

Mohawk medicine woman

Myers explains healing energy

"Traditional Indian Medicine of the Northwest."

That was the title of the talk. That and the statement that the speaker, Norma Myers, was trained as a Mohawk medicine woman, was probably the attraction for 20 people who came to hear Myers speak at the Friends Meeting Hall in Eugene, Monday night.

Norma Myers is a middle-aged Canadian, nearing 60, who lives in Alert Bay, a small Indian village about 250 miles north of Vancouver, B.C. Her gray hair cropped short, Myers wore an old flannel shirt unbuttoned, revealing an orange insulated underwear shirt underneath. Her faded blue jeans were rolled up at the cuff, just above her moccasins.

She put on a bright blue and red apron before beginning her talk. The apron had primitive animal and bird designs embroidered in beads. Along the bottom were two rows of small blue, red and silver jingle bells, like the kind you might see on the toes of figure skaters in the Ice Capades.

Sun Bear, a big heavy-set Indian, with bushy black hair, opened the event by ceremoniously lighting a tobacco pipe. "The tobacco is a sacred herb to our people," he said, explaining that it is always smoked on special occasions.

As the smell of burning tobacco drifted around the room, Myers began her talk. She told the audience what

good people the Indians in her village are, how generous they are and how they believe that laughing is good medicine. She explained white flour and white sugar are not good for people.

Myers talked about getting back to the land, to the good life. She talked about the Lord and about her "mission." But she said little about traditional Indian medicine.

However, she described her bout with cancer at the age of 38. "I had a problem and I responded correctly...I asked 'why?' in a prayer and I received what I was supposed to do. It was my mission. My mission was to help myself while I was being taught and then to help other people. So for six years I learned nutrition..."

Without addressing specific medicinal cures, Myers recounted the story of her life, how the Indian ways inspired her, and how the Lord had helped her recover from cancer.

"I was given a prayer of healing and I had sufficient energy come, through the prayer from God to me, that I got out of bed the following morning (she had been blind and paralyzed the day before), put on my clothes and went back to the school teaching job. I was still weak, I had not lost my cancer, but I had energy and I know it was a gift."

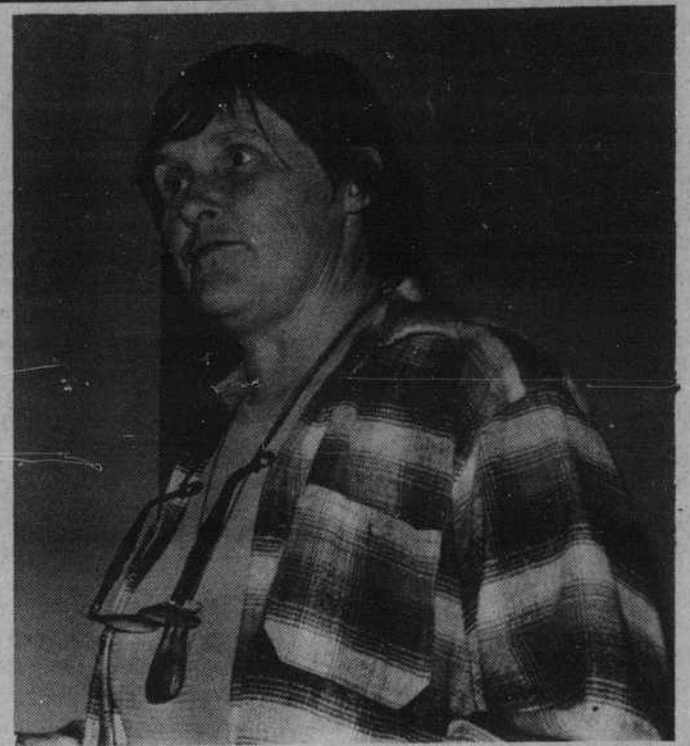


Photo by Ken Shin

Norma Myers

Myers smiled as she talked. She told of the time the angel Lucifer appeared before her and a group of Indians to give a speech. "He was such a good speaker, I wish I had a tape of him to play back to you tonight..."

