

New fundraising drive for UES directed at faculty

By Cami Swanson
Of the Emerald

As part of their goal to raise money for the University of El Salvador, the UO/UES Sister University Project is sponsoring "Teach a Day for El Salvador," a fund raising drive aimed at University faculty, GTF and administrators.

Members of the project will be contacting faculty and staff today and asking instructors to donate a day's salary, or part of a salary, to help fund the reconstruction of the UES Medical School. The month-long program will conclude on May 29, when all the donations collected by the Sister University Project will be wired directly to the UES.

Randy MacDonald, ASUO Student Senate chairman and member of a delegation that traveled to El Salvador in January, said the Sister University Project has a goal of raising \$2,000 by the end of spring term. The project has raised \$1,200 since March, \$1,000 of which has already been sent to the UES.

Approximately 60 percent of the money raised by the project goes to support the medical school, MacDonald said.

"Before 1980, the University of El Salvador had the finest medical school in Central America," he said.

On June 26, 1980, members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces invaded the UES, killing 60 students and faculty while 40 others disappeared. The

military occupied the University for four years, during which the school was severely damaged. The University was officially reopened in May, 1984.

"In 1984, the University was devastated. For example, of the 500 microscopes working before, maybe 15 were of salvageable condition," MacDonald said.

The remaining 40 percent of the money raised by the Project goes to support the UES Library, which was damaged in an October, 1986, earthquake in San Salvador, the nation's capital, MacDonald said.

Robyn Braverman, who accompanied one of the first delegations to El Salvador after the UES reopened in 1984, estimated that the total amount of aid given to the UES since the project was started in the fall of 1985 is "at least \$10,000."

She said the main source of monetary aid is through bake sales.

"We are the bake sale champs!" she said.

Besides providing a source of funding for the UES, which receives only enough money from the government to pay the salaries of its teachers, the Project is working to increase awareness of the situation in El Salvador, Braverman added.

"That's what we're trying to promote. Autonomy in education, freedom of education and democracy in El Salvador. We want to send a message to El Salvador and to the rest of the U.S. that we're paying atten-

tion," she said.

"What we are trying to do is to reach out to the entire University community and get the University involved in the Sister University Project," added MacDonald.

The Project has sponsored two delegations that have traveled to El Salvador. ASUO President Steve Nelson and five other students went to El Salvador last summer, while MacDonald and former Record Editor Lisa Loving traveled there in January. According to Braverman, each delegation that travels to El Salvador delivers approximately \$300 to UES from the Project's fundraising activities.

In the latest trip to El Salvador, Garth Cheff, a GTF in the Spanish Department, recently accompanied a 38-member delegation and delivered \$350 to the UES from the Sister University Project.

Cheff, who once lived in El Salvador, served as a translator

during the trip. The delegation included two other Eugene residents, Bill Lutz and Pam Wooddell and people from eight other states.

During their stay in El Salvador, which lasted from April 26 to May 4, the delegates from the West Coast visited two cooperative farms and participated in a May Day march in Santa Ana.

May 1st is the legal Labor Day of El Salvador, said Lutz, who was the coordinator of the Oregon and Washington delegates. On that day, he said, demonstrations are held throughout the country. Lutz estimated that approximately 1,000 Salvadorans participated in the demonstration in Santa Ana and between 50 and 70,000 demonstrated in San Salvador, the country's capital.

"We were in the march and the reason we were there was to make a statement against North American intervention," Lutz said.

He stressed that North American, and particularly the United States, presence at demonstrations was important because it offered an eyewitness account on what was happening in El Salvador and also provided some security for the demonstrators.

"(The military) can't afford to mess around" when there is a threat that Americans will also be hurt, Lutz said.

However, Cheff said that the National Police are not above applying "psychological pressure."

"They didn't have a search warrant, and when you looked outside of the hotel, you could see a whole row of soldiers," he said.

Some programs that the Sister University Project is considering for the future is a faculty-student exchange and a regional coordination of sister university programs nationwide.

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Strike Continued from Page 1

Eugene High School during the first Eugene teacher strike in 1979.

Hirons, who has two younger sisters attending SEHS, said she photocopied and distributed 600 fliers declaring an S.O.S. (Support Our Students) on Thursday. Fliers went up at three high schools, she said, asking students to begin wearing the arm bands every day, everywhere they go, until a settlement is reached in negotiations.

Hirons said she hopes the arm bands will draw attention to the plight of the students and away from "teachers and replacement teachers screaming obscenities at each other and being arrested."

The flier states, "The time has come to stop holding 4-J students hostage. Support the students: wear a yellow arm band."

According to Hirons, the arm bands are reminiscent of those Americans wore in support of freeing U.S. hostages in Iran in

1979 and 1980.

This time, the hostages are the Eugene students, Hirons said.

"It is far past the time to try to assess blame. That's not important anymore," she said. "What's important now is that the students' futures are being jeopardized. No one has the right to use the students as a political tool."

Hirons also chose the arm bands to symbolize a peaceful yet visible form of protest that will keep the students in line with school policy.

"There's been a lot of students who have been organizing walkouts and boycotting classes, and that's only harming themselves," she said, calling her idea both positive and constructive.

Fliers were posted at South Eugene, Roosevelt Middle School and Spencer Butte Middle School, where students constructed temporary arm bands out of about 20 rolls of yellow crepe paper.

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