

# Conference explores social, environmental issues

Lori Bettineski  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Explorations into social and environmental issues facing the world today drew more than 120 people to the University last weekend for the third annual Public Interest Science Conference.

Scientists, activists, lawyers and graduate students from across the nation gathered in the Willamette Atrium to participate in 12 different panel discussions, two keynote addresses and a special banquet that was held Saturday evening.

"The conference went tremendously well with attendance slightly greater than expected," said David Butcher, a biology graduate who helped coordinate the conference. "It was broadly attended with professionals and graduate students coming from Washington, Montana, Colorado and even farther to participate in the conference."

Local residents provided housing and transportation for some of the speakers, while local businesses such as Albertson's, Sundance Natural Foods, Euphoria Chocolate Company and Food Value provided food, drinks and other supplies.

Peter Steinhart, a widely published writer on natural history and environmental affairs who served as the second keynote presenter after Cole Crocker-Bedford, said he thinks the conference was a useful forum for discussion with others.

"I think it's a useful thing to have because we seem to be in a constant quandary about how deeply to enter issues that are almost entirely scientific, and the conference provided some specific examples on how to deal with this problem," he said.

In his keynote address, "The Company of Wolves," Steinhart discussed the roles of science and symbolism in current controversies over the reintroduction and hunting of wolves in wilderness areas, as well as how different media shape discussions of such controversies.

## Biologist breaks silence on goshawk issue

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A wildlife biologist who was ordered by the U.S. Forest Service to remain silent for the last four years broke that silence last weekend during the University's third annual Public Interest Science Conference.

During his keynote address Saturday night, Cole Crocker-Bedford explained how he managed to "maintain scientific integrity" after he was subjected to legal and administrative pressures aimed at discrediting 16 years of research he had conducted.

The pressure first began in 1990 when Crocker-Bedford published a scientific paper on the effects of timber harvesting on northern goshawks in Alaska's Tongass National Forest. The paper intensified concern for the goshawk's survival because of the intense timber harvesting by the Forest Service at the time.

Because Crocker-Bedford's paper called for changes in the rates and patterns of tree cutting, the Forest Service decided to challenge his study and findings. He was ordered by the Forest Service, with threat of reprisal, to remain silent and was

prohibited from participating in meetings on goshawk research or management.

"It was a long uphill battle, but I avoided being fired or ostracized permanently," Crocker-Bedford said. "I may not be very promotable now, but had it not been for Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Jim Lyons and U.S. Forest Chief Jack Ward Thomas, I might not be in the agency today."

After Thomas took over as head of the Forest Service under the Clinton Administration, a special investigation was conducted on the pressures against Crocker-Bedford. The investigation concluded that unethical and unprofessional actions were taken against him and his research, "because Cole-Crocker-Bedford's 1990 publication called for changes in the rates and patterns of tree cutting."

Until Saturday night, Crocker-Bedford had granted only one interview since the ordeal ended in early 1994, although he received numerous requests from the press.

"For myself personally, I'd rather just have stayed silent on the issue about which I spoke of Saturday night," he said. "I spoke up though because people seem to be forget-

ting how much the previous presidential administration was inducing the twisting of information — even the changing of information — though newspapers were full of stories three years ago.

"People don't realize the integrity and professionalism that the current administration has been returning to the civil service," Crocker-Bedford said. "Although I did speak about the Forest Service, my impression is that they've generated higher ethical standards than many other agencies. They've gathered an unwarranted proportion of the spotlight because timber harvesting is so apparent to the public and is so controversial."

Despite four years of effort by the Forest Service to discredit 16 years worth of his research, Crocker-Bedford has remained working for the agency and is now a program manager for the southern third of the Tongass National Forest.

"If we want to see change, we have to be one of those who'll stand up to change," he said. "It is critical to maintain an objective attitude, especially when you are being attacked for having said something not in line with management attitudes."

## Jesus Week to feature lectures on diverse topics

Patrick Minford  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For some students, the University experience is more than a chance to broaden intellectual horizons or expand social opportunities; it's a chance to develop their spirituality.

The University community will have an opportunity to learn more about Christianity during Jesus Week, which runs today through Friday.

Three lectures will discuss topics ranging from homosexuality to being a Christian at the University. Tonight Messianic Rabbi Galen Weinberg will talk about the relationship between Judaism and Christianity.

Thursday night will feature a lecture titled "Homosexuality: Is change possible?" by

Terry Gray, the Eugene director of Exodus International, an international Christian ministry to the homosexual community.

"All the activities are open to anybody and everybody," said Matt Tallman, Jesus Week organizer and director of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship. "You don't have to be a Christian," he said.

The purpose of Jesus Week is to bring together Christian students from different denominations to present their religious teachings to the University community "to get to know the Christian religion," Tallman said.

Eight campus Christian groups are sponsoring the week-long event. Each of the nightly events will be in Room 150 Columbia from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

## University professor releases book

Sarah Kishler  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

History professor Quintard Taylor, who has taught at the University for the past five years, has released a new book on African-American history titled: *The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era*.

In his latest book, Taylor concentrates on African-American history in the western United States — his personal specialty since one of his history students asked why black history courses only focused on blacks in the East and the South. Taylor said student input such as this is a vital part of his teaching technique.

"Good instructors learn from their students," he said.

Taylor was born in the small, segregated community of Brownsville, Tenn., and lived there throughout his childhood.

"I lived a pretty sheltered life until the time I went to college,"

he said.

Taylor studied at St. Augustine College in North Carolina, which was a predominantly black college sponsored by the Episcopal Church. He went to graduate school at the University of Minnesota, receiving his master's degree in 1971. The same year, he got his first teaching position at Washington State University.

During his last year at Washington State, he served as assistant director for a PBS five-part television series called *South by Northwest*, which chronicled the African-American experience in the Pacific Northwest. Later, he returned to the University of Minnesota and earned a Ph.D. in the history of African people. He then taught at California Polytech for 13 years, except one year in which he held a teaching post in Nigeria.

Taylor began his teaching career at the University in 1990. In the classes he now teaches, he stresses that discrimination against blacks in America is not

forgotten history and continues to have an impact on our society. Taylor points out that he has had to deal with segregation laws in his own lifetime.

Taylor said he commends the University history department for being a forerunner in the staffing of professors specializing in non-European-American history. In the 1970s, University Professor Kenneth W. Porter was one of the first scholars in the nation to concentrate on the African-American experience in the West. Since then, five scholars in Asian history have been added to the faculty.

Taylor also emphasizes that the history faculty is considerably more accessible to the students than on most campuses of this size, with the professors teaching even 200-level classes.

"I love history," he said. "I'll probably continue to research history after I officially retire from the University. I'm quite pleased that I get paid to do something that I thoroughly enjoy."

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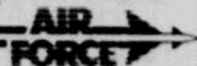
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