

'Exchange' seeks social justice, equilibrium

By BILL LUTZ
Of the Emerald

On Sunday afternoon, dozens of community organizations involved in social services and social change will take part in the Human Security Exchange at the Westmoreland Community Center.

Marion Barnes, a member of Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) who is sponsoring the event, explained the purpose of the "Exchange."

"We're bringing together a wide range of community groups who are working in one way or another to meet human needs in such areas as education, social welfare, human rights, community health, jobs, day care and the environment. The purpose is to exchange ideas and information, build cooperation and create a forum for the public to see the various kinds of work being done in the community in these areas," says Barnes.

There will be workshops during the day for people to discuss the

objectives and needs of their groups as well as the obstacles they have met. The objective of these workshops is two-fold, says Barnes.

"On a local level the objective could be very immediate concrete action; a cooperative effort to meet common needs. On a national level people might begin to organize more pressure for a change in government policy."

The CALC perspective, which is not necessarily the perspective of other participating groups, is that human needs cannot begin to be

met until the government changes its priorities, according to Barnes.

"For instance," says Barnes, "for the price of one B-1 Bomber 16 school districts the size of South Lane could be funded."

According to Barnes, CALC's project at the Human Security Exchange will be exposing the comparison between military spending and what the government is spending for social needs.

The American people not only pay for military spending directly through taxes, says Barnes, but also through inflation, loss of jobs and loss of social services.

CALC will also be pointing the finger at the multi-national corporations, says Barnes.

"CALC started in 1965 as an anti-war group. But everytime we get involved in a peace or human rights issue we keep bumping up against the multi-national and military industries," she explains.

Many of these corporations play

a major economic and political role in countries with repressive governments, she says. "The forces that oppress people at home and abroad are one in the same — and they dominate the policies of our government both here and abroad."

Barnes says for this reason CALC is excited about the participation of the Eugene Committee for a Free Chile and the Korean Information Action Project at the Human Security Exchange.

"The issues they're working on — the lack of human rights and the role of the U.S. government and multinational corporations in supporting repressive regimes in these countries — are interconnected with the causes of oppression and the failure to meet human needs in our own country," she says.

People's needs are basically the same everywhere, says Barnes.

"That's why we're sponsoring the Human Security Exchange."

Women take to underground

KELLOGG, Idaho (AP) — It takes Mary Miner an hour to get down to work. She commutes on an underground railroad which she boards at the portal of the Bunker Hill Mine, one of the world's largest mines.

Once inside, she transfers to a "skip," a sled on steeply-inclined rails, to reach her job more than half a mile under the surface.

"I'm just one of the boys," said Miner, 35, the mother of eight children and one of six women who began toiling 16 months ago side by side with 200 men in the mine.

Because of tradition, superstition and perhaps a little male chauvinism, women haven't until now been allowed to work underground in North Idaho's Coeur d'Alene Mining District.

Despite superstition, there have been no cave-ins. The Bunker Hill Mine is still intact.

"A few of the men don't like to work with women," said mine Supt. Harry Cougher. "But this isn't superstition. They probably wouldn't like to work with women on the surface, either. If there are any complaints, it is from the wives of some of the miners, and most of this is barroom talk."

Six women began their mining careers after they were transferred from jobs in the smelter near

the mine where they were exposed to high lead levels.

Reports in medical journals said women exposed to such levels could give birth to children with defects or suffer still births and miscarriages, the company said.

Miner is the engineer on what salty miners call a "motor." It's a five-ton battery-powered locomotive which hauls a string of 3½-ton ore cars. The other women operate motors and hoists used to transport ore, miners and equipment.

"There aren't that many women excited about working down there," said Cougher.

"Sometimes the motor operators have to lift heavy timbers. A great deal of physical strength is required." Humidity in the big lead, silver and zinc mine is nearly 100 per cent.

Ann Scott, 36, a grandmother and mother of six children, was operating an underground hoist before she took a leave of absence.

"Some of the men figured a woman would run a hoist the way she drives a car," sighed Scott. But the attitude didn't last.

Karla Rose, 22, the youngest woman miner, enjoys operating a motor, but doesn't like to get her face dirty. Rose, whose hobby is

barrel racing in rodeos, plans to continue working underground "until I retire or get married, whichever comes first."

She was recently given a raise — 200 feet up to a higher level in the mine.

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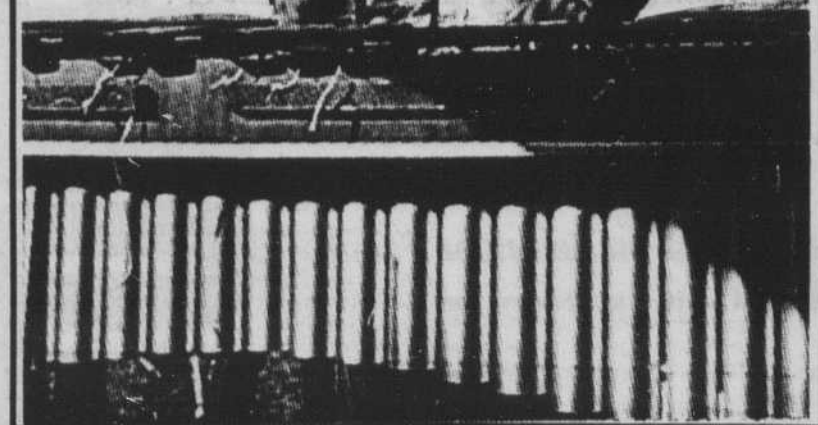
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