

## JOIN US FOR EASTER WORSHIP!



April 10, 2004  
Holy Saturday  
7:00pm Easter Vigil, the first service of Easter

April 11, 2004  
The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day  
8:30am and 11:00am  
Easter breakfast-parish hall  
9:30-11:00am

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# Canola farmer, legal experts to discuss Monsanto battle

The one-day conference held in Agate Hall features experts on both legal and agricultural matters

By Steven Neuman  
News Reporter

A Canadian canola farmer fighting for patent rights to genetically altered seeds that grew spontaneously on his property will discuss his ongoing legal battle tonight at 7 p.m. in the Agate Hall auditorium.

Speaker Percy Schmeiser is currently engaged in a legal battle in the Canadian Supreme Court with Monsanto, a corporation that develops and markets genetically modified seeds. The company sued him for patent infringement when seeds from its "Roundup Ready Canola" drifted onto his farm.

The keynote speech, titled "David v. Goliath: Patent Law and the Might of Monsanto," is part of a one-day symposium being held today and is sponsored by the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics.

The symposium, dubbed "Malthus, Mendel, and Monsanto: Intellectual Property and the Law and Politics of Global Food Supply," will feature experts in patent law, plant genetics and agriculture. The convention takes its name from Thomas Malthus, an English economist who theorized that world population tends to multiply faster than the food supply, and

Gregor Mendel, an Austrian monk and botanist widely considered the father of genetics.

The symposium will explore how extending intellectual property rights to seeds affects farmers, and how recent Supreme Court decisions and new technologies threaten global food security and genetic diversity, according to a University press release.

**"Rapid shifts in the supply of the world's food certainly has implications for global peace and stability."**

Caroline Forell  
Wayne Morse Center  
Interim Director

"Over the past two decades, genetic engineers have created and patented improvements in seeds used to grow staple crops," said Keith Aoki, University law professor and conference organizer. "New international agreements establish the global scope of those patent rights and have allowed a decreasing number of multinational corporations to capture much of the global agricultural market with their patented seed."

Aoki said four or five corporations could end up with a lock on the global seed supply.

Second-year law student J.J. Haapala, who helped organize the event, is studying the intellectual property laws of agriculture and is also a local farmer.

"I think it's important to look at this relationship between farmers and (seed) breeders," Haapala said. "Setting up this artificial distinction has worked to our disadvantage."

He said that during the last 100 years, growers have been divorced from developers in the United States.

"With the green revolution, the seed became seen as a transport device for breeder's products," Haapala said. "Instead of breeding seeds regionally to match climate, we suddenly had blanket crops."

The lecture and conference is part of a two-year effort by the Wayne Morse Center to explore "The Changing Geopolitical Order: Implications for Peace and Stability."

"Rapid shifts in the supply of the world's food certainly has implications for global peace and stability," Wayne Morse Center Interim Director Caroline Forell said.

The one-day symposium is already sold out, but tickets are still available for Schmeiser's lecture, which is open to the public. Admission is \$5. Agate Hall is located at 1787 Agate St.

Contact the business/science/technology reporter at [stevenneuman@dailyemerald.com](mailto:stevenneuman@dailyemerald.com).

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Free tax filing available on campus Saturday

University accounting honors society Beta Alpha Psi is holding its fourth and final tax preparation Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program workshop Saturday from 10 to 4 p.m. in 228 Chiles.

About 60 volunteers, including Beta Alpha Psi pledges and members and representatives from the IRS, AARP and local accounting firms, are helping file tax returns.

"This service is free, whereas professionals charge for their services, and even online services charge a small fee to file some returns," VTIA Program Marketing Coordinator Reem Haj said. "We also walk individuals through the process so that they can gain knowledge about how to file their own taxes."

Haj said VTIA has helped about 100 people with their returns this year and more than 700 people since the program started five years ago. He said the most common forms filed are the 1040, 1040EZ and 1040A.

"We help students save money on their returns by helping to identify taxable and nontaxable income depending on whether it is a state or federal return," Haj said.

The program started at the University when a representative from the IRS contacted Helen Gernon, Charles H. Lundquist College of Business accounting department head, to see if Beta Alpha Psi wanted to participate in the program as a means of community service and as a way to help the fraternity members get more experience in preparing tax returns, Haj said.

Haj said appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Returns take from 30 minutes to one hour to complete and can be filed electronically if individuals also bring a copy of last year's tax return.

Haj said interested individuals should bring all tax-related

documents and copies of their social security card and last year's tax return. VTIA helps with federal tax forms for U.S. citizens and state returns for Oregon residents. Tax filing information for international students is available at <http://oip.uoregon.edu/iss/tax/>.

— Jennifer Sudick

### Casting call to be held Saturday for movie filming in Lane County

CSC Sisters LLC is holding an open casting call Saturday for non-speaking roles in a major motion picture to be shot in Eugene.

"Sisters," an adaptation of Russian playwright Anton Chekov's play "Three Sisters," will be filmed entirely in Lane County, including on the University campus and in Chambers Media Center soundstages.

The cast of "Sisters" includes Maria Bello, Rip Torn, Mary Stuart Masteron and Chris O'Donnell, and is being directed by Arthur Seideman. The filmmakers are looking for extras, college-age and older, to play students, supermarket patrons and other background characters. Around 60 extras are needed and will be required to work for one to 10 days at minimum wage pay.

"It should be a lot of fun for the extras," casting director Ed Ragozzino said. "They'll be hobnobbing with some pretty big stars."

All those interested in working in the film are asked to go to the East Gate of the Chambers Media Center at 2975 Chad Drive this Saturday at 10 a.m. Applicants are also asked to bring a photograph of themselves and a resumé listing any work-related experience, although experience is not required in order to receive a role.

Principal photography for "Sisters" is scheduled to begin April 17 and end May 15, according to Ragozzino.

— Ryan Nyburg