



ode

A belief among some New Guineans that European goods are made by a diety or god is anything but illogical, according to Anthropologist Peter Lawrence who spoke recently at the University.

By VICKI POTH  
Of the Emerald

Lawrence, a professor at the University of Sydney, Australia, observed the cultural and social systems of two groups of people, the Garians and the Ngaings, and their involvement with the Cargo Cult.

The Cargo Cult, which began in 1871 and continued strongly until last year, is the belief that European goods are made by a diety or god. When Lawrence began his studies in 1949, the Cargo Cult presented problems for the Australian government.

"The natives were convinced that gods sent food from heaven, which was connected by a staircase above Sydney," he explained. "In hopes that the gods

would supply more goods, the natives killed their pigs and destroyed their crops. The Australian administration had to jail some of these people."

Lawrence chose to study in this area because nobody had done any work there. "In those days anthropologists studied people who were traditional. We knew so little about these people. In order to change their lives, it was logical to know something about their lifestyles," he said.

His field work resulted with the book "Road Belong Cargo." "After publishing this book, the relations between the natives and government were infinitely better. It saved the government from making drastic mistakes," he said.

The anthropologist says that most Europeans find the Cargo Cult belief bizzare. It was still strong until last year when an important cult leader died.

He argues that the Cargo Cult is logical from the natives' point of view. "Their religion is largely based on gods who invented all their social and economic structures. All things have a diety. The Cargo Cult is the people's interpretation of 104 years of history," he explained.

When Lawrence began his field work in 1949, he had to persuade the natives he wasn't going to harm them. "For the first three weeks they deposited me on the top of a hill in a government rest house. Whenever I asked to see the village, they took me around the hill. They didn't know how to take me. They were suspicious indeed," he said.

Eventually Lawrence learned their language. He gained popularity by approving their native dances and customs.

Since 1958, when his main field studies ended, Lawrence has

visited New Guinea several times to do additional work. "An anthropologist never gets everything he wants. There's always one question you forgot to ask."

Twenty-seven years later, Lawrence is still a well-known friend among the villagers. The children of his old informants are grown and their children know him as "grandpa."

Lawrence said he believes, "It's most important for people to have a general knowledge of what anthropology has produced because today there's such a far greater mix of peoples."

This fall Lawrence was a visiting professor at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. He came to Oregon via Australia to visit one of his students, Robert Tonkinson, who is a faculty member in the anthropology department.

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## Lansing joins race for state post

"I have always been interested in the political process and in government," said Jewel Lansing, candidate for the democratic nomination for State Treasurer at a meeting of the Oregon Women's Political Caucus Monday.

Lansing is the second woman to announce candidacy for a statewide office for the 1976 elections. The other woman, Norma Paulus, will be running for Secretary of State.

Lansing, presently the Multnomah county auditor, feels that her experience and background qualify her for the job. "The kind of background I have is basically a jack-of-all-trades," said Lansing. She has experience as a certified

public accountant and as a teacher.

"I have decided that I may be



Jewel Lansing

more effective in an elective office," she said.

She feels that her greatest problem in the race for the office is finding adequate funding for a statewide campaign. She cited the new tax credit laws for donations to political candidates as an important source of money for her campaign, and added that with the tax credit laws, this year will "be the ideal opportunity" for her to attempt a statewide office.

"I think my personal background as a CPA and throughout my life has been to observe good business principles," said Lansing, adding that she is "familiar with money problems and not afraid to talk about them."

"People want to have a qualified person in the office," said Lansing.

Commenting on her present position, Lansing said her "office is most geared toward affirmative action."

"I get no financial support from women just because I am a woman," said Lansing. "I don't really expect it in the women's issue."

"The women's movement is really looking at the person," she said.



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