

Students compile histories

■ The conditions faced by migrant workers on a daily basis are explored by anthropology students

By Alana Lynn for the Emerald

University anthropology Professor Lynn Stephen is heading a student research project that will help Oregonians gain a better understanding of the human cost of producing fruits and vegetables.

Stephen and a group of two dozen students have spent several months compiling research data in the first ever written history of the Oregon farm worker's movement. They have been using data from the Piñeros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste [Northwest Tree Planters and Farm Workers United, or PCUN], to give better insight into the harsh conditions that many farm workers endure.

The PCUN is the largest farm

worker's union and service organization in Oregon. It was founded in 1985 to improve working conditions for Oregon farm workers. In 1991, the group led the first Oregon farm worker strike, leading to a 33-percent wage increase for strawberry pickers.

Stephen is using the research in her International Studies class, which will next be offered during winter term 2001. The class focuses its attention on U.S. immigration policies, and the experience of Mexicans who have labored on U.S. farms. The class is funded by the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics endowment.

Slightly less than half of the students enrolled in Stephen's class are Latino.

Mayra Gomez, a junior double majoring in sociology and planning, public policy and management, was an intern for Stephen. Gomez, whose own father was a farm worker said, "It is really in-

teresting to learn the conditions my dad worked in. I can finally relate to what he is telling me."

Gomez, along with two dozen other students, interviewed Mexican farm workers for the project gaining a first-hand perspective on the conditions that workers face on a daily basis.

"It is sad to hear these stories; some people laugh, others cry, I never realized the conditions these workers had to face just so we could have fruits and vegetables on the table," Gomez said. That is exactly the message that Stephen is trying to relay.

"It is important for students to understand where their food comes from and the connection to the lives of the people who grow and harvest it," she said.

The research project is available at the PCUN office in Woodburn and at the Knight Library, and it will eventually be available through the Internet.

C.J. & Peter

continued from page 1

\$40 spent for the coffee hour on their election expenditure form. But according to forms provided to the Emerald by the Elections Board, Gabbe and Larson did not document that money. They did report a \$20 donation for the event from campaign manager Melissa Unger, but they did not report any money on the expenditure form, as they testified in court.

After meeting with Unger, Ken Best, elections coordinator, said

he will attempt to turn the grievance over to the court directly.

"We already made a similar decision ... It would be better handled by the court," Best said. "They can also find out if double jeopardy rules apply," and they cannot be tried again for the same crime.

In her grievance, De Poe said double jeopardy rules do not apply because this is not a criminal case. While the case may not be criminal, she accused Gabbe of being corrupt and attempting to buy the election.

"C.J. has been found guilty of nonfulfillment [in the court's ruling against the summer senate].

He's lied to the court and cheated," she said.

With the general election beginning today, many of the people involved with the Gabbe and Larson issue said they are frustrated and tired of the lingering problem.

"It's definitely a distraction," Larson said. "We know there are people who don't want us to get elected and ... are attacking us on a daily basis. But we can't be bogged down by personal attacks and petty politics."

After having worked on the issue now for almost a month, Best said it is "like a thorn stuck in my side."

New director

continued from page 1

term. As a temporary hire, she will receive a paid salary and will be working part time throughout the term. A permanent director will be named by July 1.

Lather was hired to replace the program's current director, Stephanie Carnahan, who could not be reached for comment regarding her reason for leaving LGBTESSP.

To celebrate the hiring of Lather, the LGBTTA held an open-house Tuesday at 5 p.m., in the LGBTTA office. Approximately 30 students filled the small office, introducing themselves to Lather and discussing upcoming events within the organization.

Ordinarily, the program seeks a candidate with at least a master's degree but was forced to make an exception in order to fill the vacancy in their program. "I

think this position is really important. I wanted to make sure someone was there to fill it," Lather said.

As interim director, Lather's duties will include anti-homophobia campaigning, peer education and work in support programs. She will also be involved in the hiring of next year's director.

"I hope to keep things running as smoothly as possible," Lather said.

Carnahan said she is pleased with the move. "Brooke brings a great deal of enthusiasm, experience and compassion with her," she said. "I am thrilled that she has accepted the challenge."

Peter Larson, last year's LGBTTA co-director, said the new position "gives us immeasurable support and contribution to the LGBTTA. Brooke brings a lot of skills to the position, and I think she'll do a great job"

"I look forward to working with many students on all kinds of projects," Lather said.

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Oregon Daily Emerald

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