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The ASUO Executive Office is located in Suite 4, EMU, 686-3724, and will provide prospective candidates for funding with necessary information on the proper preparation of goal requests.

Hunger dominates food day

Only poor starve, says OSU prof

Salvadorans fleeing junta's repression

By RON HUNT
 Of the Emerald

Wealthy landowners are one of the primary contributors to world hunger, an Oregon State University political science professor said Friday on campus.

"The real problems are in terms of land reform," Richard Clinton told an audience participating in World Food Day activities.

World hunger is a problem of food distribution, not production, because distribution is done on the basis of ability to pay, he said.

"Only the poor starve. No one with money goes hungry anywhere in the world."

Clinton said the cornerstone of political understanding is that economic assets are translated into political power. Between lobbying efforts in the United States and corruption in foreign governments, the domination of wealthy landowners is maintained, he said.

Because world hunger is not primarily a technological problem, "we need philosophical and political kinds of approaches," Clinton said.

To change approaches to world hunger problems not only requires giving up our comfortable lifestyles but also requires seeing the problem in terms of who is to get the food we already produce, Clinton said. Increased food production is not the only solution, he said.

Referring to Pres. Ronald Reagan's staunch defense of free enterprise, Clinton said free enterprise would be fine if there was equality in the system to begin

with. Perspectives like free enterprise don't take into account what happens in real life, said Clinton.

In another Food Day speech, a Chicago leader said the unjust distribution of food in Mexico has contributed to the immigration of Mexicans to the United States.

Mexicans lack food because much of it is sent north to the United States, said Ramon Ramirez, a representative of the Willamette Valley Immigration Project.

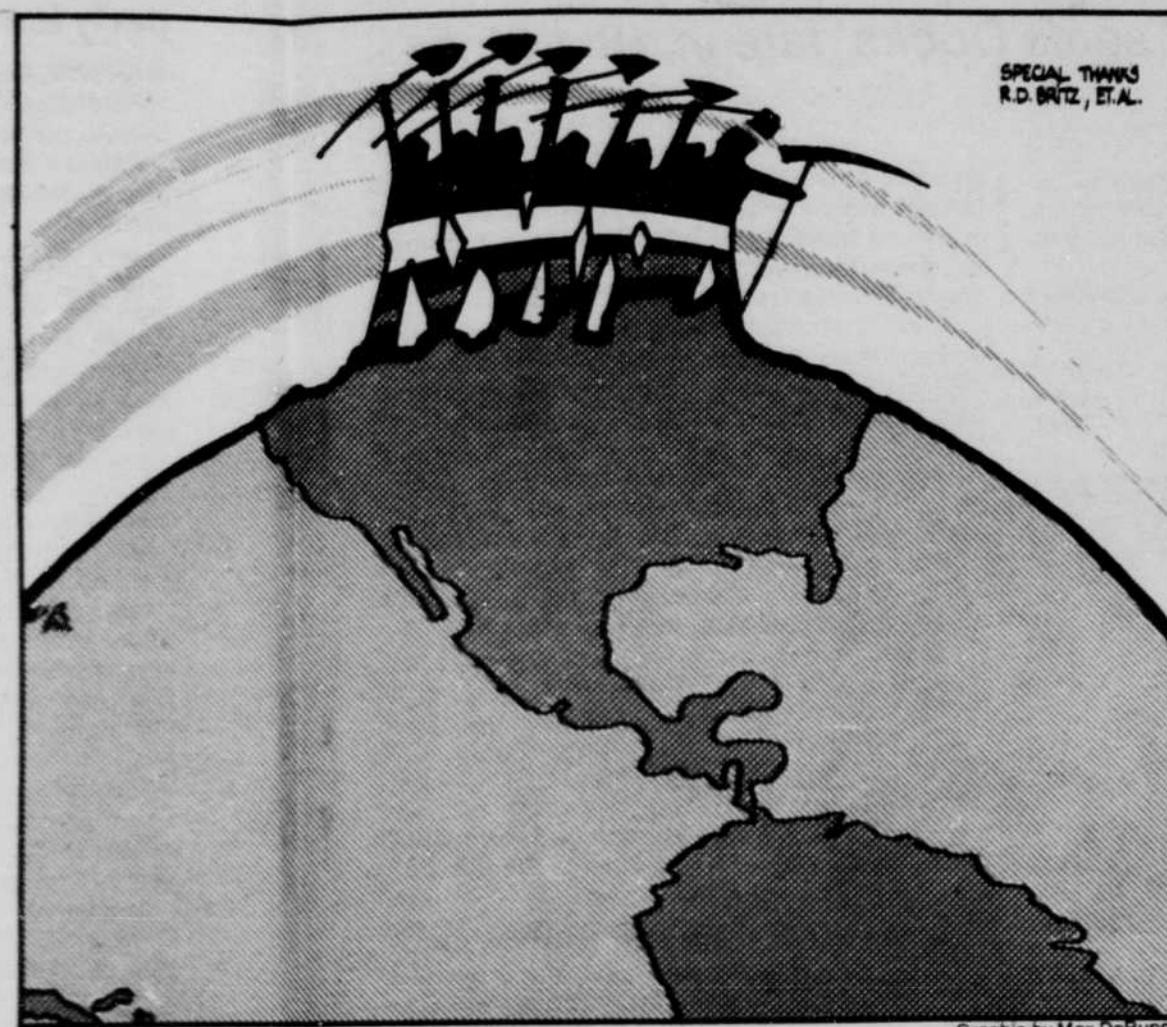
"Mexico exports well over 50 percent of its crops to the United States," Ramirez said. "This is creating conditions for immigration to the United States."