Prof blasts positive assertiveness formulas

Says women waste \$ on 'cure-alls'

NEW YORK (AP)—Women seeking advancement in corporate management are being ripped off by peddlers of "positive assertiveness" and related success formulas, says a noted management authority.

"The power of positive assertiveness is the current prescribed cure-all for the aspiring woman manager," said Professor Eugene Jennings, who branded it a deception by modern medicine men, shamans and barkers.

Thousands of women each day attend conferences, seminars and meetings sponsored by government, universities, women's groups and consulting firms that, he claims, result in little but frustration and wasted money.

And yet, says Jennings, an informal survey of meetings in big city hotels shows these programs draw larger audiences than do sales and management meetings of the more traditional type.

The barker, who Jennings says might be a professor, an author or maybe even a government official, "commands women to step forth to grab for the brass ring, telling them 'You can do anything you want to do.'"

Nonsense, says Jennings, a management professor at Michigan State University, a psychologist, author and confidential adviser to many top cor-

poration executives.

The gladhander of today, he suggests, might suffer the same ignoble fate as the gladhander of the 1950s, a reference to the naive concept then taught that a smile and a handshake were the route to management success.

Assertiveness as the elixir of success might make women feel better inside, Jennings maintains, but it doesn't make them better students of management or help them perform in the real world of management.

"Assertiveness is immaterial to the management process," he said, an observation based on a

life's study of personnel mobility in corporate life and as a counselor in management for many years.

An assertive veneer without an understanding of management is a disaster, he continued. "Women need help in understanding planning, organization, controlling and coordinating the activities of others."

A lot is known about management, he observed, but very little is known about women managers, leading him to the conclusion that "these side-shows presume knowledge that doesn't exist."

He offers these caveats to women who seek knowledge that might assist them in climbing the management ladder:

- Beware of prescriptionists. "The more knowledgeable teacher will be a descriptionist who will diagnose and describe the process of management, leaving it up to individuals to prescribe the solutions."

- Watch out for women — or men — who use women stereotypes. There is an assumption, for example, that women are not as assertive as men. "It's a fallacy; it's not research based," he said.

There is the stereotype also that men focus on the long term and on the career as a whole, while women focus on the present job. Fallacy, says Jennings. Many men don't want mobility either.

"Even if women are according to these stereotypes," he continued, "who is to say men have the only key to success and

should be emulated? There is no research showing a man's way is the better way."

- Self-insight and consciousness raising isn't a magic formula. "It's even debatable as to whether it is useful, let alone developmental. Knowing yourself in no way will prepare you to be an effective manager."

It might, he snapped, "make you into a centipede who doesn't know which foot to use first. But what a person needs is substantive information about managing people today."

- Be wary of these credentials:

1. I am a woman, therefore, I understand women.
2. I am a man, therefore, I understand management.
3. I have been a manager, therefore, I know about management.

Women can put an end to this "mumbo jumbo" about asserting oneself, Jennings concluded, simply by saying no and instead insisting on information that is relevant to how to manage.

"Women deserve more than medicine shows dispensing the snake oil of instant success," he said.

Energy lecture set for Rubicon

John Bigelow of McKenzie Bridge will speak about the future for geo-thermal power at this week's Rubicon Society meeting at noon Thursday.

As an engineer, Bigelow has done extensive research in geo-thermal energy. His presentation will be given during the luncheon meeting at the Quarterdeck Restaurant, 2855 Willamette St.

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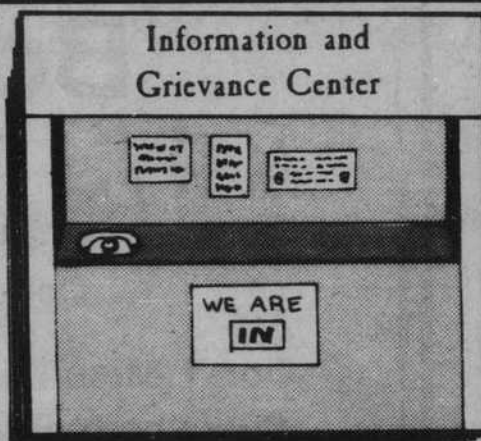
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