



Earth Week '78 begins today at the University, with a goal of "getting people back into the environmental movement," according to Janet Gillaspie, Survival Center director.

"We want people here to get in touch with the new front in Oregon environmental issues," Gillaspie says. "There are a lot of struggles going on, but with only a few people behind them... I think the masses have lost touch with the struggles."

Each day during Earth Week will be devoted to a different environmental issue, highlighted by guest speakers including former Gov. Tom McCall and "Ecotopia" author Ernest Callenbach.

Monday is Wildlife Day, and

Greenpeace Foundation movies of efforts to stop whale and seal hunts will be shown continuously in the EMU. Information on endangered Oregon wildlife will also be available.

Tuesday is Wilderness Day, featuring McCall speaking on the environmental movement's future in Oregon, at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU. Slide shows on the proposed Alaskan wilderness and Oregon roadless areas will be presented also in the EMU.

Wednesday is Recycling Day — Callenbach will talk about "Ecotopian Visions" at 7:30 p.m. in Room 167, EMU. A slide show will explain the potential of methanol production from waste material.

Thursday is Energy Day, with an evening panel discussion scheduled on Northwest energy policy which will include Myron Katz of the Northwest Energy Policy Project and Jim Blumquist, regional energy coordinator for the Sierra Club. The panel will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene City Hall. John Bartels, Eugene Water and Electric Board candidate, will hold a nuclear power seminar at 1 p.m. in the EMU.

Friday is Environment Day. The Environmental Faire will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. as action groups gather at the EMU to share ideas. Emily Ashworth, candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, will address "Energy in Oregon Politics."

Do it yourself, or it won't get done

By DINA MILES
Of the Emerald

If someone were to tell you, "Mind your own business!" you'd likely become a bit miffed, if not downright insulted.

But when Esther Hagler told a Women's Symposium group Saturday in the Forum Room to "Minejeronebusnez," as the discussion was called, she didn't try to make anyone mad. She tried to make people aware of their own affairs, and their own power in managing them.

"Everything I did was on my own," the 82-year-old grandmother, political activist and union supporter said, "The community, the courts, everything that goes on is my business, to this day. By yourself, you're nothing... Unless you give something to your community, you're nothing."

The eighth of 12 children,

Hagler came to America from Poland, and, from the beginning, she's always had to "earn my keeps," which meant doing laundry, caring for children or a host of other tasks before landing a job in a factory. She got involved in her community, realizing that the only way to improve it was to get in there and do something for herself.

She remembers how people would complain that "they," meaning the government or society in general, were at the heart of their problems. She set them all straight.

"I learned that 'they' don't count," she said. "I am 'they' from that day on. I learned my opinion is just as important as theirs."

A lady with guts? Definitely, but she claims a different point in her credit. "The one secret of my life success is the gift of gab."

She ably demonstrated her inclination as she opened up discussion for questions from the audience — and she had an opinion for all of them.

On getting the vote for women: "The women suffragettes were an elite," adding that they wanted the vote for themselves. "The working class had to fight for existence," she said, explaining that the vote wouldn't have changed the working situation anyway.

On the ERA: "I'm all for it."

On being a woman: "I like being a woman." But, she adds, she

doesn't like the way some members in the women's movement degrade men. She favors equal pay for equal work and equal rights, but she favors appreciating men for what they do, too.

If anything else, Hagler left the impression that minding your own business was serious business. "We, as individuals, must value what's going on. I will not be told what to do."

While she has worked most of her life, she told the group how becoming a grandmother changed her lifestyle and how

she began to become less politically inclined. She said she began to "stop thinking," so she did something about it: she took driving lessons, and on her 71st birthday, she received her driver's license.

"And I was queen of the road," she said, adding that she got a job shortly thereafter, driving senior citizens to appointments and their errands.

"I would show them they're not ready for the sandbox," she explained. "I worked until last week. I got my last unemployment check last week."

Determined women unite to face their own changing lifestyles

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

In September, 1976, Alva Scherich was a "fish out of water." She'd started back to school at the University, an institution she felt was designed for people "18 years old, maybe up to 22." She avoided the EMU; she would rather eat in her car.

When an uncaring professor told her as an older, divorced woman she was on the "garbage heap of society," Scherich decided she needed some support.

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She found other women who felt as she did and together they formed Women in Transition, a group that assists non-traditional (meaning those not in the 18-22 year old bracket) female students.

Several members of the group shared stories of the events leading to attending college and how they felt about it in a discussion group Saturday in the EMU as part of the Women's Symposium.

The group, located in EMU Suite One, held its first meeting last Valentine's Day to show its caring, supportive nature, says Scherich.

Many factors complicate an older woman's entrance or reentrance to college life, according to the group's statement of purpose. Some of those factors are divorce, widowhood, single parenthood, the lack of family understanding and appreciation and a need to create a new self-image.

Two women said their families gave them conflicting messages while growing up, to go to school and to get married, have kids and stay home. Karen Likens, a junior in psychology, said her mother always told her to "go to college, but find a rich man so you don't have to."

Once Likens came to school and discovered the group, she found it was "great to have a hand

to hang on to, and having that hand, I've found I didn't need it as much."

Nancy Campbell, a 1953 University graduate and returning as an architecture student, said when she first went to college, women were more carefree. They thought "Prince Charming was going to ride over the Coburg Hills at any moment."

One group member said although she thinks there are still many women who come to school thinking the "Prince" will sweep them off their feet, there's also a group who knows he isn't going to show up, and don't care because they have other things to do with their lives.

Many women said discouraging remarks they received only served to reinforce their determination to continue in school and make something more of their lives.

One woman, soon to receive her degree in finance, said a businessman told her she'd never be accepted in her field.

"It gave me all the more incentive. I'm finally going to be the person I was meant to be."

Scherich said after the professor told her she was on society's garbage heap, "That's when I decided to turn the garbage heap into a rose garden."

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