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Inside:

What to do on those
winter weekends
•Section B



Cultural attache praises new ways

*Many contribute talents
to Nicaraguan art display*

By Maile Field
Emerald Contributor

Under the Somoza regime in Nicaragua, "culture was for the elite," cultural attache to the Nicaraguan embassy Rosa Carlota Tunnermann said in a lecture Monday night at the EMU.

Since the revolution Nicaragua has seen the development of many cultural programs that have given the country a new sense of national identity, according to Tunnermann.

"Culture in the New Nicaragua" was the speech presented by the wife of Carlos Tunnermann, the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States. The event was sponsored by the Council for Human Rights in Latin America, ASUO and other University affiliates in conjunction with "Art and Reality," a Nicaraguan art show now on display at the EMU.

"Culture is a heritage from the past," Tunnermann said, denouncing the previous government's attempt to "impose foreign cultural values" on the people of Nicaragua. By integrating a Spanish heritage with indigenous cultures, Tunnermann explained,



Rosa Carlota Tunnermann

Nicaragua is developing a unique character. "Through art," Tunnermann said, addressing an audience of about 130, "(I hope) that Nicaragua will be viewed in a more

Turn to Art, Page 3A

Groups discuss steps to combat sex crimes

By Betsy Clayton
Emerald Reporter

Representatives of Eugene action groups concerned with violence toward women met Monday night to plan how to inform the community about current problems of rape and other violent acts.

The representatives discussed the contents of a letter to be sent to the Public Safety Advisory Committee, a possible February meeting to educate the community and a statistical report on local sex-related crimes.

Women's Referral and Resource Service, Rape Crisis Network and the Eugene Police Department were represented at the meeting. Men Against Rape and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance were present at the first meeting of interested action groups on Nov. 16.

According to Rush Abrams, co-director of Women's Referral and Resource Service, this is the first time these groups have combined efforts to address the issues of violence toward women in Eugene.

The main objective standing before the representatives is composing a letter to the advisory committee that will clarify concerns about women's safety in Eugene. Rape Crisis Network volunteer Dawn Lamp said.

The letter will address suggestions such as restrictions on the release of information from the Department of Motor Vehicles, curfews for men and organization of a citizen patrol for bicycle paths.

Lamp said the letter will be given to the advisory committee within the next two weeks. The

group wants to attach to the letter a list of people in the community who support the suggestions, perhaps in the form of a petition, she said.

The representatives further developed the idea of sponsoring a large, public meeting to help educate the Eugene community about sexual violence and safety problems. Late February was cited as an ideal time to schedule the meeting because the Community Safety Quarterly newsletter will be published during the first week of the month.

The focus of the newsletter will be crime action and women, an EPD spokesman said. He said the police, Womenspace and Rape Crisis Network will be gathering information for the newsletter.

The representatives hope to present at the February meeting an update on what action they are taking to prevent violence toward women.

"All kinds of angles at the same time I think will help," Lamp said. The meeting is intended to draw the public's interest and convince people to become more active.

The representatives studied EPD statistics on domestic violence, and rape and sex crimes. They estimated that about 1500 crimes against women have occurred within the past 10 to 12 months in Eugene. Emphasis was added that this figure only includes the reported incidents.

The action groups decided to begin meeting weekly to develop prevention plans in response to an increase in incidents of violence that have occurred in Eugene over the past six months, Rush said.

Critic views media, government

By Steve Hoenisch
Emerald Editorial Editor

Alexander Cockburn, a sharp critic of both the mainstream press and the Reagan administration, said the two spread disinformation by the media's attempt to cover administrative high-interest issues while ignoring less visible yet important ones.

Cockburn currently is traveling to lecture and promote his

new book and will speak at the University tonight. In a telephone interview, Cockburn addressed some controversial concerns that have arisen as a result of the recently released Iran-Contra Report and U.S. relations with Nicaragua.

The report is a "good example of how much is actually missed" by the congressional investigators and conventional journalists, Cockburn said. For example, nothing about drug smuggling by the Contras was

questioned during the Iran-Contra investigations, he said.

In his book, "Corruptions of Empire," Cockburn writes about the preoccupations of the Reagan era and how certain issues have been sidestepped. This in part is the result of the conservative nature of the mainstream press, such as the Washington Post and the New York Times.

"I think the press is following

Turn to Cockburn, Page 3A

Art student's project remains 'up in the air'

By Kevin Harrington
Emerald Contributor

Uprooted trees on campus are a rare sight. In fact, there aren't any at present.

But University student Tom Drew would like to change that.

Drew, a fine arts major, wants to sculpt a dead cottonwood tree that now rests on an island in the Willamette River into a sort of aerial park bench, with the roots pointing skyward and the trunk buried well underground. The tree would be located in the Urban Farm, a community garden spot on campus near the Millrace.

The object is to allow people to climb up the trunk using handholds and footholds. At the top of the tree climbers will

find a "comfortable" seat carved in the middle of its large entanglement of roots, where they will be able to enjoy the view from 15 feet above the gardens.

Drew said the idea first came to him while sitting in the woods 15 years ago, but logistical difficulties made it seem unfeasible. Then last spring, Drew began thinking about it again when he took a University sculpture class.

"I was taking an advanced sculpture class and was given a project to use any medium to make anything I wanted," Drew said. "So I thought, 'Oh my god, my log, let me try my log.'"

Drew said he proposed the idea to Fine and Applied Arts Associate Professor Laura

Turn to Roots, Page 4A



Photo by Scott Maben

University fine arts major Tom Drew stands with dead cottonwood tree on the Willamette River. The tree may once again stand, roots up, as Drew's sculpture in the campus' Urban Farm.