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ESCAPE program survives cutbacks

By Kirsten Lucas
Emerald Reporter

When the Measure 5 ax fell last spring, the ESCAPE field studies program staff cringed.

ESCAPE's demise seemed inevitable to the program's staff as death sentences were handed down to the two departments through which ESCAPE offers upper-division credits for volunteer work.

However, ESCAPE returned this fall for its 22nd year at the University staffed with a new director and students who are more determined than ever to keep the program alive.

"We've been here for a long time, since 1969, and I honestly would not be dedicating my last year here to the program if I didn't think it was going to be around," said ESCAPE director Teresa Miller, a senior in economics.

Determination is crucial at this point. As a result of Measure 5 and the state-wide higher education budget cuts that followed, ESCAPE lost three staff positions and has a relatively short life expectancy unless they can find alternatives to offering credit through the Education and Human Services departments, which will be phased out over the next two years.

Aside from affecting ESCAPE's ability to grant credit, the elimination of the School of Education is bound to have some effect on the pool of volunteers available.

Although the total number of volunteers has not decreased significantly this term, the number of education majors volunteering to work in the

public schools has decreased and is expected to decline as the department is phased out, said ESCAPE's Public School Volunteer Coordinator Amber Brand.

"The closure (of the School of Education) will have a dramatic effect," said Bo Adan, ESCAPE's public school's division head.

"I am hoping there will be some sort of initiative to put pressure on the State Board of Higher Education to reassess priorities and perhaps put money back into education instead of programs like military science."

Miller also deeply regrets the loss of the School of Education, although ESCAPE's future is now her immediate concern.

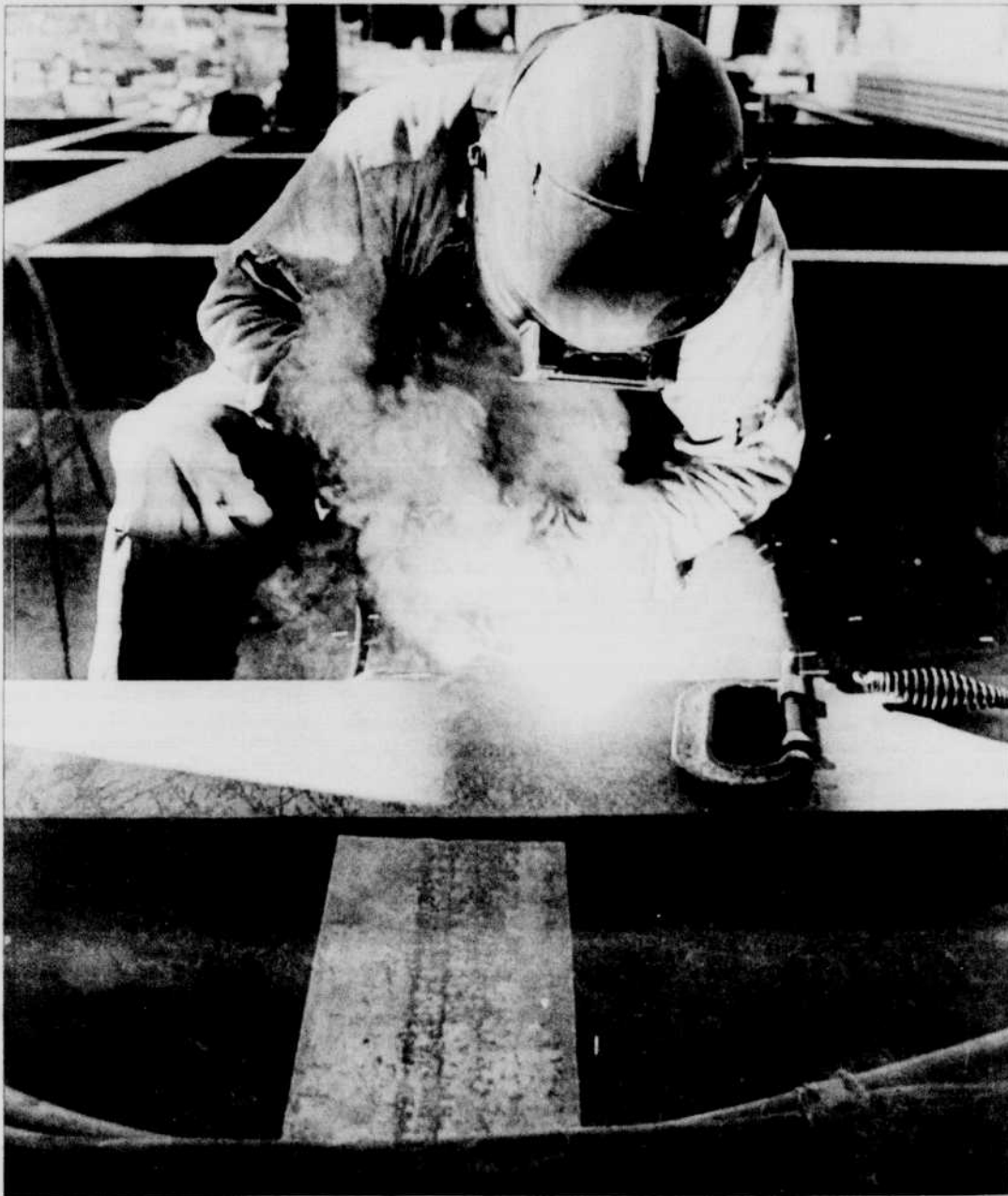
"Now that we're done with registration," Miller said, "(ESCAPE's) future is high on my agenda."

ESCAPE currently has three options, Miller said. It can find new departments to offer credit for the volunteer work that ESCAPE coordinates, it can somehow integrate into Career Planning and Placement Services, or it can become a department itself.

But one way or another, Miller is confident that ESCAPE will survive because it serves a vital function in the community and because it offers students an opportunity to get involved outside the classroom while earning credit at the same time.

"I believe that students need to be able to get credit for the work that they're volunteering

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Blinded by the light

Welder Jim Liness puts the final touches on a metal frame that supports the fourth floor addition to Knight library. By mid-1993 and \$27.4 million later, the library will be almost twice its current size of 132,000 square feet.

Photo by John Stoops

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Football weekend



Recovering from an upset loss to Utah, the Ducks will take on the Trojans of USC, who also hope to redeem themselves after losses to Memphis St. and Arizona St.

See supplement, pages 1-8B

Return of beer

The EMU Beer Garden returns today, bringing back a favorite combination of many students: free food and cheap beer.

See story, Page 16

Director hired

The University's Center for the Study of Women in Society has brought Sandra Morgen on board as its new director.

See 'Higher Education Update,' Page 6

Soviet aid declines, Cubans' market uncertain

By Dan Eisler
Emerald Contributor

The depths of Cuba's economic crisis threatens its existence as a socialist experiment in the developing world, a speaker told a University crowd Thursday morning.

As a result, the crisis imperils the improved living conditions for Cuban citizens that experiment has provided, said Medea Benjamin, executive director of Global Exchange, an organization that arranges grass-roots citizen exchanges with developing countries.

"The average person in Cuba lives better than the rest of Latin America, (but) that's slowly beginning to fade away," Benjamin said in a lecture sponsored by the sociology department. "They're hanging on by a thread."

Following the collapse of Communist governments in Eastern Europe and the decline of the Soviet Union's



Medea Benjamin, executive director of Global Exchange, discussed the recent economic dilemmas facing Cuba since the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the weakening of the Soviet Union's central government.

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