

Kingsolver examines issue of governmental injustice

■ **POLITICS:** The author read from her book *'Animal Dreams,'* which is dedicated to Ben Linder's memory

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Editor

Author Barbara Kingsolver spoke to a packed audience at Agate Auditorium Thursday about atrocities in Central America and political wrongdoing she has been made aware of.

As part of the ten-year commemoration of the death of Ben Linder, Kingsolver read from her book *Animal Dreams* and spoke of her frustration with a number of actions by the U.S. government.

"I despise being a taxpaying citizen of a nation that lets children starve in the street," she said. "I despise that my taxes pay for bombs — and not just any bombs, but phosphorus bombs which are devised

to burn the skin off human bodies.

"This is not just in the past; this is where we live."

She relayed a recurring story of standing on a picket line outside a federal building and having "some patriot" drive by and shout to love America or leave it.

Though Kingsolver said she is frustrated by these actions and often wants to flee the country, she emphasized that escapism "only works if you're running toward something," she said.

She then outlined possibilities for dealing with society: to be paralyzed with guilt, to lie to yourself, to believe in what she calls "America's favorite mythology" of rationalizing human injustices by saying people get what they deserve.

She called the process of rationalizing all forms of injustice as a form of evil. She illustrated this point with the example of a homeless man standing in a parking lot

with a cardboard sign, who could have ended up there after being fired from a long-term job.

Kingsolver said, "Action is the valid choice because it keeps you whole. Action is the anecdote to guilt and grief and helplessness."

Kingsolver also talked about the acts of heroism she sees in her own actions in response to societal problems. She gave an example of teaching her youngest daughter how to share and noted the importance of small actions such as this. "Seldom do I have the occasion to lay my life on the line," she said in reference to Ben Linder. "But that doesn't mean I am any less heroic."

She went on to read a passage from *Animal Dreams*, her book dedicated to the memory of Linder, where a character is grappling with becoming discouraged by the politics in Nicaragua. "You think of

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— Barbara Kingsolver
Author

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revolution as all or nothing. I think of it as one more morning in a muggy cotton field... wars and elections are both too big and too small to matter in the long run... the very least you can do in life is to figure out what to hope for."

Council split over funding culture, recreation

■ **BUDGET:** The local arts received a \$40,000 allocation

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

A \$40,000 allocation to local arts organizations was the only cultural and recreation program included in a finalized budget-cutting recommendation approved by Eugene officials Thursday night, despite the attempt by Councilwoman Betty Taylor to set aside \$1.9 million for those leisure and cultural services.

Taylor's amendment to the council committee on Ballot Measure 47's budget would have mini-

mally funded, but continued service, to aquatics, community centers and other recreation programs for one year, beginning July 1. However, in a 5-5 split vote of committee members, Mayor Jim Torrey voted in opposition, pulling the amendment off the committee's recommendation.

The conflict resulted from the belief of some committee members that permanent funding for recreation should be instituted instead of just the one-year mandate. "I'm not supportive of funding the recreation program and then having it die," said committee member Alan Zelenka. "I don't think it

gets us anywhere."

Councilwoman Taylor said she believed her amendment would give the council more time to find a strategy to permanently continue recreation programs. However, Zelenka noted that recreation programs won't cease to exist as of July 1, but will be downsizing from July until February of 1998.

Committee members have been working on a strategy to cut the city's budget by \$12 million due to the property-tax revenue decrease the city must deal with in the wake of Measure 47.

Despite the recreation decision, committee members voted in fa-

vor of funding back \$40,000 in transient-room-tax money to support community arts organizations. In addition, the committee will prioritize services to be added back to the budget if future money is found. Zelenka said he would recommend recreation services as the highest priority.

Currently specialized recreation, the Outdoor program and community arts are the only cultural and leisure services to have survived the budget cuts.

The City Council must still approve the recommendation before it is adopted by the budget committee.

Several events will close music festival

The Music Today Festival's month-long series of events are concluding soon with four more performances to close the festival.

Today, jazz musicians from the School of Music's jazz studies program will perform "The Jazz Cafe." Tony Jefferson will join the musicians as the guest drummer.

The performance will be at 8 p.m. in room 186 of the Music Building. Tickets will be available at the door and are \$4 for general admission and \$2 for students and senior citizens.

On Monday, April 28, Basso Bongo, a contemporary music ensemble, and the University's Pacific Rim Gamelan will perform at 8 p.m. On Tuesday, April 29, The Oregon String

Quartet will perform in concert as part of the Faculty Artist Series at 8 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall.

On Thursday, May 1, University graduate students in vocal studies will perform a concert entitled "Musical Postcards from the Edge." For more information on the concerts, call the School of Music at 346-5678.

Conference focuses on nuclear power

Nuclear power and the disasters that stem from its mismanagement are the topics for a conference on Saturday. The symposium, "Nuclear Nirvana/Nemesis?" is being hosted by the Wesley Center. John Baldwin, the director for Institute for Sustainable Environment will talk about the Chernobyl incident 11 years ago and

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the problems it has created. The conference, which is being held at 1236 Kincaid Street, begins at noon and will end at 5 p.m. April 26.

UCLA prof to address race attitudes

Dr. Lawrence Bobo, professor of sociology and director of the Center for Research on Race, Policy and Society at UCLA, will speak today at noon in 333 Gilbert. His presentation is entitled "Race, Immigration and the Sense of Group Position."

According to the promotional flyer, Dr. Bobo is a "nationally recognized expert on racial attitudes, race relations, public opinion and political behavior."

Earth Festival will feature bands, food

The Survival Center is sponsoring an Earth Festival on Saturday, April 26 from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The all-day event includes information, food booths and a different musical group each hour.

Holy Cow, Alexander's Great Falafel, Rusty's Handbuilt and Genesis Juice will have food booths at the festival.

Bands playing throughout the day include Bindass, Kudana, Timothy Hull, Peter Wilde, The Sugar Beets and Golden Delicious.

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For additional information, please join us for pizza and refreshments at an information session Monday, May 12, from 6-7:30 pm, in EMU Cedar C. To schedule an interview on May 13, please sign up in the Career Center. Resumes are due by April 29th.

Check out our web site at
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