

Rosa Parks, civil rights pioneer, dies at 92

BY BREE FOWLER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Rosa Lee Parks, whose refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man sparked the modern civil rights movement, died Monday evening. She was 92.

Parks died at her home during the evening of natural causes, with close friends by her side, said Gregory Reed, an attorney who represented her for the past 15 years.

Parks was 42 when she committed an act of defiance in 1955 that was to change the course of American history and earn her the title "mother of the civil rights movement."

At that time, Jim Crow laws in place since the post-Civil War Reconstruction required separation of the races in buses, restaurants and public accommodations throughout the South, while legally sanctioned racial discrimination kept blacks out of many jobs and neighborhoods in the North.

The Montgomery, Ala., seamstress, an active member of the local chapter

of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was riding on a city bus Dec. 1, 1955, when a white man demanded her seat.

Parks refused, despite rules requiring blacks to yield their seats to whites. Two black Montgomery women had been arrested earlier that year on the same charge, but Parks was jailed. She also was fined \$14.

The Rev. Al Sharpton called Parks "a gentle woman whose single act changed the most powerful nation in the world. ... One of the highlights of my life was meeting and getting to know her."

Speaking in 1992, Parks said "that my feet were hurting and I didn't know why I refused to stand up when they told me. But the real reason of my not standing up was I felt that I had a right to be treated as any other passenger. We had endured that kind of treatment for too long."

Her arrest triggered a 381-day boycott of the bus system organized by a then little-known Baptist minister, the

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who later earned the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Montgomery bus boycott, which came one year after the Supreme Court's landmark declaration that separate schools for blacks and whites were "inherently unequal," marked the start of the modern civil rights movement.

The movement culminated in the 1964 federal Civil Rights Act, which banned racial discrimination in public accommodations.

After taking her public stand for civil rights, Parks had trouble finding work in Alabama. Amid threats and harassment, she and her husband Raymond moved to Detroit in 1957. She worked as an aide in the Detroit office of Democratic U.S. Rep. John Conyers from 1965 until retiring in 1988. Raymond Parks died in 1977.

Parks became a revered figure in Detroit, where a street and middle school were named for her and a paper-mache likeness of her was featured in the city's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Parks said upon retiring from her job with Conyers that she wanted to devote more time to the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. The institute, incorporated in 1987, is devoted to developing leadership among Detroit's young people and initiating them into the struggle for civil rights.

"Rosa Parks: My Story" was published in 1992. In 1994 she brought out "Quiet Strength: The Faith, the Hope and the Heart of a Woman Who Changed a Nation," and in 1996 a collection of letters called "Dear Parks: A Dialogue With Today's Youth."

She was among the civil rights leaders who addressed the Million Man March in October 1995.

In 1996, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded to civilians making outstanding contributions to American life. In 1999, she received the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Parks received dozens of other awards, from induction into the Alaba-

ma Academy of Honor to an NAACP Image Award for her 1999 appearance on CBS' "Touched by an Angel."

The Rosa Parks Library and Museum opened in November 2000 in Montgomery. The museum features a 1955-era bus and a video that recreates the conversation that preceded Parks' arrest.

Looking back in 1988, Parks said she worried that black young people took legal equality for granted.

"We must double and redouble our efforts to try to say to our youth, to try to give them an inspiration, an incentive and the will to study our heritage and to know what it means to be black in America today."

At a celebration in her honor that same year, she said: "I am leaving this legacy to all of you ... to bring peace, justice, equality, love and a fulfillment of what our lives should be. Without vision, the people will perish, and without courage and inspiration, dreams will die — the dream of freedom and peace."

Award: Furniture exchange prevents waste

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joined the WasteWise program during the last academic year as part of its participation in RecycleMania, an annual EPA-endorsed competition between colleges and universities across the country aimed at reducing waste in campus residence halls.

The University placed second of 49 schools in the competition during the last academic year, and Hathcock said the University plans to compete again this year.

The 2004 College/University Partner of the Year Award went to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, which co-founded RecycleMania in 2001 and has since taken first place in three of the five competitions, according to the WasteWise Web site.

Kaplan said recycling is not a glorified form of garbage collection but a whole philosophy that can include buying products made from recycled materials and using nontoxic cleaners.

One aspect of the University's recycling program is the Reusable Office Supply Exchange, which consists of a closet in Prince Lucien Campbell Hall

where faculty members and student group members can drop off office supplies they don't need and pick up things they do.

The exchange saves \$20,000 per year in office supply costs, Kaplan said.

Campus Recycling also operates a furniture exchange for University departments.

Everything that is thrown into a landfill decomposes and emits greenhouse gases, which harm the ozone layer, Kaplan said, so throwing a couch that is still usable into a landfill rather than giving it to someone who could use it directly harms the environment.

