

Student to speak on Nicaragua

By John Higgins
Emerald Contributor



Americans should follow the example of Ben Linder and show more solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and other countries, said a visiting Nicaraguan student who will speak today.

Jose De La Cruz Castro Ubeda will address the third annual Ben Linder Forum tonight at 5 in the EMU Fir Room. The speech is scheduled in conjunction with International Week's Americas Day.

The forum honors the memory of Linder, an electrical engineer from Portland who was killed in a Contra ambush near the hydroelectric dam he was helping to build in Nicaragua.

The U.S.-backed Contras fought against the Sandinista government of Nicaragua throughout most of the 1980s. In 1990, the Sandinistas lost the national elections, and the war officially ended.

"Ben Linder is an example of someone who saw the necessity to be helpful in the development process and to give more of himself in a very unselfish way," Ubeda said through a translator.

Ubeda has been involved in Nicaraguan politics since he was a 14-year-old combatant in the Sandinista revolution. Though he is not an active member of the Sandinista party today, he is a representative of the National Union of Nicaraguan Students of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua.

After the Sandinista victory in 1979, Ubeda joined the national literacy campaign, along with students, doctors, housewives and others to teach peasants in the countryside to read and write.

Campaign planners sought to raise the literacy rate dramatically in four or five months. By focusing on alternative teaching methods like phonetics, volunteers were able to lower the illiteracy rate from 75 percent to 11 percent.

"It awakened something very deep in people," Ubeda said.


"It was very empowering that people could make change. People who had no clue about the country came together with people who had no clue about the cities to share lifestyles, experiences and family traditions."

Participants had to travel to many remote places in the country. They had to make special arrangements with their employers and families so they could work with the campaign. Ubeda said the campaign helped him mature politically and clarify the goals of the revolution.

Today in Nicaragua, the government of President Violeta Chamorro has not continued the commitment to literacy, Ubeda said.

"There's really no true vision of carrying out literacy, or even recognizing the campaign. They tried to take out anything that smelled of Sandinismo," Ubeda said.

Ubeda said he believes part of the effort to erase the gains of the literacy campaign is the result of economic and political pressure from the United States.



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HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATE

SASS to sponsor film

Sexual Assault Support Services is sponsoring a showing of *Dreamworlds: Desire, Sex and Power in Rock Video* tonight at 7 at the University Inn.

The film examines the presentation of women in rock videos and addresses the issues of gender, sexuality and power as they are portrayed on MTV. A discussion will follow.

The presentation is part of SASS's ongoing film series related to current issues for women. For more information call SASS at 484-9791.

Dinner with Ducks

"Dinner with a Dozen Ducks," an event sponsored by the University Alumni Association, Student University Relations Council and the Lane County Alumni Chapter will take place Sunday, May 3, at homes throughout the Eugene area.

Each guest list will include an alumnus, a faculty member, an administrator and about six students for an evening of relaxed conversation. The casual format offers an environment not readily available in the normal campus setting.

In its third year, "Dinner with a Dozen Ducks" provides an opportunity to bring together those who not only have an interest in the University,

but the community as a whole.

For more information on getting involved, either as a host or participant, call Kim Heiney at the Alumni Association office, 346-5656.

Bartlett to be evaluated

Since 1982, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education has had a policy to evaluate the chief executive officer in terms of academic leadership and management of the system. During May, the board will evaluate Chancellor Thomas Bartlett's performance, based on his first three years in office.

The board has a similar policy for evaluating each institution president every three years.

As part of the evaluation process, Bartlett will prepare a stewardship statement covering his academic and administrative leadership and management, and his state-level relationships with various constituencies.

Jack Peltason, chancellor of the University of California, Irvine, will serve as a consultant to the evaluation process. Written comments regarding Bartlett's performance should be sent to: Dr. Jack Peltason, P.O. Box 9069, Portland, OR 97207. Letters should be marked "Confidential, Chancellor's Evaluation."

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