

Author dedicated to telling story of Vietnamese

Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

In 1986, after author Le Ly Hayslip returned from her first trip back to Vietnam, she wrote a five-year contract on her computer with God promising that if she could tell her country's story, she would give back to her people.

"In five years, he gave me more than I ever asked for."

Hayslip spoke both publicly and in several classes on campus Thursday, giving her thoughts on Vietnam, her writing and Oliver Stone's 1993 movie adaptation books.

So far, Hayslip has written *A Child of War*, *A Child of Peace* and her first and most famous book, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places*.

"I am not a writer," Hayslip said. "What I would like to do is tell (my) story."

Born in Vietnam, Hayslip writes in *Heaven and Earth* of how she survived the French attempt to reclaim Vietnam as a colony and the United States' attempt to stop the country's civil war.

She left Vietnam for the United States in 1970 by marrying Ed Hayslip, a contractor working for

Audience packs Gerlinger Lounge to hear author speak

Marcelene Edwards
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was standing room only in the Gerlinger Lounge on Thursday as author Le Ly Hayslip shared her life story about her escape from Vietnam to the United States.

About 200 people crowded into the room to hear the author of *When Heaven and Earth Change Places* and *Child of War, Woman of Peace* speak about the situation in Vietnam during the 1950s and 1960s.

One thing she wants people to remember is that Vietnam has a rich history with warm, friendly citizens.

"In general, when you talk about Vietnam people think about the war zone," she said.

But there is more to Vietnam than war. For her it is a country with 4,000 years of history with beautiful trees and rivers. She will always remember her country as the beautiful place of her youth.

Many people left the lecture feeling the impact of Hayslip's words. She presented a side of the war that most Americans had never heard because they usually are exposed only to accounts from American soldiers and war veterans.



HAYSLIP

"I feel very lucky that she decided to talk because we don't get the view of the Vietnamese," said Lynne Tutterrow, a University student.

Cindy Nguyen and Robert Diep Hoang helped organize the lecture. They called Hayslip and asked her to come to the University. They are the real people to thank for her appearance, Hayslip said.

"I thought that she was a wonderful per-

son who did not take sides," Nguyen said. "It's about time that we have somebody here to talk about the Vietnam War," Nguyen said.

Hayslip discussed the Vietnamese culture and explained that most Americans cannot understand how the family and political system is set up in Vietnam.

Cathy Cheleen-Mosqueda came to the lecture because her oldest adopted daughter was from Vietnam. Hayslip's book *When Heaven and Earth Change Places* changed their lives, and they wanted to see the author in person. She discovered that finding information from the viewpoint of the Vietnamese people is very difficult.

"We had looked and looked for information of what my daughter's birth mother must have gone through," Cheleen-Mosqueda said. "To see the woman who probably had the same experiences as my daughter's birth mother was really meaningful."

the army, and found herself alone in the United States after her husband died of emphysema in 1973.

But, Hayslip says, "The book is not my story, but the voice of the nameless people in Vietnam.

It became a very significant testimony to all of us."

A testimony many movie critics say was twisted by Stone's *Heaven and Earth*.

Besides shifting more of the story to a male focus, Stone changed Hayslip's husband from kind "Ed" to lunatic veteran "Steve" who attempted to kill Hayslip with an M-16 after they came back to America.

That this wasn't true didn't bother Hayslip, again because the story was that of all Vietnamese and not just her, she said.

She also thanks Stone for being one of the few in Hollywood to believe that a movie on Vietnam and from a female perspective was needed.

"Everything is a plan based up

there in heaven," Hayslip said. "In 1986, I went back to Vietnam and felt their pain and suffering that was caused by the Vietnam War. I had made a commitment to myself and to find out what I can do."

Besides movies, Hayslip started East Meets West Foundation in San Francisco about five years ago to directly help the Vietnamese.

The organization provides medical care and education to a small population in Vietnam.

Vietnam's stocks of medicine are low, and the country has few resources for education. The country is still getting over the effects of the war, with thousands of unexploded land mines making much of the countryside

uninhabitable, according to the film *Vietnam: After the Fire*, which is in the IMC.

"The need is endless, but the funding is the problem now," she said. "At least it's easier now that the embargo was lifted."

The embargo was not the only obstacle in Hayslip's way when she first began her work. At first government officials believed she was working for the U.S. government. But relations between Hayslip and the Vietnamese government have greatly improved since she started working on her humanitarian mission.

Anyone interested in Hayslip's work can contact her at the foundation at PO Box 77247, San Francisco, CA 94110.

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RIVALRY

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the "R" word, trying not to jinx their team by celebrating too early, OSU students have adopted duck bashing as a campus-wide hobby.

All week, OSU students have participated in Civil War activities such as the Duck Toss, Duck Hunts and the Bite-a-Duck contest. In the Memorial Union, a Duck graveyard is set up with tombstones reserved for quarterback Danny O'Neil, tailbacks Dino Philyaw and Ricky Whittle and fullback Dwayne Jones.

A plastic duck hangs from the goal post at Parker Stadium, near where students stand watch over the bronzed beaver statue that OSU players rub for luck before every game. Since Monday, OSU students have kept a 24-hour watch over the beaver — just in case some crazed Duck fan tries to steal it.

Lisa Swanson, an OSU student who spent Thursday watching the statue, said the Beaver Watch is a gesture of support for the team. School spirit is high this year, partly because of the Ducks' success.

"The fact that UO has done so well has aided

us in our school support," Swanson said. "We've gotten more publicity because of their success," she said.

Meanwhile, in Eugene, Duck fans seem more worried about staying on top of the Rose Bowl race than the traditional Civil War rivalry. Maybe that's why Eugene windows are flooded with "Gang Green" signs and "Go Ducks" banners instead of signs slamming the Beavers.

"We're concentrating on the Rose Bowl and not bashing the Beavers," said University junior Summer Buckland, who already has a plane ticket on reserve for the Rose Bowl.

All fans agree this is the biggest game of the season, perhaps of the century for Duck fans. A win against the Beavers won't be easy.

"I think it's going to be really tough game. I think it's going to be the biggest Civil War in 37 years," Buckland said.

However, Kyuhee Choi, a University junior, said there's no reason to worry about a Beaver upset.

"Our team is on a streak. Its momentum is so high you can't stop it," Choi said. "I'm so sure about this I'm going to bet money on it."

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