The furniture exchange program prevented 10 tons of waste from entering landfills during the 2003-04 fiscal year, the most recent year that data is available.

"Originally, recycling was accepted in different places as a way to reduce roadside litter, and now it's evolved to all these different uses," Kaplan said.

Kaplan said that while many universities have successful recycling

programs, the University stands out because of its students.

"Number one, student involvement is critical," Kaplan said. "We have one of the most innovative recycling programs in the country in terms of use of students."

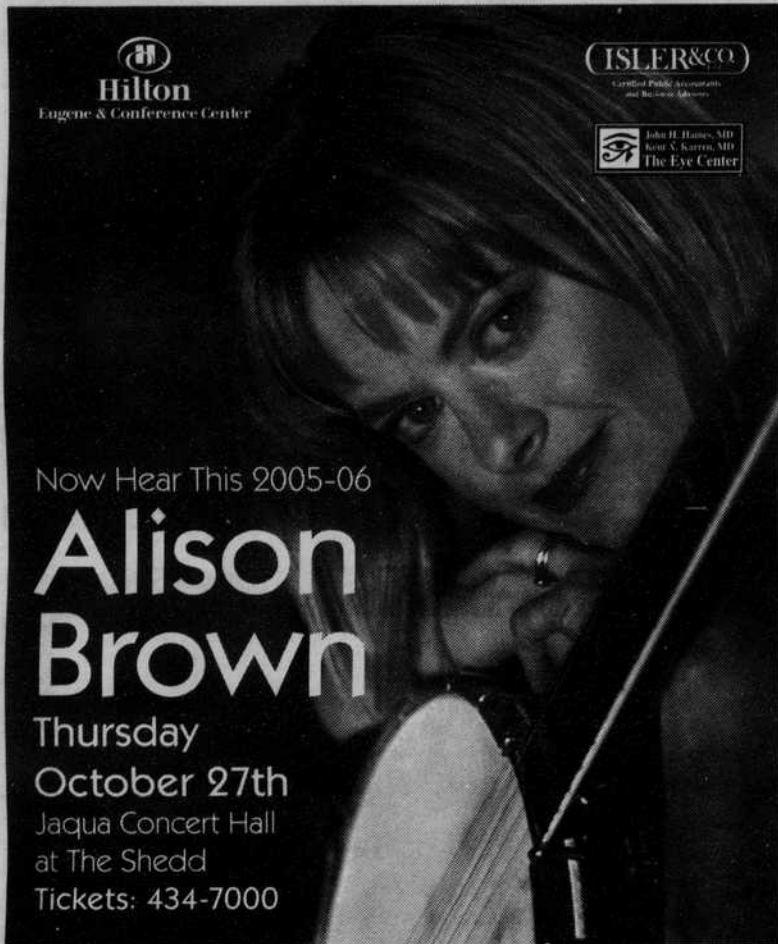
Kaplan said the Campus Recycling Program has 45 paid student employees, while recycling programs at other universities tend to hire full-time workers.

Involving students in the process reaps long-term dividends, as Kaplan said University students who work for Campus Recycling often move to other cities and continue to work in recycling after they graduate.

On campus, the program has seen increasing success since it began in 1989, Kaplan said.

"The population of students has grown, and we've continued to decrease the amount of waste generated on campus," Kaplan said.

Contact the business, science and technology reporter at esywester@dailyemerald.com



