

Campus buzz

Tuesday

Prayer meeting, sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ, 7:30-8:30 a.m., EMU Rogue Room.

Oregon Supreme Court visit, sponsored by University Law School, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 175 Knight Law Center.

"Music and Dance in the Ballets of Stravinsky," (dance historian Beth Genné presents the Trotter Professorship Presenta-

tion), 10-11:20 a.m., 198 Music Building, free, 346-5678.

"The Film Musicals of Vincente Minnelli," (dance historian Beth Genné presents the Trotter Professorship Presentation), 2-3:20 p.m., Knight Library Media Services Studio B, free, 346-5678.

Taiko drumming (concert, sponsored by Multicultural Center), 6-9 p.m., EMU Ballroom.

Blyth and Russ Carpenter, (authors of "The Blessings of Bhutan"), 7 p.m., Knight Library Browsing Room, free, 346-4331, Ext. 228.

Oregon Jazz Ensemble and two jazz lab bands, 8 p.m., Beall Hall, \$5 general, \$3 students and senior citizens, 346-5678.

"The Collegium Musicum," (University Ensemble Concert), 8:30 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, 1857 Potter St., free, donations accepted, 346-5678.

Environment

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Law Conference, which took place during the weekend. As he spoke Saturday, Yazzie focused on the Navajo's view on the environment and how it should be treated.

"All creation from mother earth and father sky have their own independent freedom to exist," he said. "We should obey the laws of nature because it is there for a purpose, and we must respect it for what it is."

Standing in the doorway of the entrance to the ballroom, Land Air Water passed out a transcript of the fundamental laws of the Diné, which means people. LAW hosted the event, which started Thursday and ended Sunday. Yazzie referred to the transcript throughout his speech, pointing out ways western culture differs from the Navajos in treatment of the environment.

"The end goal of life is not me," he said. "While Navajos are known as the people in English, it is a mistransla-

tion. We are not the people, but one of many. There are rock people, tree people... we depend on each other."

While Yazzie spoke on the Navajo views of environmental injustice, other speakers focused on topics such as ecofeminism or genetic engineering. There were also various workshops, presentations and panels that took place during the weekend, focusing on a variety of environmental issues.

Jennifer O'Donnell was another keynote speaker, and she centered her lecture on corporate responsibility as well as her involvement in Ohio Citizen Action.

"(O'Donnell) has spent more than 20 years kicking ass in the trenches," LAW treasurer Jason Klein said in his introduction of O'Donnell. "She's a wonderful, passionate individual."

OCA, an environmentally aware group that prides itself on taking on issues which affect the lives of citizens in Ohio, is currently working on a campaign to keep the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant closed.

O'Donnell took the stage and ex-

plained to her audience that Davis-Besse was originally shut down one year ago because of a football-sized hole in the reactor head. There was less than half an inch of stainless steel liner keeping the radioactive and pressurized internal environment from blasting into the reactor containment building, which could have damaged safety equipment, and possibly set into motion a core melt accident.

"It's like a horror movie," O'Donnell said.

The owners of Davis-Besse, First Energy, planned to have the plant running again within months of the shut down, but a reopening has yet to happen. O'Donnell said OCA is working to keep the plant from reopening at all.

"Nuclear power is not clean, it is not cheap, and it is not safe," she said. "We will prevail."

Contact the reporter at alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com.

U.S.

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for any reason.

Some callers to the G.I. Rights Hotline said they were 18 when they joined and were still forming their opinions. Others said they were persuaded to join by military advertisements, brochures and recruiters talking a lot about job skills, world travel and education benefits, and nothing about the brutality of combat, said Bill Galvin, counseling coordinator for the Center on Conscience and War in Washington, D.C., who helped answer calls.

A U.S. Armed Forces Web site, for example, asks: "Where else can you get paid to train with the best, travel around the world, make lifelong friends and get an education?"

"Many of these people thought they were going to computer school," Galvin said. "Reservists think it's a job they do two weeks a year and a weekend a month. These people are realizing it's not about what they thought it was at all."

But government officials are skeptical of those who say they weren't aware of what they were getting into.

