



James Houston

Photo by Mark Pynes

## Ecological crisis reflects moral values, expert says

By **RON HUNT**  
Of the Emerald

The environmental crisis reflects the pollution of current moral values, an environmental studies expert said Friday night on campus.

James Houston, professor of interdisciplinary and environmental studies at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, said the environmental crisis represents the breakdown of society as a whole.

"The ecological crisis is fundamentally a moral crisis," Houston said.

"The environmental crisis is a judgment upon our mores; it's a judgment upon our own values and purposes in life. We are weighed in the balance and found wanting. We're found wanting in the traits of our civilization, we're found wanting in the way we're treating our own planet."

Modern social values, according to Houston, are quantitative rather than qualitative. Humans rationalize their desire for "more of the same" and think of expansion, not quality, he said.

Houston said this desire for "more of the same" is setting modern society on a course for disaster. To avert this disaster people will have to undergo a "a

conversion, a roundabout change," he said.

Houston noted that global problems are so complex that many people despair of solving them. But Houston said it is possible to change that attitude.

Christianity, Houston said, offers hope to a world that needs it.

"Now, the man in the world who has no hope other than in man has to repress an awful lot of bad news. The Christian can articulate much of what is going on because he has a hope behind it," Houston said.

"We want to be able to engender hope."

However, Houston pointed out that there is some tension in the Christian hope because it is somewhat apocalyptic.

"Even though the Christian sees the end approaching, he knows that God is in charge of things," he said.

Though he espouses a Christian perspective on current social and environmental problems, Houston said he does not necessarily support the policies of Secretary of the Interior James Watt, who claims to be a born-again Christian.

"I'm not saying that he's got the right approach to things, but certainly it's a reactionary approach to the strength of the environmental movement over the last decade. And perhaps

there may be a balance between the two positions."

Houston said that humans must begin to see the environmental problem from a new perspective. According to Houston this new perspective requires focusing on the social as opposed to the physical limits of growth. This change in perspective, as seen in the fight against nuclear power and a growing dissatisfaction with the "cornucopia of wealth," has been going on since 1975, Houston said.

However, Houston noted that the economist's notion of "more and more" still pervades society.

But economics does not adequately serve man's needs because "it has dealt almost exclusively with what is rather than with what ought to be," he said.

# PICTURE THIS!

All  
Pre-cut Mats  
Wooden Picture Frames  
Metal Picture Frames

## 20% Off

Get your art  
and pictures  
dressed for less!

**UO**  
BOOKSTORE

13th & Kincaid  
Mon-Fri 8:15-5:30  
Sat 10:00-5:30

Textbooks 686-3520 • General Books 686-3510 • Supplies 686-4331

**emu** Cultural Forum & Ribbons Presents

A Special  
Northwest appearance  
by

**David Crosby  
& Band**

**Sunday Oct. 18  
8 p.m.**

EMU Ballroom

**Tickets:**

**\$8.00** for UO Students  
**\$9.00** for General Public

Available at

- EMU Main desk
- Meier and Frank
- Everybody's Records in Eugene & Corvallis

Ticket Sales Subject to service charge



## A WEEK AT HOOKERS!

**MONDAY:** BULLDAWG NIGHT entitles you to a glass of Bull and a hot dog for only .75. Enjoy Monday night football on a large screen T.V.

**TUESDAY:** From 7-9 pm buy a 32-ounce glass for \$3.00 and we keep filling it for two hours.

**WEDNESDAY:** Ladies night with .25 beer .50 wine.

**THURSDAY:** All the STEAMER CLAMS you can eat with salad and bread. Only \$4.99.

**FRIDAY:** For \$9.95 enjoy a T-Bone steak and all the beer you can drink with your meal. Any Friday or Saturday from 6-9 pm.

**ALSO ENJOY LIVE MUSIC  
WEDNESDAY-  
SATURDAY**

**Hookers**  
2165 W 11th  
485-4044

### TAKE A BREAK!

There's more to your  
education than just studies

Check ODE CLASSIFIED  
EVENTS &  
ENTERTAINMENT

