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Controversy besieges hunger group

By CARY TOLAND
For the Emerald

As Americans prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving it can be assumed that they have one thing on their minds: food. Last week, two local groups sponsored hunger fasts in order to call attention to the starving people of the world who have none.

The hunger group has resulted in a lawsuit against "Mother Jones" magazine. The Hunger Project, an offshoot of the "est" organization, has announced plans to sue the magazine, claiming that its December cover story is libelous and untrue.

The article termed the Hunger Project a "big scam" and reported that it was a recruiting front for the "est" organization. Research included in the article indicated that very little of the \$883,800 received in contributions has been used to feed starving people.

Jim Orr, Portland chair of the Hunger Project, quoted a statement released on Oct. 31 by the Hunger Project which charges that the magazine article includes "many untrue statements, spurious references and innuendoes that totally misrepresent the spirit of the Hunger Project."

According to Hunger Project literature, "est" founder Werner Erhard is calling for a worldwide commitment to end hunger in two decades. This commitment does not embrace any ideology or political position. "Est" is one of the many "human potential" groups to emerge on the West Coast since the sixties.

"We knew they would sue because Erhard had no other recourse," says Diana Dillaway of Mother Jones. "We know that we have a tight case. We had three attorneys on it and a full-time fact-checker who made sure every source was traced."

Dillaway said that the magazine expected the suit and welcomes it. "We would have felt left out if they hadn't," she said.

Meanwhile, other organizations concerned with world hunger have made attempts to distance themselves from the



Graphic by Tom Etzel

Hunger Project. Last week, both the Hunger Project and Ox-Fam, an anti-hunger group affiliated with Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC), sponsored hunger fasts.

Cynthia Kokis, a CALC staff member, says separation was emphasized in order to alleviate confusion caused by both groups having fasts during the same week.

Kokis also expressed misgivings about the Hunger Project. "I'm not quite sure what their purpose is," she said. "Are they a referral service? What do they do with the money?"

Though she stressed that she did not want to develop an adversary relationship with the Hunger Project, Kokis said she would not refer persons wanting to be con-

nected with an anti-hunger organization to the Hunger Project.

Tim Shorrock, a University graduate student in Asian Studies, has stronger feelings about the matter and has organized the Committee to Create a Context to Eliminate "Est."

Shorrock finds the Hunger Project "vague and misleading."

"I think Erhard is misleading people by making them think that elimination of hunger is easy and not a political issue," he says. "Eliminating hunger within two decades won't be easy and it is very much a political question."

Shorrock believes that a redistribution of power and a reorganization of the structure

of society is the only way in which hunger can be dealt with effectively.

In response to the criticism, the Hunger Project has reaffirmed in a press statement that its "purpose is to create the will necessary to end hunger on our planet within two decades." The organization contends that the resources and technology are available to end starvation within two decades, but that the worldwide commitment needed to reach that goal is lacking.

Their purpose according to the statement is to communicate "the truth about hunger" and create worldwide commitment.

Awesome goals, but both "est" and the Hunger Project now have a new problem confronting them: bad publicity.

State Board still pondering housing issue

By KELI OSBORN
Of the Emerald

CORVALLIS—The State Board of Higher Education once again postponed making a decision concerning housing policy for presidents of state system institutions in a meeting Friday.

In an earlier meeting, board members had failed to take action on a staff recommendation that they vote to sell the homes now occupied by institution heads and instead provide presidents with a housing allowance.

In Friday's meeting the board tabled a newer version of the proposal. Chancellor Roy Lieuallen suggested then that the board vote to retain the homes, renting them on the open market and applying the rental income towards a housing allowance for institution presidents.

This way, Lieuallen said, the state would

still own the homes should the board later decide a change in current policy is unwise.

Discussion about a change in current housing policy arose after legislators denied a state system request last July to authorize the purchase of a house for the new president of the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center in Portland.

Several board members admitted the policy of providing rent-free homes to institution presidents is not "politically sound" and probably offends both legislators and private citizens.

But member Jane Carpenter argued against a policy change. Not providing homes to presidents "would reduce their entertainment function, which is viable," she said.

University Vice-President Ray Hawk urged board members to keep their options open because each institution president has different needs. The board will probably

take up the issue at its next meeting.

The board approved staff-proposed legislation that, if adopted by the Oregon Legislature, will ensure that revenue from student activities is returned proportionately to the institutions from which it came.

Don Chalmers, director of the Office of Student Advocacy, presented an amendment to the proposal on behalf of the ASUO.

The amendment takes the legislation one step further by guaranteeing that the revenue, once returned to the schools, will be distributed to the specific activities which originally generated the income.

Board member Les Anderson of Eugene read a committee report on teacher supply and demand which showed that more of those receiving education degrees in the state are finding employment than in the past.

Anderson suggested that the board ap-

prove the report and direct staff to continue making such studies, so that the state system could use the information to keep legislators "up-to-date" about the utility of education programs statewide.

Loren Wyss, a board member from Portland, stressed that the board not get into a position of telling students not to go into education because of its tight job market.

"If we, as a state, are here to provide education to students and they choose one field... who are we to tell them they can't?" he said.

In other business, the board approved salary adjustments for state system administrators, including a raise in University President William Boyd's salary of almost \$3,000 to \$55,428 from \$52,788. The board passed the increases by a 10-0 vote, after Wyss commented that Oregon Governor-elect Victor Atiyeh had recently passed up his own scheduled salary raise.

today

Tuition was the topic of a symposium held by the Oregon Student Lobby and the State Board of Higher Education on Saturday. Emerald staff reporters examine some of the issues raised on Page 6.

The University women's cross country team placed fifth for the second year in a row in the Association for Intercollegiate Women's Athletics (AIWA) national championship. Pages 8 and 9.

More than 800 professional women from around the Northwest met at Portland State University to attend workshops and to discuss problems and frustrations they face from male managers. Story on Page 12.