



Winter 2023

Cartoonist Keith Knight speaks about social justice

Many of us remember the excitement of getting the Sunday paper and immediately opening it to the funnies pages where we found colorful characters and their stories. Perhaps we no longer take those stories seriously because we think of them as kids' stuff. But comics and cartoons matter because stories matter. Comics are a way to tell stories. Story telling is how humans make meaning. How we are portrayed in the stories of our culture matters because those stories influence the narratives in our heads. They affect the aspirations we allow ourselves to have. They affect what risks we are willing to take. Stories also influence how others see us. They affect how the people around us receive our words, our ideas, and our humanity.

Cartoonist Keith Knight is one of the most highly regarded cartoonists in the United States. He is part of a generation of African American artists who were raised on hip-hop, infusing their work

with urgency, edge, humor, satire, politics, and themes of racial justice and equality.

On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, Keith Knight will give a slideshow lecture titled "The Intersection of Art and Social Justice" at 5:30 p.m. in the EMU Redwood Auditorium as the Oregon Humanities Center's 2022–23 Colin Ruagh Thomas O'Fallon Memorial Lecturer in Art and American Culture. Knight will take a deep dive on twenty artists who inspired him to

use his art to address social issues—artists like Ollie Harrington, Langston Hughes, Octavia Butler, Oscar Michaux, James Baldwin, alongside current artists like

Dread Scott, Public Enemy, and Fly.

Knight has been creating comics and cartoons since grade school, and has been drawing his social and personal commentaries since the 1990's.

"My first Black teacher was my American Lit teacher in college. He assigned us James Baldwin, Maya Angelou, Richard Wright, and Ralph Ellison to read. When someone asked why he was giving us all Black writers, he answered, 'I'm giving you all American writ-

ers.' That revelation changed me. Because he was making the point that what we know as American Literature, i.e. Mark Twain,

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Author shares strategies for coping with climate anxiety

Severe storms, flooding, melting glaciers, extreme heat, droughts, wildfires—it can be overwhelming. The realities of climate change are causing distress, anger, and



other negative emotions in children and young people worldwide. A 2021 survey conducted by Elizabeth Marks and Caroline Hickman at the University of Bath of 10,000 16- to 25-year-olds from ten differ-

ent countries found that most respondents were concerned about climate change and government responses to it, with nearly 60% saying they felt 'very worried' or 'extremely worried'.

Many associated negative emotions with climate change—the most commonly identified feelings were 'sad', 'afraid', 'anxious', 'angry', and 'powerless'. This 'eco-anxiety' has a negative impact on respondents' daily lives, say the researchers, and is partly caused by the feeling that governments aren't doing enough to avoid a climate catastrophe.

Author and researcher Britt Wray will share practical tips and strategies for productively dealing with our emotions, living with climate trauma, and

strengthening our communities so we can combat climate change together in her talk "How to Cope with Climate Anxiety: Saving the Earth and Saving Ourselves" on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in EMU Redwood Auditorium as the Oregon Humanities Center's 2022–23 Kritikos Lecturer. Wray demonstrates the emotional and existential effects of living in a warming world—and how we can get through them together. Although anxieties surrounding the climate crisis can cause us to burn out, give up, and question deeply personal decisions like whether to have children, working through these anxieties can unlock a deep capacity to care for and act on climate issues. According to Wray, we need to look at the climate crisis as a whole—not just the political or technological issues, but the mental health consequences as well. These effects can be severe, even leading people affected by

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New undergraduate research fellowship established

The Oregon Humanities Center (OHC) in collaboration with the UO Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) is pleased to announce a new undergraduate internship and fellowship program focused on building primary archival research and career readiness skills. The Humanities Undergraduate Program for Archival Studies and Practice (HUPASP) is made possible by a generous gift from long-time OHC friends Herb Merker and Marcy Hammock.

Studying and researching in the humanities helps students develop critical thinking, problem solving, communication, presentation, collaboration, and other important skills required to successfully navigate an ever-changing post-college world regardless of their chosen profession, and to be prepared to help solve society's most complex issues.

SCUA staff will guide the HUPASP students through an internship and research production experience that will enable them to think more broadly about their career opportunities and interests, seek other research funding support, and pursue an honors thesis. The students will gain library science experience while developing project management, data collection and analysis, and digital humanities experience.

The HUPASP students will receive \$3,000 for the twenty-week internship/fellowship, in addition to a high level of support from SCUA and OHC faculty and staff. The students will enroll in LIB 409: Archival Theory and Practice during the



Herb Merker and Marcy Hammock regard a book held by David de Lorenzo, the Giustina Director of UO's Special Collections and University Archives.

