

# Pastors speak on gay issue

By Stephanie Sisson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Churches need to accept homosexuals into their congregations, but they must also encourage them to change their behavior, said the pastors of a San Francisco church to an audience of over 100 in Junction City Saturday night.

Dr. Charles McIlhenny and Donna McIlhenny, whose church in 1979 was the first in America to be taken to court for discrimination by the homosexual community, related their experiences in San Francisco as pastors who believe that homosexuality is a sin.

"We minister to them, and we oppose them for Christ's sake," Dr. McIlhenny said.

Dr. McIlhenny and Mrs. McIlhenny took turns at the Christ's Center church telling their spellbound audience about the death threats, endless phone calls and vandalism they have grown to expect from the homosexual community since the lawsuit, which they won in 1983.

The lawsuit was filed by a former employee and member of the First Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Three months after Dr. McIlhenny hired him to be the church organist, Dr. McIlhenny discovered the organist was a known, practicing homosexual.

"He was not tending toward homosexuality," Dr. McIlhenny said. "This was a fellow who was living the lifestyle."

When he realized the organist did not want to change his behavior, Dr. McIlhenny told him that he could still attend the church, but that he could no longer play the organ.

Nine months later, Dr. McIlhenny was served with a lawsuit from gay rights advocates.

"The Supreme Court said that we had the right to believe the Bible as our standard of belief and practice," Mrs. McIlhenny said.

Dr. McIlhenny said that previous discrimination lawsuits had been filed with other churches, but all had settled out of court.

The McIlhennys were introduced in Junction City by Lon Mabon, chairman of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, an anti gay-rights group that has gained attention all over America for its efforts to limit special rights for homosexuals. The McIlhenny's Oregon visit was sponsored by the OCA.

"The church and Christians are awakening to

**'Homosexuality is a secondary issue. The ultimate issue is secular humanism.'**

Dr. Charles McIlhenny,  
Pastor, San Francisco

their responsibility to, no matter what the price, no matter who the audience ... to stand up for what's right," said OCA Chairman Lon Mabon in his introduction. "Then we will see a better society and a better culture for it."

In 1993, the McIlhennys published, "When the Wicked Seize a City," a book about their experiences in their confrontation with the homosexual community in San Francisco. The book is available in Christian bookstores.

Dr. McIlhenny said that his confrontations with the homosexual community have strengthened his faith and his convictions.

"I wish this happened to more pastors in more churches," Dr. McIlhenny said. "The church of Jesus Christ needs a good swift kick."

Mrs. McIlhenny said that she and her husband have often wondered why, as pastors of a church of 40 members, they were the ones who had to go through this ordeal.

"Never think the smallest congregation can't do something for the kingdom of Jesus Christ," she said.

Dr. McIlhenny agreed, and added that the Christian church needs to take a stand on morality, but more than that, that she needs to take a stand on Christ.

"Homosexuality is not really the issue," Dr. McIlhenny said. "Homosexuality is a secondary issue. The ultimate issue is secular humanism."

The stop in Junction City was the last of a three-day Oregon tour to promote sales of their book and to help churches deal with the homosexuality issue.

An anti gay-rights ordinance that passed in Junction City last summer by 76 percent was recently overturned by the 1993 state Legislature, along with 14 other, similar ordinances around the state.

The McIlhenny's tour also included an engagement in Salem on Thursday and another stop in Albany on Friday.

# Speaker addresses Muslim culture, issues

By Randy Lemmerman  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Dr. Hassen A. Hassen, a guest speaker sponsored by the Muslim Student Association, ended his presentation on Muslim culture last Friday afternoon by engaging in a lively discussion with members of the audience.

After outlining the principles of Islam and showing a documentary video about the history and contributions of Muslims, Hassen, a private business consultant from Denver, invited questions from the 50 or so audience members.

One listener, describing himself as an Arab citizen, said he was embarrassed by certain Arab leaders' "consumerism" and by "the way Islam imposes certain conducts on women as in dress and behavior and polygamy practices." Another listener asked what "rationalization" exists for the different treatment of men and women in Muslim culture.

"Muslims can be any kind ... especially Muslims of this time," Hassen said on the first point. He said their behavior is a result of "their full submission to the liberalism that was imposed by the West and not their submission to the word of God."

But Hassen's explanation for

the different treatment of women was simply that Islam prescribes rules for all Muslims to follow, including a recognition that men have greater responsibility and accountability than women.

Hassen, a native of Libya, is a private business consultant from Denver who received his Ph.D. in geotechnical engineering from Colorado State University. He is also one of the founders of Dar Makkah, a national organization he described as "especially interested in reaching American students ... and presenting Islam in the best way."

MSA President Nawab Chakaar introduced Hassen, who described the event as "a chance to learn something about Islam."

Hassen said past colonialism and liberalism have had a negative impact on Islam. He also cited media distortion as one of the reasons Islam is misunderstood by the West.

"Islam did not get a fair chance in this country," he said.

But Hassen, in a brief interview before his speech, said some of the responsibility for this negative image lies with Muslims themselves. He said Muslims have a lot of shortcomings and have been occupied with problems at home.

## Credit Classes are Still Available for Winter Term



## Environmental Awareness Workshops

### Risk and Liability— February 11, 12

1 credit (LSS 408/508) Fee: \$75

This workshop is designed for guides, leaders and recreation personnel who deal directly with risk and liability issues. The workshop will cover areas such as standards, negligence, adventure recreation, protection issues, insurance choices and purposes, litigation, risk reduction, permission and release forms, accident reduction insurance, contracts and contracted services.

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This workshop is designed to assist in the understanding of the duties of outdoor administrators. Students will examine program administration and problem solving, as well as management hints and many tested methods in planning, publicity, staffing, registration, and safety. Ninety-nine potential program offerings will be discussed.

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Large and small lakes along Oregon's coast provide an interesting and informative field-lab for the study of plants, animals, history and geology. This workshop will explore preservation and use issues, recreational opportunities and resource values, as well as the historical and geological significance of these exceptional resources.

### Rivers— March 4, 5 and 6

2 credits (LSS 408/508) Fee: \$150 plus \$30 travel

This workshop will investigate the exciting riparian environments of Oregon's rivers. Field-labs on local rivers offer firsthand exposure to help students gain an understanding of the problems, relationships, concepts and opportunities for river activities. Studies of plants, animals, history and river geology will broaden students' awareness of Oregon's waterways.

To register for any of these workshops, stop by the University of Oregon Continuation Center at 333 Oregon Hall, or simply call:

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