

PROFESSOR

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universities, although it is still small in comparison to the steps we must take," she said.

In 1963, Arvelo-Jimenez became the associate director of the Venezuela Institute of Scientific Research and in 1968, began working with the Indians for her master's degree.

"In order to understand one group, one must study all groups," she said.

For more than two decades she has "researched the political systems of Indian groups and analyzed power relations between Venezuelan states and the indigenous people within the Venezuelan territory," she said.

Arvelo-Jimenez hopes to convince northern Venezuelans of the need to reconcile with their cultural roots and to honor all people regardless of their different cultures.

"If you reconcile with your past," she tells them, "you can have a consolidated identity."

All Venezuelans are closely related because they are descended from the same three cultural ancestors, Arvelo-Jimenez said. Even so, the government doesn't recognize the Indians as citizens, although they're distantly related. Because of this, they have no national identity and are not considered Venezuelan.

The territories are considered wastelands by the Venezuelan government because the Indians have their ancestral homelands there. Yet, the land has a significant economic value for the government since it is rich in natural resources such as gold, iron and trees.

If the land did not contain resources coveted by the government, Arvelo-Jimenez believes there would be less opposition to granting land titles. She is working to grant land titles to 12 ethnic groups inhabiting southern Venezuela.

Despite public persecution, Arvelo-Jimenez has continued her work.

The Venezuelan press launched an attack against her for three months. They declared her a national threat because she defended people without an identity. In their eyes, she was a traitor.

Upon the advice of a "wise old man," she understood that because no factual evidence had been presented against her, she would not be thrown in jail.

Arvelo-Jimenez realized that the press was playing a game with her. They tried to silence her, to persecute her to the point of fear. They wanted her to stop publicly defending the Amazonians.

For a while, she removed herself from the spotlight. "I would see the injustice and would not be able to shut up," she said.

'This is a world in which people don't count, only wealth matters. I want to leave it a more just and equal society. I cannot tolerate repression daily.'

— Arvelo-Jimenez
Professor of Anthropology

Then in 1984, she returned to Brazil to continue her field studies.

Today, she is speaking out in a different way. She learned that strong groups such as the National Army and religious organizations are needed to help her fight against injustice.

Through her work she has "learned to be selfless." This is the opposite of the way things are in Venezuela, she said. The society places high value on economic and social values.

"This is a world in which people don't count, only wealth matters," she said. "I want to leave it a more just and equal society. I cannot tolerate repression daily," she said.

IFC

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In January the miscalculation was discovered and the ASUO instituted a freeze on accepting any additional subsidy applicants. When the freeze was instituted, 234 families were receiving subsidies. Since then Reynolds said an additional 20 students have applied.

Last year, only 210 families received the child care subsidy, as the task force capped the number of recipients. At the end of the year, almost \$15,000 was washed into the IFC's surplus account, because it had not been spent. As a result, last year's task force eliminated the ceiling on the number of families granted

subsidies, causing an increase in families who qualified.

"(The task force's) crime was that they were trying to help more families get through school," Michelle Thompson, a single mother, said.

"We're not the ones punishing you," IFC member Caitlin Twain said. "I think you need to be directing this energy to the task force."

Although Bender does not believe that the IFC is responsible for the budget shortfall, she does believe that the subsidy is crucial for families like her own. "I know for a fact that it does make a difference in people going to school."

Reynolds said to the IFC members, "The reality is that the

only people who can help at this time is you folks."

Bender, a student herself, said the money to cover the cost of the loan will probably be taken out of next year's ASUO child care subsidy allocation. "What will happen is we will serve less families," she said.

"There's multiple ways to pay back the loan," IFC Chairman Jian Liu said. Liu said that administrative costs could be cut or fundraising pursued.

Twain said the task force has had to manage its money in the past; she suggested reinstituting the cap for the number of families who qualify.

"If I don't get the subsidy that I get now," Thompson said, "I can't make it through school."

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Circle K will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Century Room A.

Public Relations Student Society of America will meet tonight at 7 in Room 301A Allen. For more information, call 683-1927.

American Association of University Women will meet tonight at 7:15 at the Eugene YMCA building, 2055 Patterson St. Speaker Nancy Brown will address diversity. For more information, call 342-7791.

MISCELLANEOUS

Asian/Pacific American Student Union will sponsor a video showing of Blue Color Buddhas as part of its heritage month activities tonight from 8 to 10 in the EMU Ben Linder Room. For more information, call 346-4342.

Academic Advising and Student Services will offer a workshop on applying to medical school, featuring Vicki Fields,

a representative from OHSU Medical School, who will discuss recent admissions patterns today at 5 p.m. in Room 100 Willamette. For more information, call 346-3211.

Outdoor Program will present a slide show and video on whitewater kayaking in New Zealand tonight at 7:30 in Room 110 Willamette. For more information, call 346-4365.

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

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.

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