

WENDY FULLER/Emerald

Chuluunbaatar Sosormaa from Mongolia speaks with Sho Shigeoka of the ASUO Women's Center.

Visiting director looks to expand Mongolian domestic violence shelter

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Editor

Though problems such as domestic violence and sexual assault cannot be resolved in a ten-day period, the director of a domestic violence center in Mongolia is currently in Eugene to gain ideas to implement as programs in Mongolia.

Chuluunbaatar Sosormaa — who goes by Ch. Sosormaa — has maintained a packed schedule, participating in Sexual Assault Services' Volunteer training and working with Womenspace in order to learn how to add on to the existing program she helped implement a year and a half ago in her home country.

Currently, the Mongolian Centre Against Violence serves as a shelter house, a counseling facility and a resource for public education, Sosormaa said. Now that she has been shown foreign concepts such as "hotlines" and "support groups," she is composing a plan of action to introduce these successes in Mongolia.

"Everything is possible right now," Sosormaa said. "I am seeing interesting methods and interesting ideas for these serious topics. I have many plans."

Among these plans is a hotline to assist in the calls the centre receives. Last year alone, 1,000 people phoned requesting more information, and Sosormaa said she hopes to offer more over-the-phone support.

A counseling program also ranks as a priority for enhancing existing programs. Sosormaa em-

phasized the need for counseling for the children of battered women — a total of 70 children last year stayed the two-week period at the center.

"More children seem to be victims of all kinds of assault," Sosormaa said.

Sosormaa has been spending time each day in volunteer training at SASS and two days familiarizing herself with the daily workings of a local domestic violence shelter, Womenspace. Her trip was funded by the Global Fund for Women.

The success of the visit and international exchange in general is beneficial for all parties involved, said SASS Director Phyllis Barkhurst.

"We decided not to make emerging programs reinvent the wheel," Barkhurst said. "We are working to provide as much resource material and technical assistance as possible."

Nadia Telsey, who teaches a Women's Studies Self Defense class at the University, also gave Sosormaa a first-hand look at education relating to women. In addition, Sosormaa visited Sacred Heart Hospital to see how victims of battering and assault are given treatment by the medical field in this country. A look at the Womenspace transition house and the shelter house has also been part of the ten-day visit.

"This is all pretty new to me," Sosormaa said. "Things such as helping self-esteem and teaching methods for medical staff is very interesting to me, and I hope to test these ideas in Mongolia."

Sosormaa met with ASUO Women's Center Director Sho Shigeoka on Thursday to see the array of programs the center offers. Sosormaa said she was especially impressed by the discussion groups and the counseling aspect of helping battered women.

"I think it's great that someone came here to see what works," Shigeoka said. "Although some of the things we're doing here are not culturally appropriate in Mongolia, her job is to accommodate."

One focus for expanding education in Mongolia is public outreach, Sosormaa said. She named police, schools and medical staff as key outlets for distributing more information about domestic violence and sexual assault — something that is rarely discussed in public in Mongolia, Barkhurst said.

Barkhurst, Telsey, the Director of Womenspace, and the former Director of the Klamath (Falls) Crisis Center will be going to Mongolia in March to train crisis line volunteers and work and talk with legislators, among other things.

"As foreigners, we hope to hold these public forums and show them that it's okay to discuss these important issues in the open," Barkhurst said. "We want to break the silence."

SASS and Womenspace are holding a fundraising dinner on Saturday at the Unitarian Universalist Church from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to help fund the trip to Mongolia. Student tickets are \$10 each and will be available at the door with current ID. For more information, contact SASS at 484-9791.

Lectures on workplace part of ongoing series

■ **ETHNICITY:** The talk will explore the more diverse nature of America's workers

By Ajay Singh
Freelance Reporter

"Race, Ethnicity and the Workplace" is the theme and title of two free lectures being held in Knight Library today and Saturday.

The lectures are part of a seven-month-long series entitled "The Nation That Works" and are sponsored by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The series will explore the effects of increasing gender, ethnic and racial diversity in the workplace and how these reflect and contribute to the shaping of American values.

The series is intended to give people of different genders, races and professions an opportunity to discuss different aspects of the workplace such as how it affects them — as well as their thoughts on society.

"The goal of the scholar's presentation is to ask provocative

questions and to help make associations that you would not have made before. These discussions will give people an opportunity to talk about work issues with people that are going through the same thing and an opportunity to talk to people you would never would have talked to before," said Jon Cawthorne, coordinator of Outreach Services for the Knight Library.

He also said the last lecture, on new technology in the workplace, went well. The 25 participants were able to break up into small groups and discuss the questions posed by the lecturer.

Cawthorne said the goal for the series of lectures is to attract a large cross section of the community.

The Knight Library is one of 20 libraries in the nation that has been selected to participate. It was the only academic library and the only library in the Northwest selected for the lecture circuit.

The lectures on "Race, Ethnicity and the Workplace" will be held today at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in the Knight Library browsing room.

Free event runs all day Saturday

Student and community members can boogie with the Klezmonauts after a day of classes with Jewish scholars this Saturday at the International Free University. The day-long event, "Divine Struggles: Tension in the Jewish Community," is sponsored by the University Hillel, Jewish Student Union and other Jewish groups in the community. It will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel and the Center for Jewish Learning. The event is free, but donations are accepted.

SETA to march in protest of fast food

Student protesters will march for animal rights today. The "March to Break the Chain" will begin in the EMU courtyard at 10:45 a.m. and will travel to Burger King at 11:00 a.m., McDonald's at 11:45 a.m. and Carl's Jr. at 12:30 p.m. Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (SETA) is asking students to join the march.

The group is protesting the fast-food restaurants because they want customers to remember where the meat comes from. "It's just so blind to them cause they've been trained

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all their life that it's O.K. and not an animal," Chelsea Lincoln, SETA director.

Relocation Act to be protested in rally

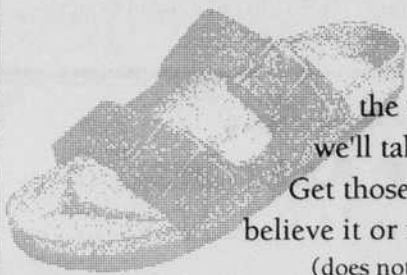
The Survival Center is promoting a national rally in solidarity with the Dinah (Navajo) Elders of Big Mountain. The rally, which will be held at 8th and Oak in the free speech area, will begin at noon on Monday.

Participants are being asked to join in a prayer and drum circle to support the 10,000 Hopi and Dinah tribal members who will be forcibly removed from their homes and lands in March due to the Relocation Act which was passed in the 1980's.

According to Michael Turaski, co-director of the Survival Center, the Relocation Act would move the tribal members to lands that have been polluted.

Carol Logan will speak and participants may meet with Ron Wyden and Peter Defazio's representatives after the rally.

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