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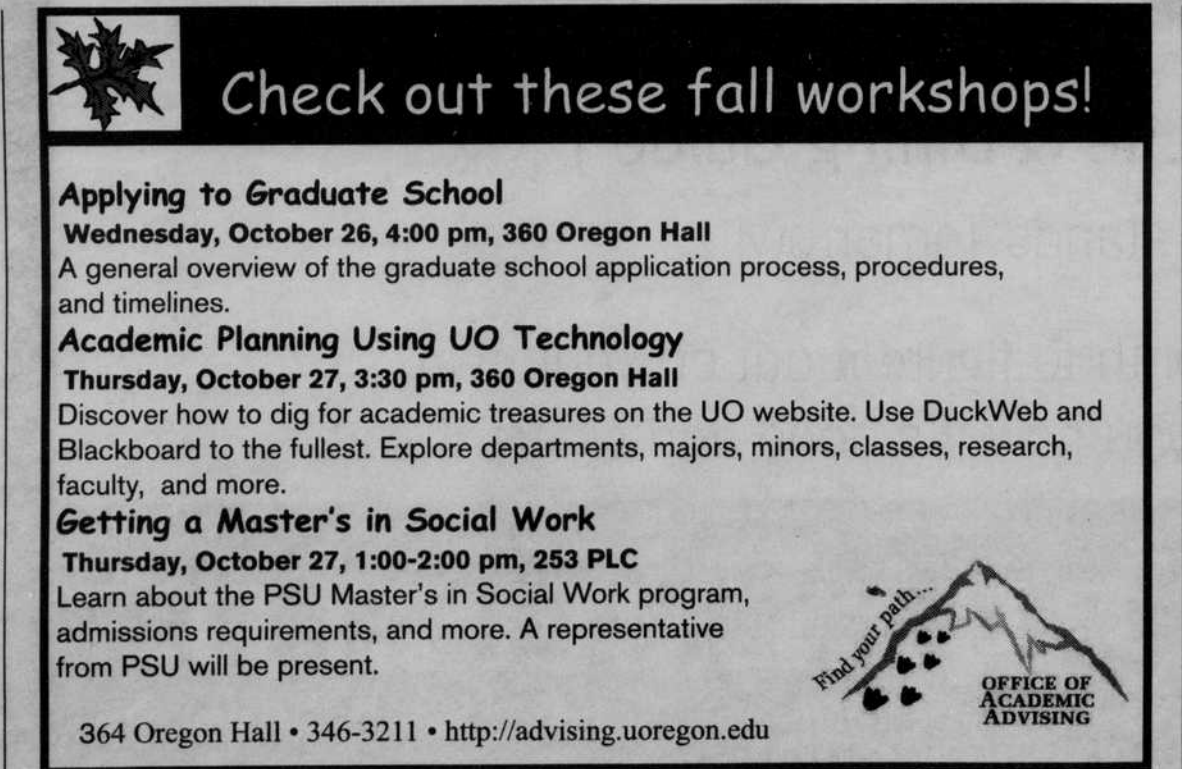
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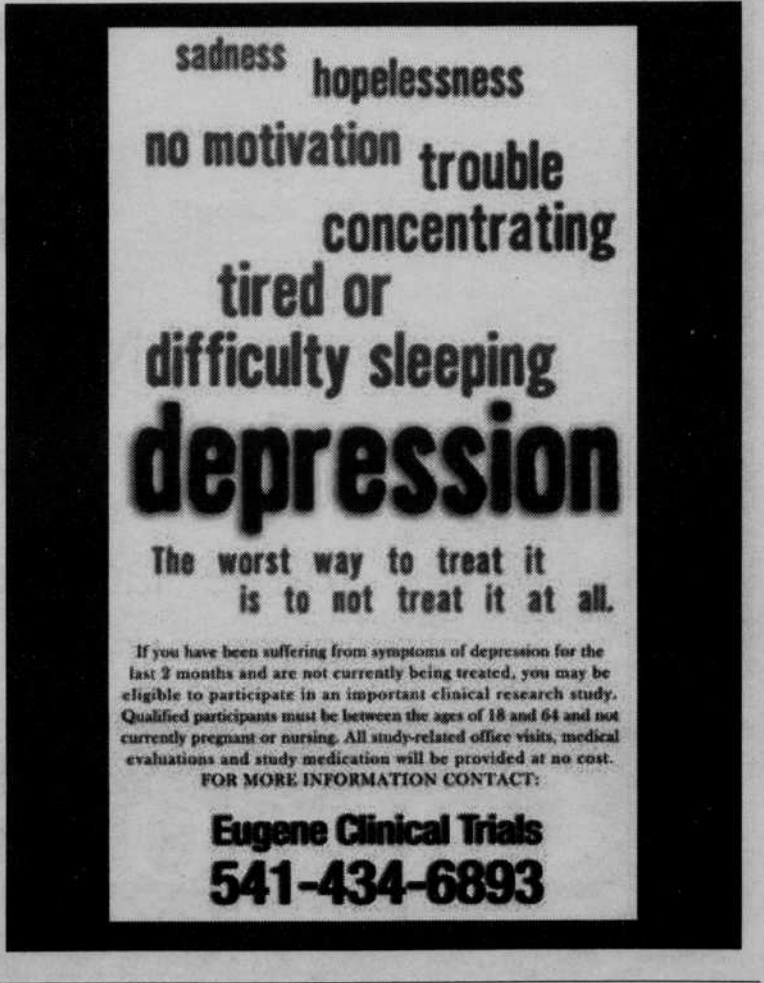
Applying to Graduate School
Wednesday, October 26, 4:00 pm, 360 Oregon Hall
A general overview of the graduate school application process, procedures, and timelines.

Academic Planning Using UO Technology
Thursday, October 27, 3:30 pm, 360 Oregon Hall
Discover how to dig for academic treasures on the UO website. Use DuckWeb and Blackboard to the fullest. Explore departments, majors, minors, classes, research, faculty, and more.

Getting a Master's in Social Work
Thursday, October 27, 1:00-2:00 pm, 253 PLC
Learn about the PSU Master's in Social Work program, admissions requirements, and more. A representative from PSU will be present.

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