2023 winter term, an internship practicum course led by SCUA faculty and professionals. The class offers an introduction to the theory and practice of managing archival documents, such as personal papers, institutional records, photographs, electronic records, and other unpublished material. Topics include manuscript and records acquisition and appraisal, arrangement and description, conservation and preservation, reference, and access.

In spring term, the students will enroll in LIB 409: Archives Practicum. They will apply archival theory and principles learned in winter term to SCUA's John F. Finerty papers (AX 525), a 12-carton collection which consists of case files, general files, and some personal papers which include a privately published book of Finerty's verse. The students will process, arrange, and describe the collection. Subsequently, they will create and publish a finding guide for the papers, identify specific documents to be digitized, create a digital exhibit about the collection, write a blog about the practicum, and give a

public presentation about the project.

John Frederick Finerty (1885–1967) was an attorney for railroad companies in the Midwest, and assistant general counsel and special counsel for the U.S. Railroad Administration. In 1927 he prepared the last writ of habeas corpus for Sacco and Vanzetti and argued it before Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. In the 1930s Finerty was counsel in the appeal of Tom Mooney who had been sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1916 San Francisco Preparedness Day bombing. Finerty also

served as special counsel to the Commission of Inquiry into the Moscow trials, taking testimony from Leon Trotsky about Stalin's methods of eliminating his critics. Finally, Finerty was involved as a friend of the court after the conviction of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union and of the Workers Defense League. The UO acquired his papers in 1969.

Many impressive applications were submitted through a competitive application process in fall term. We are pleased to announce that the recipients are Maggie Dobson, a junior who is majoring in History and minoring in Food Studies and Earth Sciences; and Bryanna Hensley, a senior who is majoring in English and minoring in Medieval Studies.

Additional funding would strengthen this and other programs for undergraduate humanities research. To learn more about gift opportunities contact Jena Turner, jenap@uoregon.edu

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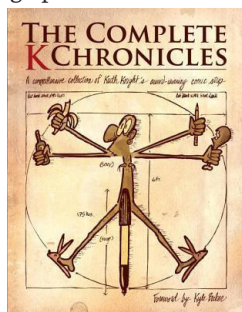
Juan Eduardo Wolf

Ethnomusicology

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is limited at best. And I loved that he was working within the system, to subvert the system. My comics went from being about keg parties, to being about growing up a Black man in America.”

Knight is the author of the comic strips *The K Chronicles*, *(Th)ink*, and *The Knight Life*. His art has appeared in various publications including the *New Yorker*, the *Washington Post*, *Daily KOS*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Medium.com*, *Ebony*, *ESPN the Magazine*, *L.A. Weekly*, *MAD Magazine*, and the *Funny Times*. And he is a co-creator and co-writer of Hulu’s streaming series *Woke* based on *The K Chronicles*



and his life, now in its second season.

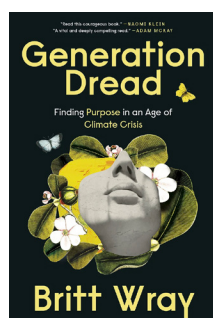
The O’Fallon Lecture was established by a gift from Henry and Betsy Mayer, named in memory of their nephew, son of the late UO law professor James O’Fallon and his wife, artist Ellen Thomas. The subject of this lecture alternates between law and art in American culture. Knight’s slideshow lecture is the second event in the OHC’s 2022–23 Belonging series. The talk is free and open to the public. It will be livestreamed and ASL interpreted. For information and to register go to ohc.uoregon.edu



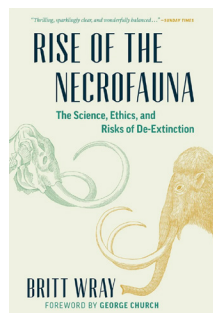
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climate events to experience PTSD and a loss of identity.

Britt Wray is a Human and Planetary Health Postdoctoral Fellow at the Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Centre on Climate Change and Planetary Health. Her research focuses on the mental



health impacts of the ecological crisis. She is the creator of the weekly newsletter about “staying sane in the climate crisis” Gen Dread (gendread.substack.com) and author of *Generation Dread: Finding Purpose in an Age of Climate Crisis* (Knopf, 2022). Her first book is *Rise of the Necrofauna: The Science, Ethics and Risks of De-Extinction* (Greystone Books, 2017). She has hosted several podcasts, radio and TV programs with the



BBC and CBC, and is a TED speaker.

