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UNIVERSITY

HEP students open doors to dreams

By Jackie Larson
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Thirty-five unlikely success stories took place Friday as migrant workers stepped into what had once been a distant world of impossible dreams.

The determined group of youths received diplomas and second chances, commemorating the 25th successful year of the federally funded High School Equivalency Program.

HEP is a selective and demanding 10-week course that teaches students how to function in this society, said Director Emilio Hernandez.

The students come mostly from families who migrate up and down the West Coast states doing seasonal-harvest work, such as in agriculture or forestry.

From a variety of ethnicities and ranging in age from 16 to 24 years, the students have an inadequate base education, Hernandez said. Because they had to change schools constantly, most dropped out early.

HEP encourages the students to take advantage of the opportunities their families sought originally.

The program prepares students to take the General Education Development test, which is equal to a high school diploma, but it also teaches that self-confidence and goal-setting are imperative if they want to succeed, Hernandez said.

At least 80 percent of those who enroll go on to work outside the agricultural stream. About half move up to higher education even though they had an average completed education at the sixth-grade level just a few months before.

And that is exactly what the Johnson administration intended when it began the program as part of its War On Poverty plan a quarter century ago.

In response to publicity about migrant workers' condition and concern over the increasing number of high school drop-outs, the government set up one of the only two test programs at the University.

Since then, 22 other HEP programs have successfully been established across the nation. They serve the three streams of migrant workers in the western, eastern and central United States, Hernandez said.

Hernandez attributes the success of Eugene's HEP to its strategic location in the

western stream, the strict rules students must follow and the small class sizes.

Individual attention builds students' self-esteem and validates their history — something essential because they have been told by society that they are insignificant, Hernandez said.

In this program their voices are heard. A small staff of teachers and counselors work closely with the students to help them recognize their potential and to match their interests with their goals.

The classes include general education, career and life skills, and are available in Spanish and English because 75 percent of students are Hispanic.

Many are just beginning to seriously learn English, but clearly communicating the self-help process now in their mother language is vital, said Joanne Kinane, a HEP volunteer tutor.

Kinane said the students practice speaking English and experience a cultural exchange by interacting with the tutors and with University students in the dormitories.

This helps achieve another HEP goal: to educate the campus and community about multicultural issues.

Women's magazine premieres

By Jackie Larson
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The appearance of Eugene's premier issue of an underground feminist magazine Friday signifies the growth of an era in which women can safely express their rage and pain, its publishers say.

A new, local chapter of the nationwide *Riot Grrrl* put the publication together in order to give women the voice to address their experience with sexual or domestic violence.

The chapter formed in response to a self-defense class requirement. The final project asked for students to come up with a creative way to promote women's empowerment against

emotional and physical attack.

Kris Cornwell, one of five women in a class facilitation group, thought of producing the underground magazine because she was so impressed with one she had ordered from another chapter.

"It interested me because it was by women for women," she said.

Most of the art, essays and poems in *Riot Grrrl* consist of contributions by women on the University campus.

The group notes that several men who read the first issue were intrigued and impressed.

In fact, men will benefit from reading it because all of the issues inadvertently address and affect everyone, Cornwell said.

"It is not a man-hating magazine," she said, "but it is anger, and that is positive. The poems are powerful because the women need to express to heal."

Another of the magazine's organizers, Anita Chin, calls it a tool for awareness. She said that although the first 14-page issue takes on the theme of "Surviving the Violence," the next issue will be an open subject.

The subscription list is growing, and the next issue is expected to be available at the end of August.

The per-copy subscription cost is \$1, but anyone who would like to inspect a copy may do so at the Women's Center, Baba Yaga's and Mother Kali's Bookstore.

ET ALS

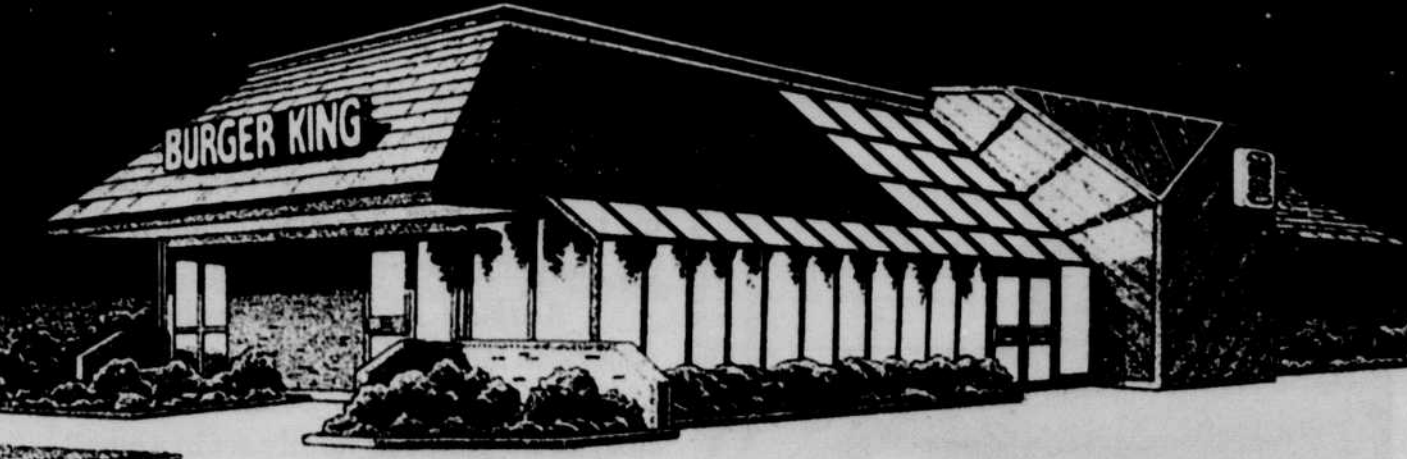
MISCELLANEOUS

Fine and Applied Arts Department will have a Photography of Printmaking Exhibit this week at the LaVerne Krause Gallery in Lawrence Hall. There will be a reception tonight in the gallery from 7 to 9. For more information, call 346-3610.

Deadline for submitting *Et Als* to the Emerald front desk, Suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. The news editor does not have a time machine. *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.

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