Ramirez said multinational corporations such as Del Monte and Safeway are heavily involved in the development of farmland in northwest Mexico. The multinationals act as partners with Mexican growers, providing them with credit, seed, equipment, fertilizers and pesticides.

According to Ramirez, market conditions for produce in the United States dictate the flow of food to the north. For example, the United States gets 60 percent of its winter vegetables from Mexico, he said.

Collective farms in Mexico — ejidos — cannot compete with the multinational-sponsored farms, Ramirez said. The Mexican government says it is too risky to invest in the collective farms, which are on government-owned land, he said.

Because 42 percent of Mexico's economy is run by foreign interests, certainly one of the alternatives is nationalization, Ramirez said.



By TOM TROWBRIDGE
 Of the Emerald

The condition of the general population of El Salvador is one of misery, the Rev. Jesus Nieto told a small crowd at the First Methodist Church on Friday.

Nieto, a citizen of El Salvador, has been a Catholic priest for 13 years. He recently worked in Salvadoran refugee camps in Honduras, aiding Salvadorans who have fled their country. Nieto's speech was part of World Food Day.

Malnutrition is common among the people of El Salvador. "The average life span of 50 years condemns them to slow death through hunger," Nieto said.

Little sympathy comes from

the Salvadoran government, said Nieto, who described the electoral process there as a "farce."

"The people have now been convinced that they will never gain relief from the present condition of misery through the electoral process," Nieto said.

The people of El Salvador have made several demands of the government, including a lowering of the high cost of living and an increase in workers' salaries, he said.

Salvadoran students have demanded that the University be more accessible to larger numbers of people. Currently, the University is available only to children of large, rich families, Nieto said.

"The only response to the

people's demands is repression," he said.

The Catholic Church is also a target of repression, Nieto said. Last year, Nieto's parish house was shot at by soldiers. Nieto managed to escape and later fled to Honduras.

Many Salvadorans go north to Honduras to flee the repression, said Nieto, who estimated that there are 40,000 Salvadoran refugees in Honduras.

The Honduran government, like the Salvadoran government, shows little sympathy for the refugees. The majority of the refugees are in campgrounds from which they are not permitted to leave.

"The conditions of life for the refugees in Honduras are so terrible that all efforts being made to help them are insufficient," Nieto said.

"If they're going to die of repression in Honduras, they might as well return to El Salvador and die of repression in their own country."

Nieto said Americans should put pressure on the U.S. government to suspend military and economic aid to the present junta.

"As the junta gains more and more support from the outside...there is more murder, genocide and misery for the people. The junta is like a dead body with artificial life."

County residents turn to crime over hunger

The phone rings nearly 1,000 times a month at a local hunger referral office.

One-third of the callers say they'll starve; one-third say they'll turn to crime to feed their families; and one-third say they'll pray.

The callers aren't natives of some Third World country; they're residents of Lane County.

There are 20,000 to 30,000 people in Lane County with an extreme need for food, according to Corrine Poorman of the Lane County Clients Council.

Poorman spoke on "Hunger in Lane County" as part of World Food Day activities Friday.

Some Lane County residents were starving before federal budget cuts were implemented this summer, Poorman said. Many of her clients suffer from malnutrition along with anxiety and depression. All she can do is encourage them to "just keep going," she said.

Nearly two-thirds of Lane County welfare recipients are women and chil-

dren, and two-thirds of all food stamp recipients in the county are children and senior citizens, Poorman said. Citizens with incomes below the official poverty level comprise nearly 90 percent of the food stamp recipients in Lane County.

Few college students, however, receive welfare benefits, and less than 1 percent receive food stamps.

Combating hunger on the local level entails understanding hunger issues and changing lifestyles, said Poorman.

But citizens cannot fight world hunger merely by changing their lifestyles, Poorman said. A citizen can have a major impact on hunger by working to change food production systems, United States government policies and food distribution methods in other countries, she said.

Locally, LCCC combats hunger by offering referral services to food-oriented social agencies such as FISH, Loaves and Fishes, and Gatherers and Gleaners.

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