Conference emphasizes awareness of world problems

By Ingrid Petersen
Emerald Reporter

Fostering awareness of local, national and global problems and teaching strategies to deal with them is the theme of an all-day conference at South Eugene High School on Friday.

The conference, entitled "Global Issues: Educating for Action," is part of World Food Focus, a two-week series of events and forums surrounding World Food Day. The focus began Oct. 3 and runs until Oct. 18 and is being held in conjunction with World Food Day, Oct. 16, which is recognized by international hunger organizations all over the world, said Paula Prober, a member of the conference's steering committee and one of the conference initiators.

"We are interested in bringing community people and teachers together in an environment where they can all learn more about critical issues of our time," Prober said.

The conference, which is sponsored by more than 19 local non-profit organizations, will feature about 60 workshops concerning a wide variety of issues — homelessness, environmental abuse, social concerns and human rights.

"The conference will provide training and opportunity for personal growth and development to promote action," said Felice Dunham, conference chairwoman.

"We want to set the conference in a postive framework," Prober said. "It is not a doomsday kind of negative experience."

Frances Moore Lappe, author of the 1971 bestseller "Diet for a Small Planet" and co-founder of the Institute for Food and Development Policy, will be the keynote speaker at the conference, which begins at 8:45 a.m.

The leaders of the workshops will give information as well as training and strategies for confronting the problems, Prober said. And the workshop leaders will provide the most up to date information on how to promote action, she added.

Another purpose of the conference is to illustrate different ways global awareness can be better integrated into the classroom and there will be specific sessions on curricula, Prober said.

"The organizers have set themselves a very broad agenda having to do with educating students in the classroom about many of the critical issues facing our country and the world today," University President Paul Olum said. The conference is "an ambitious and important effort," he added.

The conference also is offering workshops on self-esteem, self-confidence, relaxation techniques and personal growth, Prober said.

The conference will feature 12 out-of-state speakers as well as several local experts.

The conference costs $25 for the general public, $15 for full-time college students and $10 for high school students.

Anyone interested can register for the conference Friday at 7:30 a.m. before it begins or tonight at 7:30 at South Eugene High School.

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Well-known author to speak

By Paula Green
Emerald Reporter

Frances Moore Lappe

Noted author Frances Moore Lappe will give a speech, entitled "In a Democracy, Hunger Has No Place," tonight at 7:30 at South Eugene High School. Lappe is co-founder of the Food Institute for Food and Development Policy and a frequent lecturer.

Clergy and Laity Concerned is sponsoring the engagement as part of the World Food Day Committee's "World Food Focus," a two-week series of events and forums. The speech is open to the public, with a $3 donation suggested.

Lappe also will serve as keynote speaker for the statewide community and education conference, "Global Issues: Education for Action," which begins Friday at 8:30 a.m., also at South Eugene High School.

Lappe's speech will examine whether democracy can survive in an era of increasing economic injustice. She also will question whether the American values of freedom and democracy are harmonious with the economic conventions we identify them with.

In essence, her thesis is that people need a democratic control over the economic decisions that affect them just as much as they need a democratic control over political decisions.

"For any economic and political system that leaves some people with no power at all — and certainly those who go hungry have none — violates every principle on which we imagine our civilization to rest," Lappe has said.

Guy Burton, staff member of CALC, sees a need for public awareness of the issues that Lappe addresses.

"Eugene thinks of itself as an enlightened community, and in an essence it's true," Burton said. "But we're still locked into a consumer society, with its various injustices. We constantly need to be challenged."

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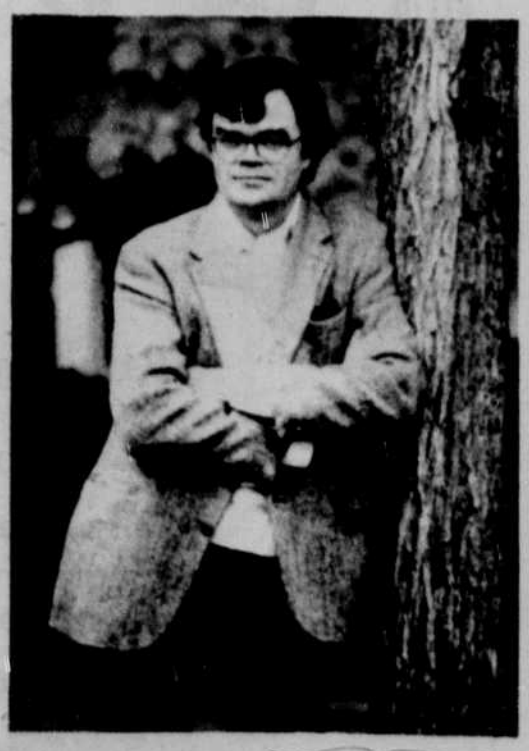
Garrison Keillor

Leaving Home
A Collection of Lake Wobegon Stories

Garrison Keillor is leaving Minnesota. But the little town he created on "A Prairie Home Companion," the town that starred in the bestselling Lake Wobegon Days, is safe and sound, celebrated once again in this collection of Lake Wobegon stories-including Keillor's farewell monologue.

As he observes the changing seasons, changing mores, and changing population of his hometown, Keillor reflects, too, on that life-defining choice between leaving home or staying put. For some, like Rollie's son Dale, leaving is the natural step toward manhood and his departure for the Navy (despite his mother's agonized warning, "Honey, you don't even know how to swim") is taken more or less in stride. For Darlene of the Chatterbox Cafe, the decision comes later in life, but she bravely sets off for Minneapolis to begin life anew wearing "the cool green satin dress" from the Mercantile. And it was an undeniable passion that took Val Tollefson's father from Lake Wobegon's shores; for when a married man falls in love with his neighbor's wife, it's a wise move to settle down in another town.



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