



News
Poets and poetry lovers take heed:
The microphone is waiting for you.
Page 6

Sports
Motivated by disappointment, Trevor
Woods has reached new heights this year.
Page 13



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Taking time to study art



Adam Jones Emerald

Emma Thorborg admires Martin Owino's brightly illuminated work Wednesday afternoon. Owino's Kenyan artwork was one of a plethora of stands from local and international artists that have usurped East 13th Avenue for this year's annual Street Faire.

Student's privacy weighed by Court

■ The high court agrees to hear 'John Doe's' case after lower courts find he has the right to sue Gonzaga

By Jan Crawford Greenburg
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON (KRT) — With one justice envisioning lawsuits "all over the place," the Supreme Court on Wednesday took up the issue of whether a student could sue a university for damages under federal privacy law after the school disclosed damaging and apparently false information about him.

The student, identified in court papers as John Doe, is seeking to hold Gonzaga University of Spokane, Wash., liable for telling state teacher certification officials that he allegedly had sexually assaulted and stalked another student. The university heard of the allegations third-hand; the student and alleged victim denied them.

Gonzaga's disclosure prevented him from getting a teaching job and all but "destroyed his career," his lawyer, Beth Brinkmann, told the justices.

He sued Gonzaga for defamation and improperly releasing educational information, in violation of the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

A jury agreed and awarded him \$1.1 million, including \$450,000 for violation of the federal privacy law. Gonzaga contends it should not have to pay the student for violating the privacy law.

During hour-long arguments Wednesday, John Roberts Jr., a lawyer for Gonzaga, said the law does not give students a right to sue. He said Congress intended for the U.S. secretary of education to enforce the law by authorizing the secretary to withhold funding for universities that violate its provisions.

Roberts said Congress, using "almost colloquial terms," said in the law: "Mr. Secretary, FERPA is your problem. Deal with it. ... There's no suggestion it would be in court."

Several justices appeared to agree. Justice Stephen Breyer, for example, said he was worried that allowing students to sue would lead to a proliferation of lawsuits against universities.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor also expressed doubts, saying the law appears to be "directed at when federal funds are going to be given to schools."

"The remedy is withholding funds," she told Brinkmann.

The student prevailed in the Washington Supreme Court, which said he had a right to sue and to the \$450,000 in damages.

Street Faire's zero effect

■ ASUO's Spring Street Faire has increased the number of recycling bins on campus in hopes of eliminating waste

By Danielle Gillespie
Oregon Daily Emerald

Campus Recycling is not only encouraging University students to reduce, reuse and recycle, but also to compost their food and associated paper products during the ASUO Spring Street Faire, which runs through Friday, in an effort to have close to a "zero-waste" event.

"We are moving recycling up a notch," Campus Recycling program manager Karyn Kaplan said. "We have done this before, but not as aggressively."

For the event, Campus Recycling decided not to put a trash bin on campus for the first time, and it has increased its number of volunteers. The group has about 25 volunteers this year, 15 more than at the Fall Street Faire. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, there will be a monitor and volunteer at six stations spread throughout campus where trash can be recycled, composted and deposited.

"We want to educate students about the proper way to compost waste," Campus Recycling employee Jonathan Borgida said.

Campus Recycling has been working with Rexis Forest By-Products Inc. for the past year testing different non-food items to see if they could be composted. They discovered that they could compost napkins, chopsticks, plates, waxed paper cups and paper food boats.

Kaplan said composts are usually thought of as yard waste, but food waste and paper products will also nurture the soil because they're natural, decomposable products that don't contain pesticides — which would eventually deplete the soil.

"One of the environmental crises we are facing right now is soil depletion," Kaplan said. "Petrochemicals have been hurting our soil, and composting will actually help our food supply."

Turn to Street Faire, page 5



Jonathan House Emerald



Thomas Patterson Emerald

(Middle) The Street Faire brings many people from the community, like South Eugene High School student Brent Adler who sells leather goods. (Bottom) Campus Recycling has increased the number of recycling bins in an effort to reduce the amount of waste generated by the fair.