Wray’s talk, part of the 2022–23 Belonging series, is free and open to the public. It will be livestreamed and ASL interpreted. For information and to register go to ohc.uoregon.edu

Symposium explores Black memory

The exhibition “Archives for Black Lives: A Liberated Archives” has been on view in the Knight Library since fall term. The exhibition centers on education, documentation, and preservation of history. Through a partnership with the City of Portland Archives, the organization Don’t Shoot Portland gained access to material that informs current systems. These educational assets are vital to sustaining social change and building on these dialogues through a historical context.

To commemorate the closing of the exhibition, the Knight Library is bringing together speakers and members of the UO community for a two-day symposium that will explore the significance of Black memory as it intersects with archives and museums. “A Liberated Archives Experience: Black Memory, Social Justice, Art, and the Archive” will take place February 23 and 24, 2023 in the Knight Library Browsing Room and the DREAM Lab. This event is cosponsored by the OHC’s Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities.

Archivist Bill Doggett will talk about the significance of early recorded sound and how technology commercialized structural racism with the phonograph and the phonograph record. Doggett’s research

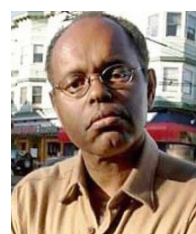
explores how the convergence of race, music, and technology aligned at the dawn of the 20th century to create a recalibration of 19th-century “Lost Cause” Confederate nostalgia which defined and shaped our understanding of race and racial hierarchy

in both the 20th and 21st centuries. He is the nephew of Bill Doggett, the renowned 1950s Rock ‘n’ Roll, R&B, and jazz organ headliner.

La Tanya Autry will conduct a workshop “Arts & Social Justice Workout” for students. Students will be asked to explore the challenges and possibilities of cultural work, and to develop their own ethos and analyses of existing power structures. Autry is a cultural worker, curator, and educator committed to liberatory praxis.

The event will culminate in a conversation between Autry, Doggett, and Teressa Raiford. They will share experiences of working both within and outside of cultural institutions, and the power of art to activate issues of social justice. Raiford is the founder of Don’t Shoot Portland, a Black-led and community driven nonprofit in Portland, Oregon, that advocates for accountability to create social change in the

spaces of human rights and racial justice. A reception and tour of the “Archives for Black Lives: A Liberated Archives” exhibition will follow. Information: library.uoregon.edu



Bill Doggett



La Tanya Autry



Teressa Raiford

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land of the Kalapuya people.

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Speaker series focuses on Italian Fascism in a global context

Diana Garvin, an Assistant Professor of Italian and Mediterranean Studies at the University of Oregon, taught RL 470 Fascism and Neo-Fascism during Spring 2020 as a 2019–20 OHC Wulf Professor in the Humanities. Garvin had planned to invite guest speakers to address these topics, but the COVID pandemic dashed those plans.

In 2023 Garvin will present the “Italian Fascism in Global Context” speaker series, bringing together three leading scholars of Fascism, Neo-Fascism, gender, and migration to ask a series of critical questions: Why are so many strongmen women? How did Fascist imperialism set the stage for later autocracies? What happens when Fascism travels?

According to Garvin, “Today, we need to understand how Fascism, of Italian origins, operates on a global stage. Historians often point to Benito Mussolini’s regime as the first Fascism, an archetype for far-right regimes to come. In October 2022, Giorgia Meloni was elected Prime Minister of Italy. Her party, Fratelli d’Italia, will lead the most conservative coalition to hold power since the Blackshirts marched on Rome. From the dark dawn of Fascism in 1922 to the Neo-Fascist resurgence in 2022, old themes repeat in new ways. Calls to increase white birthrates and promote “traditional” families parallel demands to restrict gay rights and immigration across the Mediterranean passage. Sadly, strongman politics are on the rise in many nations, and slogans like “Italians first” have a new, global resonance.”



On Thursday, January 26, 2023 Pamela Ballinger, Professor of History and the Fred Cuny Chair in the History of Human Rights at the University of Michigan will give a talk at 4 p.m. in the Knight Library Browsing Room. Ballinger is the author of *The World Refugees Made: Decolonization and the Foundation of Postwar Italy* (2020).

Mia Fuller, the Gladys Arata Terrill Distinguished [Associate] Professor of Italian Studies at UC-Berkeley, will give a talk on Wednesday, March 8 at 4:30 p.m. in the Knight Library Browsing Room. Fuller is a cultural anthropologist and urban-architectural historian whose research concerns the interplays of physical space with political power.

In spring term Emma Bond, College Lecturer in Italian at Oxford University, will give a talk on Wednesday, April 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Knight Library Browsing Room. Bond is a scholar of modern and contemporary Italian literature and culture. She is particularly interested in studying Italian cultures from transnational and comparative perspectives.

These talks are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Diana Garvin, dgarvin@uoregon.edu



Pamela Ballinger



Mia Fuller



Emma Bond