

Rehabilitate, don't imprison, says author



Claire Culhane

Photo by David Corey

Building more prisons is a waste of taxpayers' money, says author Claire Culhane. Culhane, founder of a prisoners' rights group in Burnaby, British Columbia, says tax revenues are better spent on alternative programs to help prisoners avoid crime.

"When I'm called a bleeding heart I accept that title as opposed to being called a heartless bum," she said Friday at Harris Hall. Culhane's presentation was sponsored by People for Prison Alternatives, a group working to defeat Ballot Measure 3 on the May 18 ballot. The measure would provide for bond sales to raise money for new prisons.

Of those incarcerated, 80 to 90 percent are not violent criminals, Culhane said, adding that non-violent prisoners should be returned to their communities so they can work to pay for their crimes.

Prisons are not synonymous with justice, Culhane said. Prison systems are multi-billion dollar industries which hire thousands of people

Brutality has made prisons the "new

Holocaust," Culhane said, adding that many people know what is going on but look the other way — to keep their economic security.

Reform is the responsibility of each community, she said. Communities should develop training and work programs for unsupervised kids. After school and while parents are working, kids could work on building homes in the neighborhood rather than spending time on the streets, she said.

When Culhane returned from south Vietnam, where she served as a hospital administrator for the Canadian government, her gut reaction was not to write more about what was happening — but how to stop it, she said. Everyone is writing about "The Long-Term Effects of Incarceration," Culhane said.

Instead, she wrote *Barred From Prison*, a personal account of prison reform at the Oakalla and British Columbia penitentiaries. One reviewer wrote, "The B.C. Pen comes out looking like an Auschwitz without ovens."

Seaside escape offers Oregon coast study

By Sherri Scully
Of the Emerald

Imagine waking to the sounds of crashing waves and sea gulls instead of the sounds of cars and buses. Imagine walking down a beach to class.

Escaping to Charleston, Oregon for a term can make these fantasies become reality through a program sponsored by the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology.

Students will have a chance to get a taste of the beach and the program on a two-day field trip beginning April 24, sponsored by the People and the Oregon

Coast organization. Highlights of the trip will include whale watching, a campout at Carter Lake and a tour of OIMB facilities. Field trip information is available at the Survival Center office in Suite 1, EMU.

People and the Oregon Coast offers an interdisciplinary program for upper and lower division University credit. Course offerings range from Introduction to Landscape Architecture to Economics of Coastal Issues.

Students live in Charleston, a small fishing town near Coos Bay. While living at the Institute, students pay the

equivalent of University tuition and dormitory fees. Old Coast Guard barracks, complete with library and dining facilities, house the approximately 40 students that participate in the program each session.

The OIMB program is one of few in the United States that combine varied areas of academic study and apply them to a common problem.

"People who participate in the program each session develop a closeness to each other and the professors," says Dave Daikh, director of People and the Oregon Coast. "They are sharing an

opportunity to live and learn together."

After a two-week orientation period, students select and develop their own term projects which relate to the community around them. Field work, informal classes, guest speakers and close interaction with instructors in several disciplines aid in developing student research projects.

Projects at OIMB range from a landscape architecture major drawing up plans for a series of local bike paths to a biology major documenting current research on the Cape Arago Harbor Seals.

Nuclear protest continues

Ground zero is the area directly beneath a nuclear bomb blast, and to alert people to the dangers of nuclear war, a nation-wide "Ground Zero Week" is being held through Saturday.

The week began Sunday in Eugene with the placing of the Ground Zero marker at the Federal Building. The next scheduled event is a Thursday convocation on "Options for Preventing Nuclear War." The discussion begins at 4:30 p.m. in Room 150 Geology.

On Friday, a one-hour documentary on the nuclear arms race will be shown on KOAC-TV Channel 7 at 8 p.m. On Sunday, the Ground Zero marker will be removed from the Federal Building at 1 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. a slide show and film will be shown at Harris Hall.

Center sponsors Earthweek

Films, a sophisticated slide show and speeches by several authors and educators will be part of the 12th annual Earthweek celebration sponsored by the Survival Center this week.

Earthweek activities will also include bicycle workshops, a letter-writing and information table, a Millrace cleanup and an Environmental Faire in 167 EMU with a variety of exhibits on topics ranging from alternative transportation to composting.

Dave Foreman, founder of the "no-compromise" environmental group "Earth First!" will speak in the EMU Ballroom at 7 p.m. today, accompanied by a sophisticated 11-projector wilderness slide show by the Mountain Visions Company.

Featured speaker Tuesday is Jean Claude Faby, liaison officer with the United Nations Environmental Programme. Faby will discuss

"The Regional Seas Program" at 3:30 p.m. in Room 107 Lawrence and speak on global environmental issues at 7 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom.

Today, architect and educator Victor Oropello will speak on "Design for Human Scale" in the EMU Ballroom.

Author Earl Grossman will deliver a speech on "What you are not supposed to know about nuclear energy," at 8 p.m. Thursday in the EMU Ballroom.

Films — including E.F. Schumacher's "As If People Mattered" — and a public broadcasting series, "Watt's America," examining the policies of U.S. Secretary of the Interior James Watt, will be shown free of charge throughout the week.

For more information, call the Survival Center at 686-4356.

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