

18th & Chambers

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appointment

monday - saturday







Kent discusses players, coaching style in lecture

The coach spoke to students and faculty on Wednesday, reflecting on his coaching and leadership experience

Jonah Schrogin

It's not every day that students get to hear men's basketball head coach Ernie Kent speak about leadership and change. On Wednesday, however, Kent spoke to about 50 students and faculty members about his coaching style, which he said stems from his compassion and quest for unity.

After coaching for seven years in Saudi Arabia, Kent said he moved back to the United States and became an assistant coach at Colorado State University and then at Stanford University. He finally got his big break when he became the head coach at St. Mary's College in Northern California

While he was successful with the team at St. Mary's, the players told Kent they couldn't relate to him because he had adopted a militaristic style different from other coaches he had worked with in the past. Kent said he decided to change his coaching style to be more compassionate and caring toward players.

After this change, Kent said his career took off. He said he believes that in order for individuals and the team to be successful, he has to find a way into the players' spirits, and he wants to help each of them "soften their heart.

Kent added that before each season, his team goes on a retreat to the mountains, where the goal is to allow the players to open up in a way that is considered a weakness for men in today's society. By doing this, he said the players build a sense of togetherness and trust that is crucial to success on the basketball court.

First-year graduate student Erin Barnhart found Kent's speech to be interesting and informative.

"He had really great use of humor and personal stories to reflect what some great approaches to leadership are," she said. "He had good points as far as coming back to that base and coming back to character."

Planning, public policy and management Assistant Professor Marc Schlosserg said Kent's talk was applicable to his own teaching. He said he likes how Kent lets his students go and watches them grow. "Effective leadership can often be leadership where you're not the active vocal boss - that you can be someone who can step back and let other people develop to their full potential," Schlosserg said.

The event was part of a lecture series on leadership and change organized by the PPPM department. PPPM Undergraduate Program Director Rich Margerum said the event was a huge success, and he plans on featuring more guest speakers on leadership and change

"We felt that it would be a good opportunity not just to talk about it in the class, but also bring members of the community in to have students hear about the issues they are dealing with," Margerum said.

Jonah Schrogin is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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Aiming to end violence against women, Take Back the Night events began in Italy in 1976 and have been staged at universities nationwide for 25 years. Today, Take Back the Night celebrates its 10th year at the University, with an appearance by local feminist group The Radical Cheerleaders and performances by circus group Well-Oiled Machine and musician Nicole Barrett Sangsuree, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the EMU Amphitheater.

"People are angry," Sangsuree said. "It's not fair. It's not fair that we have to be afraid. There is this idea that women can't survive, and it's like, 'Yeah, we can.'

At the rally, international studies Professor Anita Weiss will speak about global violence against women, while women and gender studies visiting Associate Professor Gwyneth Kirk will discuss the impact of militarism on women. Sophomore Miranda Vorres will also speak on behalf of Students for Peace.

"We've made a special effort this year to bring in a global perspective and tie the issue of interpersonal violence to violence on a larger scale," ASUO Women's Center Office Coordinator Lori Brown said in an e-mail interview.

Immediately following the rally will be a march to Eighth Avenue and Oak Street, where participants will be welcomed with

drumming by local band Womyn at Play.

SASS Community Education Program Coordinator Michelle Edwards said the march will be divided into several sections, but participants can choose where they want to walk.

"Folks who identify as women

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> Nicole Barrett Sangsuree musician

will have a safe spot in the front,"

She added that survivors of sexual assault who wish to identify themselves will be offered the option of wearing a teal armband throughout the evening.

Survivors can also sign up at the event to participate in the speak out, an open-mic session held at the end of the march for men and women to share their sexual assault stories.

"I did the speak out, where I first publicly talked about (the sexual assault)," Helmick said. "There was huge support of women to further my healing process."

Food will be provided after the speak out, and Sangsuree will perform "A Love Song for Women," a song she wrote for last year's Take Back the Night, followed by a closing speech from Womenspace Community Outreach Director Margo Schaefer.

Brown said she has seen an increase in the number of sexual assault incidences that are reported on campus in the past four years, something she believes is a response to events such as Take Back the Night.

"The more you increase your community's awareness of sexual assault, the more likely it is that people impacted by it identify themselves as survivors and feel safe enough to speak out about their experiences," she said.

After first discussing her abuse two years ago, Helmick said she underwent training to be a peer facilitator for adult sexual abuse survivors and sees events such as Take Back the Night as a way for women to reach out.

"As long as they can look for support and find support, the process is that much easier," she said. "Don't do it alone.

For more information about Take Back the Night or sexual assault support, contact the ASUO Women's Center at 346-4095 or SASS at 484-9791.

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