

Series of lectures deals with 'new religion' concept, changing world

By Shelley Ball
Of The Print

Anyone interested in learning more about cults and new religions can still attend three lectures at Clackamas Community College. Today's lecture, titled From Drugs to Dharma, will run at 7 p.m. in the McLoughlin Theater.

From Drugs to Dharma concerns the counter-culture of the '60's usage of LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) to their adoption of East Indian religions, and is one of five free lectures by Irving Hexham, who is from the department of religion at the University of Manitoba in Canada.

The five lectures make up the program Understanding Cults and New Religions, and will run through April 14. Two of the lectures, The Threat of the Cults and Loss of Faith and the New Religions both ran April 12.

Wally Johnson, College religious studies instructor, was involved in planning Hexham's visit. "This is our (Religious Studies Program's) spring term seminar for the public," he said.

Sponsored by the College Religious Studies Program and Special Programs, Hexham was asked to speak at the College in order to "provide better information for our constituency," Johnson said. "We've seen a revised concern about cults, particularly in Oregon. My concern is that people be adequately informed and understand why this phenomenon arises," he explained.

Hexham said that he hopes to "help people not to panic," especially those who know of anyone considering joining a cult. He has been studying religions since 1967 and has met members of religious groups such as the Moonies and Ra-neeshes, and he said that the real "threat" of cults stems from the

media's general portraying and labeling any fast-growing, major religious movement as a cult, a word that has a negative tone to it.

Because of the word's negative quality Hexham prefers to use the term "new religions," and he said that overall a small majority of people actually join any of these groups for a significant amount of time. He also said that more people should be less preoccupied with whether or not a particular group uses brainwashing techniques, since thinking about brainwashing actually avoids thinking about the group itself.

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"People are treating the symptoms rather than the cause. They (new religions) will be here for awhile; we need to find out what it is that produces these things," Hexham said.

Religious education would also be a deterrent to joining religious groups. "If more people were taught religious education they wouldn't be so impressed with groups like the Moonies," Hexham said.

Not putting pressure on people or the religious groups they may join is another important step in handling the situation. Hexham explained that the new religions are based on three beliefs: 1) their religion knows the absolute truth; 2) the rest of the world

doesn't acknowledge that they know the truth; 3) the devil is at work to prevent members from knowing the truth, so they need to "watch out." "The best way to get somebody to join a cult is to tell them they can't join," he said.

It's when you put pressure on these groups that they become really nasty; it's like putting a rat in a corner. When you put a rat in a corner it will bite. But if the religious groups are left alone, they will usually conform to society's values. Personally, I don't see them as a great threat, and besides, a lot of people have changed their beliefs but have not joined the Moonies," Hexham added.

Hexham's last two lectures will run tomorrow. The New Mythology starts at 10 a.m. in the McLoughlin Theater and will explain that many of the concepts found in new religions are not always new. He said new religions tend to systemize beliefs. They may take the subjects of reincarnation and astrology, subjects that potential candidates may have a vague belief in, and make them become meaningful in their lives.

Who Joins the Cults and Why?, Hexham's last lecture, will begin at 7 p.m. In this lecture he will explain the factors that contribute to people joining new religions. "Religions are very much like soap powders--there's a market for them," he said.

Basically, Hexham said that the "established churches have not come to terms with technology," such as the Pill and the changing sizes of family structures, whereas many new religions like the Moonies have a definite and positive stand on technology. He also said the new religions can help people come to terms with death and guilt, subjects that our society prefers to deny. New religions also offer people security in a world that is faced with atomic war, Hexham added.

Spring graduate deadline slated

Graduation ceremonies at Clackamas Community College are set for June 10, and any student planning to participate in the event is asked to have their petitions completed by May 2 to insure they can partake.

"There are no deadlines for the petitions, but the May 2 deadline will assure the student's participation in the program," Mary Dykes, assistant to the dean of admissions and records, said. "That way we can make sure everything is set for that individual."

Any student who has completed Certificate, Associates Degree or General Education Development (G.E.D.) requirements is eligible to graduate.

The ceremony is for all students who have completed their requirements during the past year. Dykes feels that most students who participate are spring term graduates, but some earlier graduates always take part in the ceremony.

Each year there are about 750 graduates, Dykes said, but only 250 participate in graduation. The reason for this is unknown by Dykes.

"To some this means a lot. Especially for some of the older students--it is the first time they have ever been recognized," Dykes said. "But for a student who is going to continue on and get his doctors, it may not be as important. It just depends on the student."

One reason Dykes has set the May 2 deadline is so she can check to make sure the student has fulfilled all of his/her requirements. If there is a problem with requirements Dykes said there is usually something that can be done to compensate. If not, the student will have to reapply the next term.

One advantage the College's graduation presents to a student is there is no charge. Dykes said the only charge would be if the student would want to purchase a tassel or honor cords.

For more information concerning graduation or the graduation ceremony, please contact Dykes at the Admissions Office, ext. 254.

Controversy rises in current ASG elections

By J. Dana Haynes
Of The Print

Controversy has arisen surrounding the upcoming Associated Student Government elections. Two members of this year's ASG executive cabinet are also members of the campaign committee for one candidate.

The committee to elect John Sagoe for ASG president

includes current president Paul Nastari and this year's Activities Director Steve Vohs. Nastari is the chairperson of the Sagoe campaign, while Vohs is public relations/media director.

The other candidate for the 1983-84 presidency is Don Porter, who is running on a "ticket" with vice presidential hopeful Tim Sytsma. "The current regime should have re-

mained impartial," Sytsma said.

Porter is less upset by the committee to elect Sagoe. "I think it's hard for a person in that position (current president) to not support a candidate. Nastari should want to see some of the programs he's started carried on," he said.

Nastari said he thought about the problems inherent with a current office holder supporting one candidate over the other, but he feels there has been no conflict of interest. "I simply don't see eye-to-eye with Don (Porter) on some issues. I'm not saying he'd do a bad job, but John (Sagoe) is willing to add continuity with my administration to his. That's missing with Don, I think."

Activities Director Vohs also sees no problem in his active support of Sagoe. However, Vohs was scheduled to moderate last week's Candidates' Fair, a fact which Porter's running mate Sytsma felt was "low class."

Vohs explained that, as

moderator, his only duties would have been to introduce the candidates. In fact, the Fair was canceled due to lack of any audience.

Vohs sees nothing wrong with his activities for Sagoe, saying "None of us (the election committee members) will be on the ASG next year. Also, there is nothing in the constitution against (their participation in the elections)."

Vohs is supporting Sagoe and his running mate, Linda

Cox, because he feels "they will be one heck of a good team," he said. Also, he has serious doubts about a Porter-Sytsma administration. "I think if they get in, it'll be a political arena for them," Vohs said.

Debbie Baker, student activities director and advisor to the ASG, sees nothing wrong in Nastari and Vohs working for Sagoe. "Paul Nastari is acting on his own behalf as a student, not as a representative of the ASG," she said.

Volunteers needed for 'Youth Adventure' program

Volunteers are needed for the summer sessions of the Youth Adventures Resident Treatment Program. The 20-year-old rehabilitation program serves to counsel young law offenders.

Members of the community are invited to share time and talent. Terry Moore, resident counselor, said anything from yoga to gourmet cooking would be helpful. Moore said, "These

kids are really deprived; they need enrichment of all kinds. And, any time you can offer is welcome." Moore said the length of the workshops are determined by the amount of time one has.

Interested persons should contact Terry Moore at the Youth Adventures Resident Treatment Program at 655-7913 or 656-8005.

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