

Center shifts approach; takes students to coast

The Survival Center is trying a new approach to environmental problem solving Saturday. Instead of bringing a problem to students, they will take students to the problem.

A bus load of students will go to Big Creek — a wilderness area north of Florence — to deal with "the problem," which is a proposed commercial development site at Big Creek.

The outing, sponsored by the University's Survival Center, will focus on making students more aware of the Big Creek area.

"Many people hear about endangered areas but never take the opportunity to see them," says Matt Holmes, assistant director of the Survival Center.

The day-long excursion is the first in a series of environmental awareness field trips the Survival Center will be sponsoring throughout the year.

Among students on the bus will be residents of the four newly formed environmental dormitories.

"We're particularly excited about working with the environmental dorms on this first trip," Holmes says.

"The fact that 240 students chose to live in

these dorms demonstrates a wave of student interest in environmental concerns."

The Survival Center, along with the Natural Earth Foundation and the Oregon Wilderness Coalition, is fighting a proposal to rezone Big Creek for commercial use.

The area is the proposed site of a \$3.35 million recreation/tourist development. Owners of the land want to use 26 acres of the 186-acre site for a 40-unit lodge, 30 detached cabins, two owner's residences, a restaurant, a trading post and other related service facilities. Lane County commissioners have rejected an option to reopen hearings on the project.

"The importance of this field trip is to further student awareness of the beauty of the area and how business interests are rapidly destroying the pristine areas we have left in Oregon," Holmes says.

In addition to viewing the Big Creek area, participants on the trip also will stop at the Cummings/Bob Creek area, one of the last old-growth timber areas on the coast.

Anyone with an interest in taking part in this or future field trips should contact the Survival Center in Suite 1 of the EMU, 686-4352.

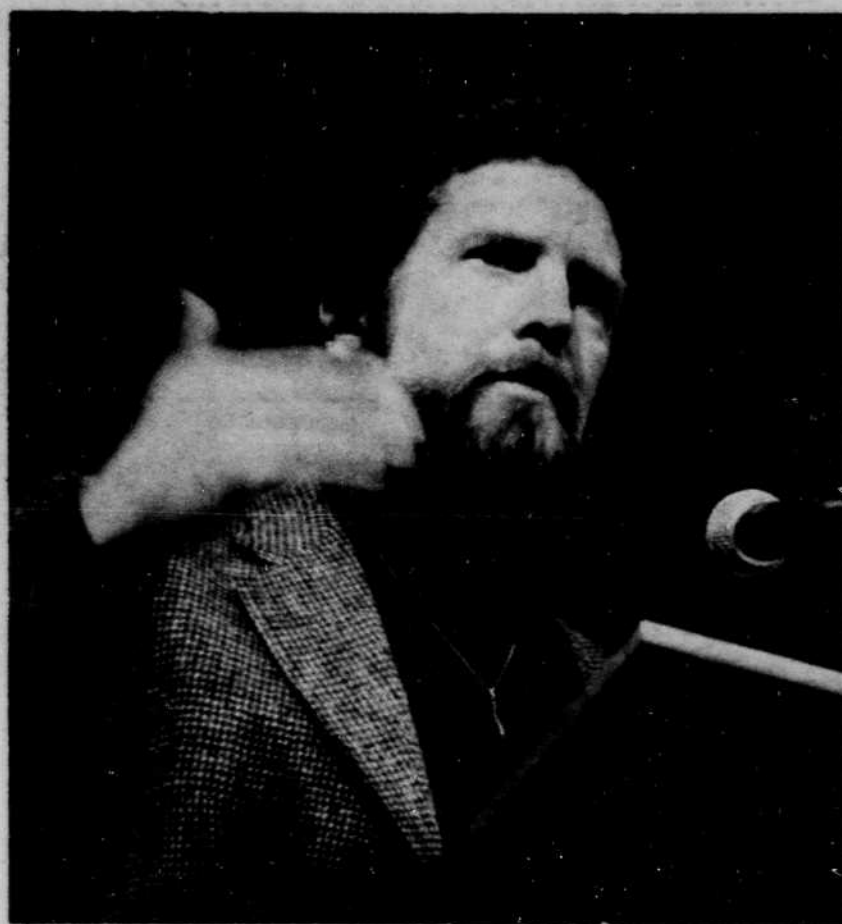


Photo by Mark Pynes

Kirkpatrick Sale

U.S. bound for fall, author tells crowd

By DANE CLAUSSEN
Of the Emerald

Author Kirkpatrick Sale relayed three messages to an audience Tuesday in the EMU: the times are bad, problems are at "excess levels," and important parts of our society are not at a "human scale."

Sale, author of "Power Shift" and "The Human Scale," said that citizens of modern industrial societies are in a crisis situation.

Sale said he spends half the year in New York City and half at a cabin in upstate New York. He proposed a world divided into "self-sufficient bio-region units."

Preparing the audience for his proposal, Sale criticized the Reagan administration and "Ronniomics," big government, and big business. He added that capitalism encourages exportation of local wealth and dependence on resource-rich nations.

The United States is destined for a breakdown in the next 10 to 20 years, Sale said. Unless the country's economic wealth and political power are decentralized, a "totalitarian government" will take control, he said.

Sale described the formation of thousands of relatively small,

self-sufficient areas in the world, with boundaries determined by the geography and natural resources rather than "artificial" political boundaries.

Areas of the world that come closest to being self-sufficient bio-regions are the cantons of Switzerland and the Basque area of Spain, he said. He also cited the American Indians, the 13 American colonies and the first settled areas of Europe as examples of self-sufficient regions.

Americans are not in control of their political or economic lives, Sale said. They give up their rights to make decisions — as indicated by poor voting turnouts — and they are not asked opinions on such key issues as the proposed sale of AWACs to Saudi Arabia, he said.

Americans are facing recession, inflation, and losses in productivity, Sale said, adding that Reagan's contention that more savings will result in capital investments is faulty.

Sale said he realizes his proposal may be unacceptable to some, but he said he has confidence that others will accept its viability. Prominent economists, political scientists, sociologists, ecologists, and those in other disciplines have accepted his philosophy or similar ones, he said.



Photo by David Corey

Old folks enjoy merrymaking

Us younguns aren't the only ones who can cut a rug.

Halloween revelers filled the dance floor Wednesday at the Ivorena Care Center, bebopping to the Eldred Gaspy Band's vintage sound.

Although it sounds like any other Halloween hop, this party was quite distinct. Most of the fox-trotting merrymakers were between 80 and 100 years old.

"This party was planned to relate back to the dances of their era," says Ellen Waters, activity coordinator for the center.

"It was a chance for them to get dressed up in their good clothes, listen to music of their times, socialize in a party

atmosphere, and take part in the enjoyment that used to be a part of their daily lives."

Not only the older generation enjoyed the festivities. Many residents invited younger friends and relatives.

One caller seemed to be getting most of the attention. Hands reached out for her to come sit and talk, and old gentlemen gallantly escorted her to the dance floor. To these elderly folk, Stephanie Schmitgall is an angel, a young person who takes the time to listen and care.

"It is really important to realize that these are people, just like you and I, only older," says Schmitgall, who has a certificate in gerontology from the University.

"As young people, we can learn a lot from their experience. Some of these old people were pioneers in Oregon, some were born in foreign countries. They provide us with a wonderful way to enrich ourselves through other people."

According to Beulah Pritchard, 88, this also works the other way around.

"Young people today don't like our advice. They don't have much time to listen," Pritchard says.

"If I could give them any guidance, I would tell them that they don't need all these modern things to be happy. Just being together is the best happiness."

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