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Seed: Presenter gives seminars on relationship with nature

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an emeritus professor of philosophy from Oslo University, that humans' ecologically destructive behavior is the result of an "illusion of separation" based on the idea of anthropocentrism — or human-centeredness.

"We need an ecological identity to find our way back to nature," Seed said. The detachment from nature that he identified as the cause of humanity's current environmental problems could be attributed to the suppression of celebration for nature that connects humans as ecological beings.

Seed recommended attending one of his seminars, which he calls Councils of All Beings, to re-establish the lost connection with Mother nature. Seed's online article about his Council of All Beings states: "After thousands of years of conditioning, the modern psyche is radically alienated from the air, water and soil which underpin all of life, and this is reflected in the rapid shredding of all natural systems in the name of economic development."

In the council, participants perform a mourning ritual, which allows council members to "feel the

pain of the Earth," the article states. "We see that the pain of the Earth is our own pain and the fate of the Earth is our own fate."

Seed also recommended a new story, "because the creation myth is outdated and tells us that the rapture is coming ... so Earth has no value. We need poets, artists and musicians to create this new story."

Seed referenced Genesis 1:26 of the Bible, in which God tells man to have dominion over the earth, and argued that nature is viewed as having no soul, that man and not nature was made in God's image, and that everything in nature has become a resource for humanity's use.

To illustrate his point, Seed picked up his guitar and sang the self-composed lyrics, "You can't clear-cut your way to heaven," and, "Bulldozing the creation won't win God's admiration." Many of the attendants of the presentation sang along with Seed.

Rick Ahrens, a nature guide in

Eugene, said after the presentation that the creation myth can be interpreted in many ways and that, "God was into ecological justice."

"Honor the creator by honoring His creation," Ahrens said. He quoted Leviticus 25:23, "the land is mine, you are just sojourners." Kate Hirst, who works at the Walama Restoration Project, said, "I think (Seed's) ideas are way cool ... about gathering people to discuss our relationship to nature, that we are all this same essence." It is important, Hirst said, to "have something to refer to as 'us' rather than all individuals. It's easy to lose sight of what your culture is when you're fighting all the time."

Jai Daemion, a psychotherapist in Eugene, first met Seed in 1972. "What I liked is that he stepped out of the hippie flare, which is really an important evolution because he can still touch what's vital but reach more people," Daemion said. For the past 25 years Seed has

been active in organizing projects to save rainforests of the world while simultaneously creating a new identity with nature.

"I was called by the trees — even though I didn't believe in things like that," he said at the event.

At the end of the presentation, Seed urged the community to get involved in local restoration projects such as the Cascadia Wildlands Project, Cascadia Forest Defenders and the Eugene Permaculture Guild.

"We have the technology to exceed beyond our wildest dreams," Seed said. "All we need is your good will."

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Senate: Women's Center's funds redistribution request granted

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several deficit accounts of the ASUO Executive. These deficits include \$2,100 in the printing and duplicates account, \$359 in the advertising account, \$359 into the telephone account and \$154 in the cell phones account.

The deficit accounts request form asked Senate to approve the transfer of funds so that all debts would be paid before the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1. All excess money from the Administrative Assistant account will roll over into

surplus for next year's budget. A total of \$11,912 was transferred from the administrative assistant payroll account.

An employee of the ASUO Women's Center, Lorie Brown, requested permission to redistribute money from the director's payroll account into the office supplies account. Vacancies in the director and assistant director positions left extra money in payroll, \$1,400 of which the Women's Center requested to be transferred for the purchase of a new couch, desk

and end tables. The Senate unanimously voted to redistribute the funds and leave \$500 as an emergency cushion.

Community activist Zachary Vishanoff announced to the Senate that a public hearing needs to be held regarding the new basketball arena location. In light of recent debates, Vishanoff asked the Senate to fund three full-page advertisements in the Register-Guard inviting community members to a meeting to disallow the use of some historical property surrounding the University. The

Senate took no action regarding Vishanoff's announcement. He has put in a request to speak at the next Senate meeting.

The Summer Committee seats consist of two EMU Board finance senators, Sara Hamilton and Reinier Heyden; three academic senators, Monica Irvin, Tyrel Love and Jessica Nair; and one Athletic Department finance senator, Spencer Crum. Crum did not attend the meeting.

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