

News brief

Conference on women and politics begins today

National University of Mexico anthropology Professor Lourdes Arizpe is delivering the keynote address at the inaugural "Power, Culture and Justice: Women and the Politics of Place" conference kicking off at 5 p.m. today in Gerlinger Lounge.

Arizpe's topic is "Culture, Women and the Global Commons."

The conference is hosted by the University's Center for Critical Theory and Transnational Studies and is organized by the Society for International Development. Activi-

ties continue through Saturday. All other conference events are in the Phoenix Inn conference room at 850 Franklin Blvd.

The conference features a wide range of speakers who will discuss topics such as "War, Peace, Justice and Livelihood: Why Women, Why Places"; "Women's Networking and Alliance Building: The Politics of Organizing in and Around Place"; "Fleshy Politics: Women's Bodies, Politics and Globalization"; and "Reconfiguring Environment: Place and Social Movements and Women and the Politics of Place in Oregon."

Admission is free. Call 346-1521 for more information.

—Robin Weber

Pledge

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pledge cards available at spring commencement ceremonies.

Support for the pledge seems to be growing nationwide. Dr. Neil Wollman, the national coordina-

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Dr. Neil Wollman
national coordinator
Graduation Pledge Alliance
Manchester College

tor for the Graduation Pledge Alliance at Manchester College, said he expects about 100 colleges and universities to include

some form of the pledge in their graduation ceremonies this year.

At Manchester College, the pledge is a formal part of the graduation ceremony, and students begin learning about it during freshman orientation. At other schools, the pledge may be a much more informal part of commencement, he said.

While judging the success of a pledge is difficult, Wollman said a survey of Manchester College graduates found that they are taking the pledge into consideration on their jobs. Even if only a few do, he added, that can be enough to change society.

"It takes a fairly limited amount of people to make a difference," he said. "Sometimes just one person pushing something on a job ... is enough to bring other people over," he said.

For more information or to get involved with the University pledge campaign, e-mail graduatepledgers@hotmail.com.

E-mail student activities editor Kara Cogswell at karacogswell@dailymerald.com.

Solar

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from the overrealized fund. Eisenberg and Ben Gates, who has since graduated, had the winning idea of using the money to install solar panels on the EMU.

The towers will produce about 4,200 watts of power annually — enough to run 28 refrigerators for a year, said Eugene Water and Electric Board energy management specialist Don Spiek, who has been working on the project with students in the Ecological Design Center.

"Solar power is clean, there's no maintenance to it. It's available everywhere," which makes it a good source of renewable energy, Spiek said.

Although the solar towers on the EMU will produce a relatively small amount of power, Eisenberg said she hopes the high-visibility of the towers will catch the attention of passersby and spark their interest in renewable energy.

The towers will also make the balcony more functional. Underneath the 8-by-8 solar panels atop each tower will be square wooden benches where people can sit and enjoy the view of campus from the balcony, she said.

Eisenberg said the towers are "designed to be sculptures in the landscape" that mesh well with the EMU architecture.

"We're really trying to make it educational and also artistic," she said.

The total cost of the towers is expected to be roughly \$20,000, Eisenberg said.

Students working on the project hoped to raise enough money through corporate sponsorship to build a much larger array of solar panels. But despite a request package that includes letters from University President Dave Frohnmayer, Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey, and

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, as well as a 35 percent tax credit for Oregon businesses, they have not yet been able to secure corporate sponsorship for the project, Eisenberg said.

There have been other obstacles for the team to overcome as well. Originally, they favored placing the panels on the large, south-facing roof of the EMU Ballroom, but they later discovered the roof couldn't support the additional weight.

The location they chose instead, the south balcony, receives ample sun exposure but with a surface area of only about 1,000 square feet, it is too small to support the 10- to 20-kilowatt solar panel system students had hoped to build. The balcony is also in need of repairs which have been put off because of lack of funding.

To avoid delaying the project indefinitely until repairs could be completed, they designed the towers so that they can be easily dismantled and moved to another location if needed, Eisenberg said.

"We've had to create a fairly simple design," she said.

Eisenberg said they are still actively pursuing corporate sponsorship and hope to find a business that will match student funding for the next phase of the project. In phase two, she said they plan to install a much larger, 20-kilowatt array of solar panels on the EMU rooftop and set up an educational kiosk inside the EMU about renewable energy. One site being considered for the rooftop panels is the Emerald roof in the northwest corner of the building.

ASUO President Nilda Brooklyn, Vice President Joy Nair and ASUO Ducks for Bucks contest selection committee member Peter Watts did not return messages by press time.

E-mail student activities editor Kara Cogswell at karacogswell@dailymerald.com.

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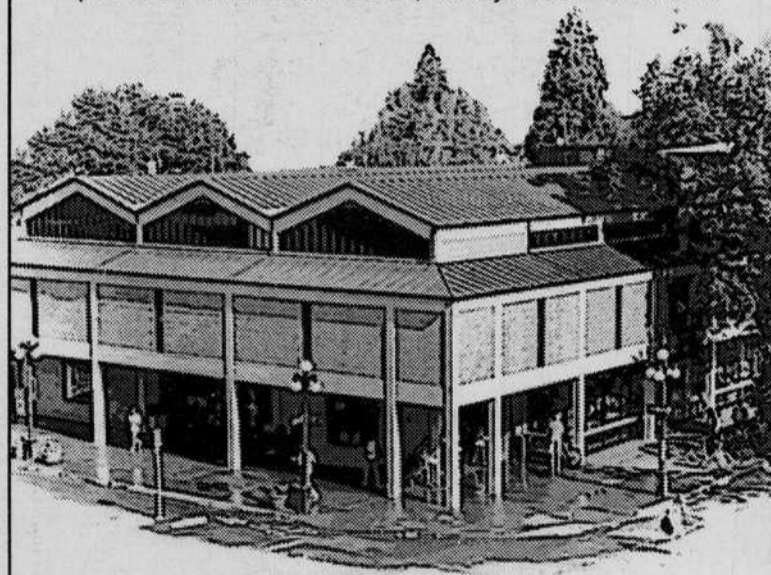
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