

El Salvadoran strives to improve her homeland

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Associate Editor

Claudia Evelyn Gonzalez Beltrenea is only 21 years old, but in her lifetime, she's received death threats and seen family members tortured.

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador is sponsoring Gonzalez' tour of the United States, which included a stop at the University Thursday and Friday.

Gonzalez lives in El Salvador, where she attends the University of El Salvador, the country's only public college. In an interview Friday, Gonzalez described life in her country.

"I've had phone calls where someone says, 'You have 24 hours to get out of the country, or you'll be tortured tonight,'" she said, speaking through an interpreter. "Then I've received papers recognizing I didn't leave, dripping with blood."

The El Salvadoran government pressures Gonzalez because of her political involvement, she said. Gonzalez, a medical student, is a member of AGEUS, the University of El Salvador's student government; PROMUS, a feminist group dealing with issues of sexism and other women's concerns; and PE, a student political group.

Despite the threats she's received, Gonzalez said she never questioned her fight for human rights in her country.

"I've never opted to leave the country," she said. "Why am I going to leave? I'm going to stay and help my people, and if I die, I know I'll die in peace knowing I helped my people."

Better health care is one human right Gonzalez is fighting to achieve in her country. In El Salvador, it is common for patients at hospitals and medical clinics to have to share beds.

Medical care is very expensive in her country, Gonzalez said. A blood test can cost the equivalent of \$10 in the United States. The minimum El Salvadoran income would equal about eight dollars a month in the United States, she said.

Gonzalez and other members of



Claudia Evelyn Gonzalez Beltrenea

PROMUS and PE are working to make health insurance affordable and available to everyone in her country. She said one goal of her U.S. tour is to pressure the United States to give El Salvador money to go toward the purchase of medical equipment and supplies.

PROMUS members are working to confront issues like sexism, sexual harassment and abuse. Things are slowly changing in the country, such as men beginning to value women's opinions, Gonzalez said.

PROMUS was formed in November 1991 because of the many cases of sexual harassment on Gonzalez' campus.

"Many women were sexually harassed by professors," she said. "There are situations of women having to fail a class if they didn't sleep with their professors. We decided to organize to fight."

Gonzalez said she respects Americans for fighting social problems here, but the U.S. government is horrible.

"The Salvadoran government has always been manipulated by the U.S. government," she said.

ASUO sponsors education symposium for new voters

The ASUO is sponsoring a week of activities aimed at helping students who are registered to vote make educated decisions on the issues.

The ASUO's "Elections '92" symposium will target the 7,000 students who registered to vote during the ASUO voter registration drive, said Chris Bauman, ASUO events coordinator.

"With 7,000 new voters walking around, maybe they don't know the issues well enough," Bauman said. "We feel it's our responsibility to inform them"

On Monday, Jack Maddex, a University history professor, and Jane Conlon, a University women's studies graduate teaching fellow, will discuss the historical impact of elections. The discussion will be in the EMU Gumwood Room from 7 to 9 p.m.

Al Mobley, who ran an independent campaign for governor in 1990 that was backed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, will debate Ballot Measure 9 on Tuesday with Eugene lawyer and University adjunct pro-

fessor Gretchen Miller, who is opposed to the measure.

Measure 9 would make homosexuality "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." Mobley and Miller's debate will be in the EMU Gumwood Room from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Wednesday, an open forum will take place on ballot measures 5, 6, 7 and 9. The forum will be in the EMU Fir Room from 7 to 9 p.m.

Measures 5 and 6 would close the Trojan nuclear power plant operation until health and waste storage conditions are met. Measure 7 is the split-roll tax initiative that would give owners of residential property some tax relief.

Eugene and Oregon political candidates will gather on Thursday to talk with students from 3 to 5 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room.

On Friday, representatives for local candidates and issues will be on hand to answer students' questions at an election fair. Students will also be able to participate in a straw ballot. The fair will be in the EMU Breeze-way from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Incidental Fee Committee will have a meeting today at 10:30 a.m. in EMU Century Room E. For more information, call 346-3749.

Concerned Students for the University will have a meeting today at 3 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room C. For more information, call 343-5979.

Dean of Students and Counseling Center will have a lesbian and bisexual drop-in group today on the topic of "Coming Out" from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid. For more information, call 346-1142.

RELIGION

The Nights of the Roundtables will have a discussion on "Jesus vs. Religion" today at 7 p.m. in EMU Century Room D. For more information, call 343-4914.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Planning and Placement Service will start bidding today in Room 244 Hendricks for the following companies: K mart Corp., Cintas Corporation, Sherwin Williams, Kraft General Foods, State Farm Insurance Companies and Andersen Consulting. Go to Room 244

Hendricks for more information.

Career Planning and Placement Service will have an office orientation about services and interviewing processes today from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 237 Hendricks. There will also be a resume writing workshop today from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. Go to Room 244 Hendricks for more information.

University of San Diego will have a group presentation today from 1 to 3 p.m. in the EMU Maple Room. Go to Room 244 Hendricks for more information.

Great West Life/Employee Benefits will have a group presentation today from 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 155 Straub. Go to Room 244 Hendricks for more information.

Sears Roebuck & Company will have a group presentation today from 6 to 7 p.m. in Room 159 Straub. Go to Room 244 Hendricks for more information.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style. Et Als run on a space-available basis.



Terry Tempest Williams

Author of *Refuge*, thinker and important environmental voice, Terry Tempest Williams will be the guest artist in the 3rd Annual Lane Arts Council Benefit Voices of Place writers series.

Thursday, October 29th
7:30 pm, Hult Center
Soreng Theatre

- Introduction by Barry Lopez
- Author Reading & Conversation
- Book Signing
- Exhibit of author's journals
- A signed, handset keepsake for purchase



Sponsored by the UO Bookstore & Lane Arts Council
Tickets \$10 -Hult Center 687-5000

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st

95.3 THE KAVE WELCOME MUSIC NEWS
COL. BRUCE HAMPTON & THE AQUARIUM RESCUE UNIT



LITTLE WOMEN



THE RENEGADE SAINTS



PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

HALLOWEEN WOW HALL

AN EMU CULTURAL FORUM PRODUCTION
TICKETS: \$10 UO \$12 OF AT EMU MAIN DESK, CD WORLD, FACE THE MUSIC, HAPPY TRAILS (EUGENE & CORVALLIS) HOUSE OF RECORDS, RECORD GARDEN