

Jordan Schnitzer Museum opens Japanese art exhibit

Gallery unveils prints from early 18th and late 19th century Japan

BY EMILY SMITH NEWS REPORTER

The University's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art recently introduced its fall 2005 exhibition, "Inside the Floating World: Japanese Prints from the Lenoir C. Wright Collection," which will be on display through Jan. 8, 2006. Admission to the museum is free for University students, faculty and staff.

The exhibit features colored woodblock prints from the early 18th through late 19th centuries that depict the urban culture of Edo, Japan, at the time. The artistic movement of this period is known as ukiyo-e, meaning "pictures of the floating world," which references with the world of escapism and pleasure characterized by the Kabuki theater and the Yoshiwara, a licensed brothel district on the outskirts of Edo.

The prints range from simple and faded to intricate and vibrant, depicting different scenes from Japanese plays, landscapes of Mt. Fuji and pictures of Japanese women.

The Kabuki theater often told stories of samurai vendettas, ill-fated romances, slapstick comedies and tragic love-suicides. Many of the prints show dressing-room antics and climactic scenes from the performances.

Bijinga, pictures of women, was also a popular theme of the time and makes up a large part of the exhibit. Artists made prints of women from all different classes and professions. Geishas, who were entertainers and sometimes prostitutes, and courtesans, who were strictly prostitutes, both mostly appear adorned in traditional kimonos.

In addition to the 100 prints the organizers and museum curators selected as representational of the major themes explored by Japanese artists 200 to 300 years ago, is a



This ukiyo-e woodblock print is on display at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art .

display called "Ukiyo-e Outside In: Western Impressions of the Floating World." This display features artists from the West who also used color woodblock printing about a century later as a medium for Japanese portraits and scenes.

Sue Reed and her daughter, University alumna Emily Reed, came from Bandon to see the museum because it was closed while Emily attended the University.

"It's beautiful," Sue Reed said. "It's neat to see so many (Japanese woodblock prints), and they're all so old."

The exhibit was organized by the Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and curated by Allen Hockley, Dartmouth College.

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OSPIRG proposes project to support progressive candidates

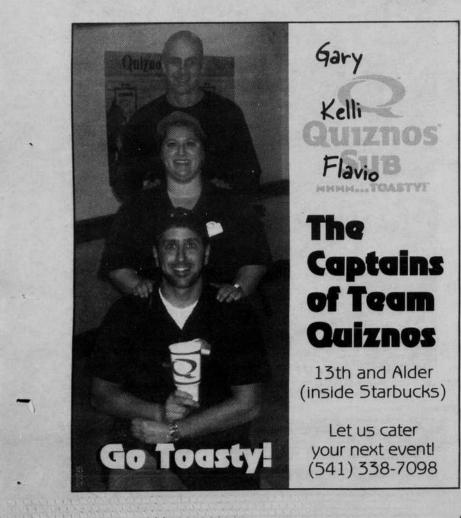
The Oregon Bus Project involves students and politicians in helping with campaigns

BY LEAH JOHNSTON FREELANCE REPORTER

Oregon Bus Project founder Jefferson Smith on Thursday urged attendees of the first OSPIRG Smith's remarks.

"Your energy is the energy that will help our country change," said Amber Dawn Hallet, the University's campus organizer for the student OSPIRG's Protect the Oregon Coast campaign is designed to combat plans to explore for oil and natural gas off the Oregon coast.

The Hunger and Homelessness campaign will provide help for community members who are homeless. Volunteers will conduct surveys in an attempt to study the cause of homelessness, said Hailee Newman, OSPIRG chairwoman for the University chapter.



meeting of the academic year to make their voices heard by participating in politics.

The Bus Project is a movement that encourages students and politicians traveling around Oregon to support progressive candidates. Smith, a native Oregonian and Harvard Law School graduate, said he started the project to get young people involved in politics and to help elect progressive candidates through grass-roots campaigning — essentially, knocking on doors.

"It is a tremendous generation with the most access to information than any other in history," Smith said. "Hopefully the means of info won't be avenues to video games but avenues to democracy."

OSPIRG's leaders echoed

chapter of the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group.

OSPIRG's agenda for the year includes the Affordable Textbooks campaign, the Protect the Oregon Coast campaign and the Hunger and Homelessness campaign.

"We are trying to communicate with professors that we don't want bundled books, and to keep the old editions of books ... We are hoping the professors will communicate this to the publishers," said OSPIRG intern Jenny Manning, who is working on the textbooks campaign.

OSPIRG hopes to get students together in one room at the end of the term to buy and sell their books, which means students will get more money back and not have to pay as much, Manning said. Students attending the meeting said they were inspired by the number of local and world issues OSPIRG is tackling, and many were motivated to volunteer in the future.

"Volunteerism is so important," University student Luis Garcia said. "If you look back 40 years, most social movements have been started by young people."

Approximately 70 students attended the meeting at the University.

"Smith was a big draw for the night," Manning said.

OSPIRG meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Survival Center in the EMU. For more information contact Hailee Newman at 541-619-9388.

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