

Honduran speaker rips U.S.

By Brad Brant
Emerald Contributor

Hondurans are suffering poverty at the hands of a greedy government that is influenced by countries like the United States, said a peasant Honduran woman who spoke on campus Tuesday evening.

"You, as citizens, have the right and obligation to go to your government and make them change these ridiculous policies they have," Elvia Alvarado said through an interpreter.

She was invited to speak on campus by the Latin America Support Committee and the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

Military intervention has been one aspect of U.S. involvement that has hurt the

Honduran peasants. Land used to build a training base and airport for U.S. troops was taken from the peasants, Alvarado said. Also, she said American business interests have made deals with the Honduran government to secure the best land.

Medea Benjamin, an American involved in several Central American countries, met Alvarado while studying the reaction of Hondurans to an increase in U.S. military aid during the 1980s. Their meeting produced a book, *Don't Be Afraid, Gringo*, which consists of Alvarado's tales of Honduran peasants.

Alvarado, who only completed first and second grades and admits to not even being able to read the cover of her book, began organizing peasants

years ago to fight for reforms.

"We have our riches, but they have stolen our riches," Alvarado said. "They get exported to other countries."

In time the peasants were able to demand and get land from their government.

Now, however, the land they have gained is in danger of being given back to the rich land owners. It's the policies of foreign countries like the United States and even the United Nations that are responsible for this turnaround, Alvarado said.

Alvarado, who has been kept in solitary confinement without food or water for days, says the fight isn't over.

"I will never abandon the struggle," she said.

New student group to help late bloomers

By Karen Engels
Emerald Reporter

Students returning to school or beginning for the first time at 25 or older often start at zero.

After being in the work force or at home for years, "You have to stop walking and start crawling," said Mary Ann Fabry, co-organizer of the Returning Students Association.

The new group, led by Fabry and Bruce Lawrence, plans to address student needs such as housing, financial aid, child care and classes. The group will meet at 9 a.m. Thursday, March 5, in EMU Cedar Room C. All returning students at least 25 years old and single parents are invited, regardless of gender or financial status.

Fabry, a sociology student who will graduate in June, said she took a "20-year sabbatical"

from school, then found sociology, her niche in life. She is now applying for graduate school but would like to see the Returning Students Association get off the ground before she leaves.

Organizers hope to identify issues returning students face and set guidelines to alleviate these problems. They then want to be identified by the ASUO as an official student group.

"We want to be active in making decisions on campus and represent our part of the student body," Fabry said.

One problem returning students face is that their "life experience" doesn't count for credits, Fabry said. For example, a returning student with 30 years of working journalism experience who wants a degree is still required to take journalism core courses, Fabry said.

HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATE

AAA has letter writing campaign

A group of students from the University's School of Architecture and Allied Arts has taken seriously President Myles Brand's advice to write to the governor and state legislators.

Throughout this week, the AAA Student Advisory Committee will have a table set up on the second floor of Lawrence Hall where group members will assist students in preparing letters of request for replacement revenue for higher education.

As of Wednesday, more than 300 letters had been prepared.

College Bowl team wins regionals

Five University students will head for the national College Bowl finals in Washington, D.C., in late April following their triumph at the regional competition in Idaho last weekend.

Arne Baker, Barton Massey, Megan Lewis, Justin Jacobsen and Michael Smith make up the team that will compete against 16 other schools for the national title at George Washington University.

This is the third year in a row that the University team has gone on to the national competition. In 1990, the team finished last and in 1991, they finished second to last.

The five members who go on to regionals each year are chosen from teams that compete first at the University. The five participants who answer the most questions correctly, regardless of what team they are on, make up an all-star team that goes to regionals.

Sue Pedersen, director of the EMU Recreation Center, which sponsors the University's College Bowl competition, said the team's expenses have in the past been paid by the President's office, the Office of Student Affairs and Rec Center fundraising efforts.

Massey, Baker and Lewis were also members of the team that went to nationals last year.

Class sponsors food drive

Six University students in leisure programming, a leisure studies class, are coordinating a food drive this weekend, as part of a final project. The effort will benefit Food For Lane County.

The benefit, in cooperation with the University Club Sports Hockey team and Lane County Ice, will take place at the hockey team's Saturday match at 6 p.m. Admission to the game can be obtained by donating one can of food.

A puck shoot competition after the second period will take place, and prizes donated by community businesses will be given to the winner. Five names will be drawn to determine participants in the competition. Other prizes will also be given out by drawing names.

Rule hearing scheduled

There will be a public hearing for students and faculty to comment on proposed changes to University rules governing special fees, fines, penalties and service charges today at 3 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. The proposed changes would involve the University's fee schedule covering more than 1,000 fees charged by various University departments.




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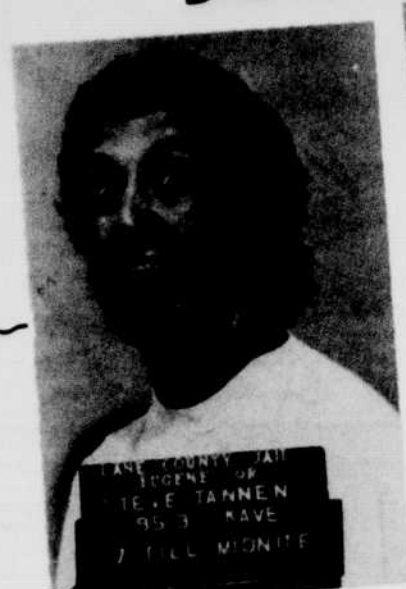
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