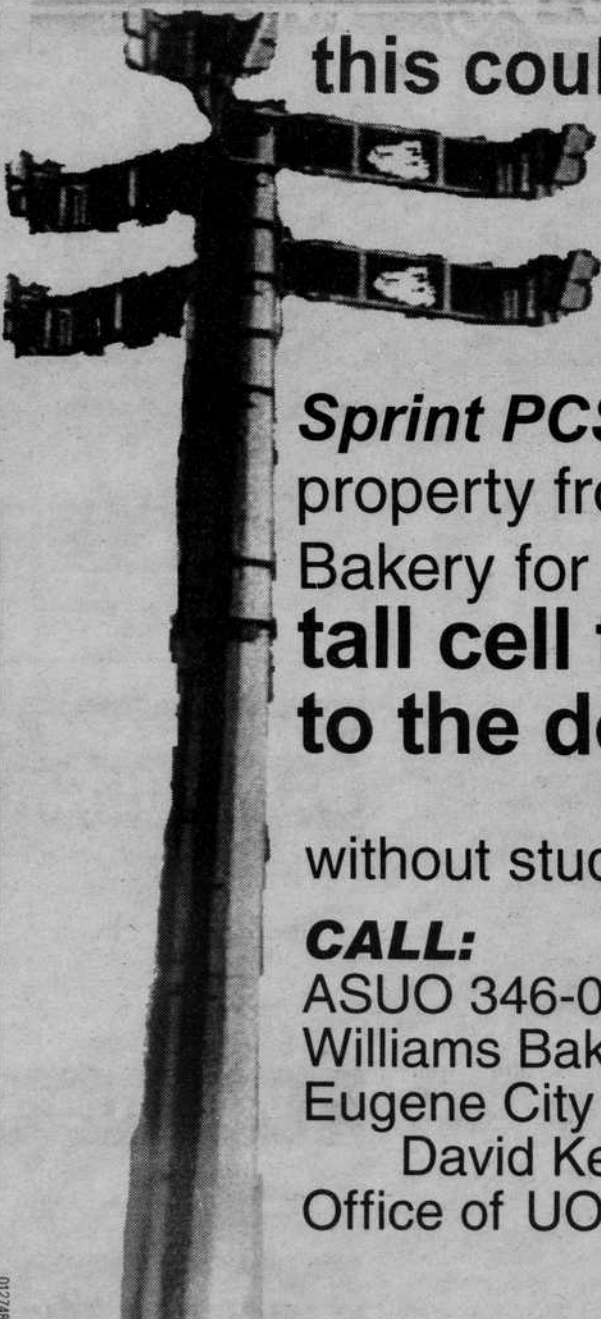
Some felt the conference was not liberal enough, though. At a roundtable discussion Saturday night, an audience member was critical that a panel at a peace conference could endorse "violence and assassination."

Zunes and Tammam Adi, the head of Eugene's Islamic Cultural Center, refuted the notion that they support assassinations, but defended their support for limited military action.

"We have to stop bin Laden and bring him to justice," Adi said, "and it's nobody's right to tell someone that 'I don't believe in self defense, so you shouldn't either.'"

Marty Toohy is a freelance reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald.

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