

## IN BRIEF

## Female chief judge to speak at Knight Law Center

The first woman to become a chief judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals will speak about the lives of women in the judiciary today at 6:30 p.m. in 175 Knight Law Center. Mary Schroeder, appointed chief judge to the nation's largest judicial circuit in 2000, will give a speech titled "Whatever Happened to Diversity?"

The circuit covers Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and the islands of Guam and the Northern Marianas.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Women's Law Forum. Schroeder will also be part of a panel discussion with other women in the law profession at 5 p.m.: U.S. District Judges Ann Aiken and Anna Brown, U.S. Magistrate Judge Janice Stewart, retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice Susan Leeson, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon Karin J. Immergut and Oregon State Senate Majority Leader Kate Brown, D-Portland.

Schroeder has had an illustrious career and has overcome many challenges as a woman. She was one of only six women in her University of Chicago law class in the 1960s and struggled to find her first job, according to a press release. Originally from Arizona, she moved back to the state at a time when no women in the state had ever been employed by a major law firm. However, she later became a partner at one of Arizona's largest law firms and went on to serve on the Arizona Court of Appeals for four years as the youngest woman appellate judge at the time, before President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the Ninth Circuit Court in 1979.

Jessica Skelton, Women's Law Forum director and a third-year law student, said Schroeder's work is in

line with the group's mission. The group works to increase awareness on women's issues and promote equality within the field of law.

"We chose Judge Schroeder because of her position ... and because of her history and involvement in issues related to women and diversity," Skelton said.

## Ms. Greek pageant to raise funds for MADD

Members of the greek community will strut their stuff for a good cause today. Beta Theta Phi is hosting its third annual Ms. Greek pageant at 7 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom, in what organizers expect to be one of the largest philanthropy events led by a fraternity in recent years.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Tickets are \$5.

The pageant will feature members from eight sororities. They will vie for the coveted title in rehearsed talent acts, a question-and-answer session and a display of formal wear. Each contestant will also have a sorority sister boost her candidacy for the title with a speech on why the contestant deserves to be Ms. Greek.

Last year Beta Theta Phi raised more than \$4,300 for MADD.

"We expect to raise even more money than in the past and hope that the event will remind everyone of the dangers of driving under the influence of intoxicants," Beta Theta Phi President Kyle Plitt said in a press release.

— Ayisha Yahya

## International Resource Center hosts poetry night

On Thursday, the International Resource Center will present "Global Fusion," a night of poetry from around the world read by students and faculty. The poems range from original works to classical pieces, each read in its language of origin.

"We have 20 scheduled readers," IRC Assistant Program Manager Katie Reed said. "They will be reading

poems in many languages, including French, Swahili, Italian, Spanish, Korean and Thai. Each reading will be accompanied by an English overhead so people can follow along."

This is the third year the IRC has put on an international poetry night, and Reed estimates the attendance for last year's event at about 75 people. After the planned readings, there will be an open mic for anyone who would like to read their own or someone else's work in English or any other language.

"The event is a fun opportunity to sample different cultures and hear the way other languages sound," Reed said. "Living in Eugene, you just hear English all the time."

"Global Fusion" is a free event and will begin at 7 p.m. in the International Lounge in the EMU. Free snacks will be provided.

## Space Gnome concert series comes to Eugene

Space Gnome Records and the UO Cultural Forum will present "Revolution Through Conscious Evolution," a touring concert series featuring performers from the indie label's roster, on Thursday in Agate Hall.

The performance is one of two stops in Eugene and will feature performances from Etheric Double, Resident Anti-Hero and Jorah LaFleur. The acts will be performing collaboratively, interchanging three members in the middle of the set.

Space Gnome is a year-and-a-half-old label based in Olympia, Wash., that released six records in the last year, all from Pacific Northwest artists and based in genres such as jazz/funk fusion, hip-hop and spoken word.

The doors for the performance open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2 for students and \$3 for the general public. For those who miss Thursday's concert, another Space Gnome performance will take place with mostly different artists on Feb. 24 at Cosmic Pizza, with tickets priced at \$5.

— Ryan Nyburg



LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Chi Psi Fraternity, at 1018 Hilyard St., has settled a lawsuit filed by two former pledges who were injured when they fell from the balcony in April 2002.

## Lawsuit: Former pledges say fraternity, associates negligent

Continued from page 1

fraternity, in April 2002 around 11:30 p.m. The balcony then detached from the building and collapsed, causing several people standing on it to fall to the ground.

Brookman and Baston claimed to have suffered numerous injuries as a result of the fall. Brookman broke his jaw in five places, lost five permanent teeth, cut his tongue and his chin, suffered "mental upset and anguish" and needed bone graft surgery, according to the suit. Baston fractured his left elbow, broke his left wrist and suffered cuts and abrasions as well as general stiffness and depression.

Brookman and Baston said the fraternity and its associates were negligent by failing to ensure the balcony's safety after a recent replacement and by failing to warn the pledges of its maximum weight capacity.

The suit's defendants included the local chapter of the Chi Psi Fraternity and its then-President David Waterfall, the national Chi Psi Fraternity and its associates, and the Chi Psi Alumni Association and its then-Vice President Bill Stephens.

John Langslet, the attorney for the defendants, did not return the Emerald's phone calls.

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## Petition: Snider plans to re-file petition with Constitution Court

Continued from page 1

other sources or assumptions," the decision states.

Snider, who said he was not informed of the decision until the Emerald contacted him Tuesday night, said the decision wasn't what he expected.

"I was under the impression, at least from the elections coordinator, that it was merely like a rubber-stamp-type thing," he said. "I'm rather confused right now."

He said according to his interpretation of the ASUO Constitution, students don't need any reason to try to recall an elected official.

Snider said he will re-file with the court within the week, time permitting.

"If that's what I have to do, I'll do it because I feel strongly about this matter," he said.

The decision also stated the "attitude displayed by the ASUO that they are generally above the

rules and regulations that apply to the general populace" wasn't grounds for a recall.

"While it is regrettable that a student of the University and a member of the ASUO would feel this way about the attitude of their elected officials, the attitude by an elected official in conducting their official duties, short of a violation of the ASUO Constitution or the rules promulgated under it, does not constitute a viable case for a recall of that student," Derrick said in the decision.

Derrick told the Emerald he could not elaborate on the decision, but said Snider could legally resubmit a petition.

ASUO Public Relations Director Nathan Strauss said the executive is open to feedback from students.

"Our doors are open as far as students coming and voicing their concerns," he said. "(Snider) didn't take advantage of that avenue."

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