

Conference: Goal is to find solutions

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plained. "Students can be part of the movement, not just observers."

The environmental justice movement itself has grown. Its ability to incorporate social issues, racism, economic injustice, environmentalism and political issues makes it different from mainstream environmentalism, Collin said.

"[Environmental justice advocates] don't want to kill the goose with the golden egg," Collin said. "They're not as hostile to businesses, but just want [the problems] to end."

Many of the environmental justice supporters call for businesses to time their emissions or give their waste products to other businesses that can reuse them, he explained. Many environmental justice organizations have no plan or strategy; they just want to help people cope, he added.

"People are becoming more aware," Collin said. "Every year, every tick of the clock — it becomes more apparent what's happening."

The conference's goal is not only to educate, but also to motivate students to find their niche in the movement, explained Villena. She found her interest in the economic relations between the United States and Mexico. But many others can find an area of interest in the myriad issues at the conference.

Glen Banfield, a student of environmental studies, believes the conference offers the perfect opportunity for information to be shared with the community.

"You hear the statistics, but people need to know what is happening," Banfield said. "Racism is largely unspoken — it's all hush-hush — the environmental justice

Schedule of events

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

8 p.m.—Carl Anthony, an African-American urban planner from the Earth Island Institute, will discuss race, place and sustainability as essential to environmentalism.

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — First set of panels.

■ "Hawaiian Sovereignty, History and Roots of the Indigenous Hawaiian People," Room 125 Law School.

■ "Urban Struggles in Environmental Justice," Room 221 Law School. Featured speakers include: Bob Collin and Carl Anthony.

■ "U.S.-Mexican Environmental and Economic Issues on the Border."

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. — Tom Goldtooth, an environmental justice activist from the Indigenous Environmental Network for the past 20 years, will speak.

2:45 to 4:30 p.m. — Second set of panels.

■ "Native-American Environmental

Justice Struggle," Room 221 Law School.

■ "EPA and Environmental Justice," featuring speakers from the EPA and Gov. John Kitzhaber's Environmental Justice Committee.

■ "Democracy and Political Change: A Bigger Picture," Room 229 Law School.

4:45 to 6:30 p.m. — Third set of panels.

■ "Hawaiian Sovereignty II: Current Politics of the Sovereignty Movement," Room 125 Law School.

■ "Toxins Right to Know as a Movement," Room 221 Law School.

■ "Women in Environmental Justice Movement," Room 221 Law School. Featured speakers include: Pamela Chiang and Robin Collin.

SUNDAY, JAN. 18

8:15 p.m. — Keynote speaker Pamela Chiang from the Asian Pacific Environmental Network will focus on race, class, gender and immigrant oppression as they relate to globalization and economic justice.

movement shows it's still here."

Studies have shown that in the Southeast race and income in urban areas have affected the amount of pollution, Collin said. Studies have found that in low-income white communities the level of pollution is lower than in low-income minority communities.

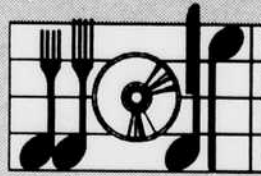
Whether race or income level cause a disproportionate amount of toxins to be exposed to people is not the important issue to Collin. Spreading awareness and finding solutions is.

"It is a solution-searching conference," said Erin Kuch, a ro-

mance language major at the University. "You have to find them yourself."

Many people have made a link between environmentalism and local issues in the community. Environmental issues are local issues, Collin said, and this year's conference covers a wide variety of them.

"Basically, if you ignore social issues and just go with environmental issues, you are only curing part of the problem," said Missy Rock, co-director of the conference. "This is a conference that looks at the whole."



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