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Author Events

Michael Collins
The Keepers of the Truth
Tuesday, Oct. 30th • 7:30 p.m.
Knight Library • Browsing Room
Irish-born Collins comes to the University to read from his literary thriller, *The Keepers of the Truth*, which combines a small town murder mystery with an extraordinary exploration into the death of the American dream.

Paula Prober
Ten Tips For Women Who Want To Change The World
Thursday, Nov. 1st • 7:30 p.m.
UO Bookstore • Upstairs in Book Department
Awaken your authentic self and you are on the way to changing the world! Join Eugene counselor and writer Paula Prober as she reveals the practical exercises to make this happen. Tango dancers fill the Book Department afterward!

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Oregon Daily Emerald
P.O. Box 3159, Eugene OR 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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Features/Pulse: Lisa Toth, editor. Mason West, Jennifer West, Pulse reporters. Marcus Hathcock,

Student Life Events

Tuesday, Oct. 30
Seminar: PeaceHealth's Women's Information Network presents "Mind-Body-Spirit Medicine: Inner Resources for Healing," featuring Dr. Joe Arpaia, Eugene physician and co-author of "Tibetan Wisdom for Western Life." Arpaia will explain how simple mind-body techniques can enhance our internal healing resources to improve health. 7:30-9 p.m. DoubleTree Hotel, 3280 Gateway Rd, Springfield. Free.
Celebration: Oak Hill School presents its annual "Día de los Muertos Orrenda" exhibition in honor of Eugene's 20th year celebrating Día de los Muertos, featuring keynote speaker Jose Luis Lara. 6:30 p.m. Oak Hill School, 86397 Eastway Dr. Free.

Wednesday, Oct. 31
Caregiver Support Group: Confidential education for University community members caring for loved ones with any form of senile dementia, facilitated by the Alzheimer's Association Oregon/Greater Idaho Chapter. Noon-1 p.m. Rogue Room, EMU. Free.

Thursday, Nov. 1
Workshop: The Career Center presents "The Grad School Question: Is Grad School Right for Me?" to help students decide whether to continue their education past a bachelor's degree. 1-2 p.m. Ben Linder Room, EMU. Free.

Friday, Nov. 2
Bake sale: Project SafeRide is having its annual Autumn Bake Sale with many seasonal goodies. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Outside the University Bookstore. Donations only.

Interns press for food labeling

■ Signature gatherers hope to put an initiative on the 2002 ballot requiring the labeling of genetically modified foods

By Diane Huber
Oregon Daily Emerald

When certain soy fields are sprayed with the weed killer Roundup, the soy plants are left standing while the weeds are killed, according to Oregon Concerned Citizens for Safe Food. These soy plants have had a gene added that has a natural pesticide, making them resistant to Roundup. Currently the Food and Drug Administration is not required to label the genetic addition. This has motivated a coalition of health, environmental and consumer protection groups to gather the 80,000 signatures required to put an initiative on Oregon's November 2002 ballot that would require producers to label genetically modified foods.

And for the concerned Oregon group, today marks "Give Oregon a Choice: 10,000 Signatures Day," and members will be gathering signatures on campus.

Genetically modified foods have had genes for a specific trait transferred from one species to another. According to information provided by campaign coordinator Natalie White, gene transfers have been used in more than 60 crops and animals, including strawberries that have "anti-freeze" genes, cows with extra genes that increase milk production, and corn, cotton and soybeans that boast a genetically

transferred natural insecticide.

Biotechnology research company Monsanto said on its Web site that biotechnology is "one important piece of the puzzle of sustainable development," enabling farmers to grow more crops on the same plot of land. But White and other OCCSF members point to studies showing that genetically modified foods may lead to cancer, increased allergens and the evolution of pesticide-resistant insects.

White added that more research needs to be done to know the effects of genetic alteration, but in the meantime, Americans have a "right to know" that certain foods have been modified.

White has five interns from the University working with her on the campaign. Today, they are collecting signatures at various locations around Eugene, including the corner of 13th Avenue and University Street, Lane Community College, Oasis stores and PC Market of Choice stores.

White pointed out that many other countries outside the United States already have labeling requirements, including Japan, Australia and New Zealand. In Europe, labeling isn't required, but European farmers don't grow genetically altered foods because consumers refuse to buy them, she said.

"The big question is, 'Why are Americans not concerned?'" she said.

Sophomore political science and environmental studies major Jordanna Black is one of White's interns. She worked at a booth at the fall Street Faire and said she was

shocked by how little people knew about genetically engineered foods. She said that both people for and against the issue benefit from having genetically altered foods labeled.

"If people are for the issue or against the issue, it is still important that they have a choice," she said. "People just need to know."

Black suspects that the reason Americans know little about the issue is because the FDA is supported by various interest groups that promote genetically modified foods.

"(The FDA) is watching out for its own economic interests rather than protecting consumers, which is supposed to be its job," she said. But Lisa Pry, spokeswoman for Bio — a research company supporting biotechnology — said the FDA already has a strong labeling process in place. The FDA doesn't label genetically modified foods because they aren't any different from conventionally grown foods, she said.

"Were there possible allergens or more nutrients, the FDA would be required to label that," she said. "But the FDA sees no reason to label the process used to develop the end product."

So far, OCCSF has collected more than 20,000 signatures. White said she hopes to collect enough signatures to make Oregon the first state to label genetically modified foods.

"This is a unique opportunity because all eyes are on Oregon to see how people respond," she said.

Diane Huber is a student activities reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at dianehuber@dailyemerald.com.

News brief

University enrollment report released for 2001-02

The Office of Admissions last week released its preliminary fourth week enrollment report for the 2001-02 academic year, and the word "Oregon" seems to have become more prominent in the name University of Oregon.

Along with numbers in almost every other category, the number of Oregon residents enrolled at the University has increased for 2001-02. In 2000-01, 12,375 students were Oregon residents. This year, 13,470 students are residents.

Enrollment has reached a record number this year, with 19,091 stu-

dents filling University classrooms, parking lots and libraries.

The most pronounced increase is in the number of freshmen out of high school, according to Martha Pitts, director of admissions. She said there are 2,998 freshmen this year — up 259 from last year. The mean high school GPA of the freshman class rose from 3.4 to 3.43 percent and the average combined SAT score was 1,104.

This year, 2,423 students identified themselves as "students of color" — African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American and multi-ethnic — an increase of 139 students. But the growth of the students of color population did not keep pace with the overall growth of the University, Pitts said.

Complicating efforts to track the ethnic diversity on campus was an increase in the number of students declining to respond to the question of ethnic background. In 2000-01, 1,111 students declined to respond, while this year 1,260 students decided that they did not want to be classified by the University.

The number of transfer students decreased slightly, from 1,488 in 2000-01 to 1,441 this year.

Pitts also said women make up the majority of students, at 53 percent of the total population, and students are carrying a larger credit load than they were last year. The mean credit load is 14.08 for undergraduates and 12.04 for grad students.

— Leon Tovey

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