

# World issues headline conference

## Weekend law convention begins today

By Peter Cogswell  
Emerald Reporter

The stage is set for the eighth annual Public Interest Law Conference and 150 environmental experts are anticipated to make presentations related to this year's theme, "Grassroots Strategies for Our Global Future."

The conference is scheduled for March 1-4 with registration taking place from noon to 4 p.m. today, 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

This year's theme reflects the ideas of the people coming to the conference, said Steve Koteff, co-director of the conference.

"All of the speakers are focusing on the planet and not just on their own individual communities," he said. "The theme expresses the theme of people who feel they are working for the betterment of the planet."

The conference is made up of 49 panels on diverse topics, two slide shows and a "Run for the Rainforest" marathon. The proceeds from the marathon go to rainforest conservation efforts in South America.

A panel on Soviet environmental law and a panel on the Alaskan oil spill are expected to draw a large audience, Koteff said.

Koteff said he has been pleased with how organization efforts for the conference have been going and how the conference has turned out.

"I think it's going great," he said. "It's bigger than it has ever been and the support from the students is incredible. There is nothing like this anywhere."

Koteff expects 1,000 people to attend the conference this

year. Members of the general public and students may attend the panel discussions at no charge. The fee for attorneys is \$40 (\$50 at the door).

The large attendance has caused some problems, Koteff said. A Saturday luncheon and a dinner have filled up and Koteff is discouraging people from attending.

Speakers attending the conference this year include David Brower, the founder and chairman of Earth Islands Institute and the first executive director of the Sierra Club.

Also attending will be Jay Hair, president of the National Wildlife Foundation, Vandana Shiva, coordinator of Research Foundation for Science and Ecology, India, and Denis Hayes, the chairman of Earth Day 1990 and founder of Environmental Action.

One person expected to at-

tend the conference but is now unable to is Petra Kelly, a Green Party Representative from the West German Parliament, Koteff said.

Hayes will give the opening address at 12:30 today and the keynote address for the dinner will be given by Shiva.

Panel presentations and speeches run from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Conference sessions are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 8:15 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

The conference is organized by an independent student research group known as Land, Air, Water. Other sponsors are the Law student division of the American Bar Association, the Western Natural Resources Law Clinic, the Wilderness society and the National Wildlife Foundation.

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