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Ukrainians celebrate folk traditions

By JIM GERSBACH
Of the Emerald

While people all over the country rediscover ethnic customs that were sacrificed to the melting pot, one group of Oregonians prides itself on having never lost touch with its ethnic heritage.

Lane County's Ukrainian community celebrated the survival of its vibrant folkways Tuesday night in Gerlinger Alumni Lounge. They also came to see a young Maryland woman present a slide show documenting their traditions.

Sandi Serling's presentation "A Celebration of Ukrainian Folk Traditions in Lane County" culminated 14 months of research into the folkways of Lane County's 1,000-member Ukrainian-American community.

"People aren't aware that they're even here," says Serling, a University graduate teaching assistant in folklore and ethnic studies.

Ukrainians first came to Lane County from North Dakota during the early 1900s. They had left the Ukraine, in southwestern Russia, only a few years earlier to escape poverty.

More Ukrainians arrived in Lane County following World War II. Immigrants in that

second wave were mostly refugees who left the Soviet Union to avoid Stalinist oppression.

Despite the relatively small size of the community, folkways brought over from the Ukraine, such as colorful embroidery, Easter-egg painting and elaborate wedding ceremonies — like the one portrayed in the movie "The Deer Hunter" — have survived.

"These people feel very strongly about preserving their traditions," Serling says. "They have been oppressed for centuries, and they have had to fight just to maintain their ethnicity."

That fight continues in the modern Ukraine, where the Soviet government is attempting to assimilate Ukrainians into Russian life, Serling says. Traditional Ukrainian folkways are repressed.

Consequently, the traditions practiced by Ukrainians in Oregon are more traditional than those still living in the Ukraine, says Serling, whose study was funded by the University's Russian and East European Studies Program and the Oregon Committee for the Humanities.

"The younger generation is very much interested in the Uk-



Photo by Dennis Tachibana

Traditional Ukrainian music is but a part of the culture that immigrants from the Ukraine have brought to the United States, and Lane County in particular, since the turn of the century.

rainian traditions," Serling says.

For example, despite a high rate of intermarriage with non-Ukrainians, many young Ukrainian-Americans insist on traditional Ukrainian weddings.

The survival of Ukrainian customs in Lane County enriches all residents, says Serling, who is not of Ukrainian descent.

"Oregonians have a lot of

pride in their state and people," Serling says. "It would make Oregon more rich if Oregonians knew more about the ethnic groups that contributed to Oregon's development."

Food Op offers students organic alternative

By STEPHEN KNIGHT
and BART JONES
Of the Emerald

University students wanting to fight the evils of agribusiness — and get a 15-cent bagel on the side — may find the University Food Op to their liking.

The Food Op tries to purchase only unprocessed, organically grown food, explains Jill Sideras, a collective member. On the other hand, most foods processed by large agribusinesses contain pesticides, chemicals and non-nutritious additives, she claims.

While the selection at the Food-op is limited — no meat is sold in the store — good deals seem to abound. Nancy's Yogurt costs 44 cents, green cabbage sells for 19 cents a head and Tillamook cheese costs \$2.45 a pound.

Prices are low because the store is a non-profit organization — as Sideras explains, "We're not out to rip people off."

Yet the Food Op has struggled just to keep financially afloat in its six years. It began as a food-buying club, serving mainly University fraternities and sororities, with a \$12,000 boost from the Incidental Fee Committee.

But the Food Op ran into a string of management prob-

lems. "Everytime a student (manager) left, the store would be in a crisis," says Brad Oppermann, another collective member. "So to circumvent the dependency on one person, we decided to go collective."

A collective has more committed people, he says.

That commitment apparently has paid off. Now without IFC funding, the Food Op has managed to "stay out of the red" for the past year, but Oppermann

says the store needs IFC funds for capital improvements.

Oppermann argues that the store deserves the money because it serves mostly students, but he says the IFC considers the store a business

that should support itself.

The Food Op collective does receive IFC funds for education programs on alternative food sources. However, Oppermann co-teaches a Food Op sponsored three-credit Search class entitled "Food, Hunger and You," which "addresses the socio-political backdrop of food distribution and how it affects hunger."

Other projects include a "Food Education Faire" scheduled for the EMU next term. The fair's theme will be food and community self-reliance, Sideras says, specifically "the various food resources available to us in the Willamette Valley."

The fair will include a speech by Jim Hightower, author of "Hard Tomatoes, Hard Times," and other talks on gardening, nutrition, world hunger and collectivism. Local worker-owned collectives will be discussed as alternatives to "huge oligopolistic agribusinesses," Sideras says.

The Food Op plans to plant a garden behind the store to demonstrate the feasibility of urban agriculture, Oppermann adds.

The Food Op is located at 1535 E. 15th Ave. in the alley. The store is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Cortez sentenced to life — twice

Convicted murderer Manuel Cortez was sentenced to two consecutive life terms and will have to serve at least 50 years in the state prison before he is eligible for parole, Lane County Circuit Court Judge George Woodrich ruled Wednesday morning.

Cortez was convicted in November of two counts of first-degree murder in the December 1979 torture-murders of Ashland girls Deanna Jackman and Rachel Isser.

"No one better than I recognizes what happened that night, and no one is more sorry than I," Cortez said in a soft, shaky voice before Woodrich sentenced him to the maximum penalty under Oregon law.

Although Cortez said he knew his year-old Christian faith would have no effect on the sentence, he claimed his conversion is "true, genuine and sincere" and that he is a different man than when he killed the two 11-year-old girls.

"The man who walked that day has died," Cortez said. "He has been crucified with Christ."

The sentence was handed down after a day of testimony from defense witnesses who emphasized the sincerity of Cortez's conversion and prosecution witnesses who said there is little hope of treating Cortez with available

psychological programs.

On Tuesday, Jackson County District Attorney Justin Smith argued that Cortez is "using religion to manipulate people."

"The citizens of the state should never take the risk that Manuel Cortez will be on the streets again," Smith said.

Defense Attorney Harry Carp agreed that Cortez is dangerous, but argued that sentencing him to two consecutive life sentences when he has only one life is "ridiculous."

In his ruling, the judge said he was convinced Cortez's conversion is sincere, but because of public safety and the lack of treatment for sexual sadists, he had to impose the maximum sentence.

If the death penalty had not been struck down by Oregon's Supreme Court, Woodrich said he would have sentenced Cortez to death for the murders.

Also Wednesday in Lane County Circuit Court, Judge William Beckett sentenced Lionetti Haynes to 20 years in prison with a minimum of seven years to be served before parole. He also ruled the three years she has spent in jail can be applied to the sentence.

Haynes was convicted of manslaughter in the stabbing and dismemberment murder of Pamela Bruno of Springfield.