

# Ex-governor to speak on environment

By Bryan Houston  
Emerald Contributor

Land, Air and Water, an environmental research student group at the University's law school, is bringing former Wisconsin Gov. and Sen. Gaylord Nelson to Eugene on Tuesday to discuss environmental issues.

Nelson, who also is a member of the Wildlife Society, will be discussing the issues surrounding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in room 229 Law Center.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is a current topic of discussion with the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The debate is between oil industry interests who want Congress to open up an area in the refuge for oil and gas leasing and environmental interests who want Congress to designate ANWR as a wilderness area to protect the animals there.

Jean Durning, the regional director of The Wilderness Society in Seattle, said the society believes that the oil findings thus far have been exaggerated.

"They (oil interests) cannot match the estimates made of the

number of barrels of oil in the ground; the actual amount that would be found would only be about one percent of that total," Durning said. In a study released last spring, the U.S. Department of the Interior estimated that there are about 3.8 million barrels of oil under the earth's surface.

The part of the refuge where the leasing would take place — a coastal plain between a mountain range and the Beaufort Sea — is a very wild area, Durning said. She called it the only remaining place where the U.S. could protect an entire Arctic ecosystem.

"It is a place with a variety of wildlife that rivals the refuges of east Africa," she said.

Polar and grizzly bears, as well as musk oxen that died out earlier this century and were re-introduced a generation ago, now inhabit the area along with 180,000 caribou that migrate there every spring from Canada to mate and fatten up for the winter. Hundreds of thousands of waterfowl, including geese and swans, also nest there.

The Society feels the rights of these animals must be protected, and since a high yield of oil cannot be guaranteed, there is no need to destroy the land for the inhabitants, Durning

said.

Nelson, who spent 10 years in the Wisconsin State Senate, four years as governor there and 18 years in the U.S. Senate, joined the staff of the Wilderness Society in 1980 after he was defeated in a bid for reelection.

Known as an environmental leader throughout his 32 years in politics, Nelson is best known as the founder of Earth Day, designed to push environmental issues into the realm of political dialogue and to inform the public on environmental issues, especially on college campuses. The first Earth Day was held in 1970.

Nelson is a full-time counselor and public speaker for the society. In addition, he frequently pushes environmental issues before Congress on behalf of the society. During his current ANWR lecture tour, Nelson will be speaking in Eugene, Portland, Salem, Seattle and Tacoma.

Durning has been the Society's Regional Director for Oregon and Washington since 1981. Before that, she was an environmental volunteer and she worked for the Human Environmental Center to increase minority involvement in environmental research.

# Official attributes hunger to politics

By Charles Korn  
Emerald Contributor

World hunger is not caused by the environment but by people's systems and governments, according to James Steele, western regional organizer of Bread for the World.

Steele spoke at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, the final day of a two-week observance called "World Food Focus." Other events included a speech Oct. 8 by Francis Moore Lappe, author of "Diet for a Small Planet," and a teleconference Oct. 16, a date recognized internationally as World Food Day.

"Hunger simply need not exist in the world of 1987," said Steele, who filled in for Art Simon, BFW director. Simon, brother of democratic presidential candidate Paul Simon, could not leave the East Coast because of poor health.

BFW, a Christian-based citizen's action committee, is the largest anti-hunger lobby in the United States. Steele said BFW has more than 40,000 members and is the only full-time lobby of its kind in Washington, D.C.

"There are more lobbies for doorknobs than there are for hunger on Capitol Hill," Steele said.

BFW does not directly support food relief operations but asks people to use their "citizenship rights" to take political action concerning

hunger issues, he said.

As reported in a BFW fact sheet, the United Nations World Food Council estimates more than 500 million people in developing countries were hungry in 1985. UNICEF reports more than 40,000 children die each day from hunger-related causes.

The fact sheet notes that the term "hunger" does not mean starvation, which is described as an extreme form of hunger. It says, "The underlying problem is malnutrition — the lack of enough calories and nutrients to sustain normal growth, health and activity."

Steele stressed that "hungry people are hungry people," irrespective of nationality or race. "Americans are not the only ones who are human on this planet, yet some seem to think so," he said.

Steele recounted a meeting with Harry Belafonte, when the singer told him of an incident he had witnessed during the

devastating African famine a few years ago.

Thirty thousand people showed up at a relief rendezvous where food was allocated to only 20,000. The 10,000 without food did not argue or fight but turned their backs to the ones with food. Steele said Belafonte attributed that unison response to the people's extraordinary cohesion; the ones with food should not have to be watched, and thus shamed, by those with food.

"In the United States, we get angry standing in lines at the grocery store to purchase food," Steele said.

A resident of Washington, D.C., Steele said he knows of many people on food stamps who dread trips to the grocery store. He spoke of one such woman who buys a large quantity of food for her family only once a month at one or two o'clock in the morning to avoid

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