Soldiers, for example, take an oath of enlistment, promising to support and defend the U.S. Constitution "against all enemies, foreign and domestic" and to obey orders from the president of the United States and their superior officers.

Army Lt. Col. Ryan Yantis put it this way: "It's disingenuous for a soldier to wake up and say they never knew they were joining the Army to fight wars. ... It's much like a fireman suddenly realizing, 'You mean I have to fight a fire?'"

When Plantation, Fla., resident Travis Clark joined the Marine Corps in 1996, it seemed like a good option. Then 19, he couldn't afford college and the country was in a state of relative peace, Clark said. He signed an eight-year contract, which required him to serve five years of active duty and stand by for a possible call-up during the following three years.

As the years passed, his views began to change. He started reading works by Martin Luther King Jr. and Mohandas Gandhi. His active-duty stint ended in August 2001, and he now volunteers as special-events coordinator for the anti-war group Peace South Florida.

If he's called up before his military contract ends in the summer of 2004, Clark said, he won't go.

"I can see violence used if there was an invading army invading my people," Clark said. "But I'm not going to go into someone else's country and force them to defend themselves."

Like Clark, many resisters say they vowed to defend the country, not to take part in what they consider a war of aggression. Veterans for Peace, a national group with 3,000 members, wrote a letter to the military's top commanders on Feb. 13, urging them not to fight.

"We believe the war against Iraq that the U.S. government is planning and preparing for is in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and customary international law," the letter reads. "The judgment of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg noted, 'Resort to war of aggression is not merely illegal, but criminal.'"

The tradition of conscientious objectors dates at least to the Civil War. But draft resistance became a mass movement during the Vietnam War, when 200,000 men were accused of violating draft laws and another 360,000 war resisters weren't formally accused, according to American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker pacifist organization.

During the 1991 Gulf War, about 500 enlisted men and women filed for conscientious-objector status and about 61 percent were approved, according to a General Accounting Office report. Several members of the all-volunteer military simply refused to fight and were jailed for up to 18 months.

It's not clear how many soldiers are resisting a war this time. Military officials say the numbers so far have been small. Only six members of the Army, for example, applied for conscientious-objector discharges in February, an Army spokesman said.

As for Alarcon, he has kept his pacifist feelings from the rest of his unit. But, as the United States moves closer to an invasion of Iraq, he says he's ready to speak up and is getting his papers in order to file as a conscientious objector.

"I've got to let it be known that I'm not ready to just lay down and do what I'm told," Alarcon said, "because they say this is a free country."

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Information Table

EMU (Erb Memorial Union)

March 12-13, 2003

10:00am - 4:00pm both days

Women in Peace Corps: 1961-2003

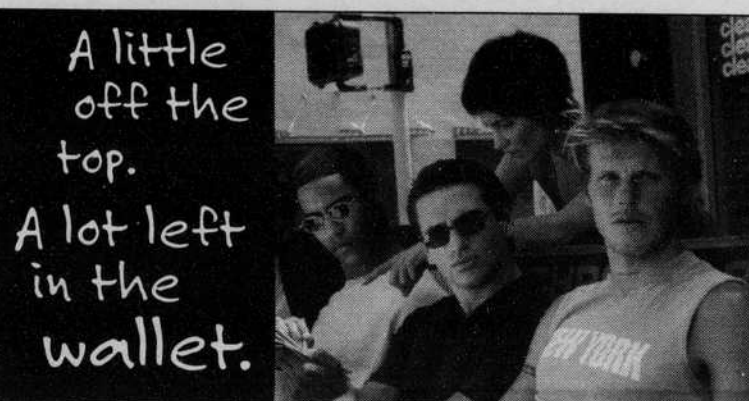
EMU International Lounge

March 13, 2003

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Peace Corps will interview applicants on the UO campus on Tuesday, April 22, 2003. Contact Peace Corps Campus Representative Robert Richardson at (541) 346-6026 or via pcorps@darkwing.uoregon.edu for more information or to schedule an interview.

www.peacecorps.gov
(800) 424-8580 - Option 1



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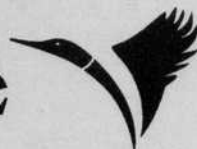
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