Barbara Dudley’s Lecture on Trade Policy

The lecture given on March 10th by Professor Dudley displayed a thorough knowledge of her subject. The most important element in the globalization that has dominated the post-WWII era has been U.S. and global trade policies. Dudley traced the U.S. trade policy from the formation of the U.S. Constitution to the Trade Agreements Program of the New Deal of the 1930s. These served as precursors to the formation of GATT during the 1940s (The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and later to the Uruguay Round and the formation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) during the 1990s. Dudley’s training as a lawyer became apparent as she dissected the intricacies of trade legislation and laws. The policies of the WTO have been questioned on a variety of grounds.

These developments do not simply concern policies on international trade in isolation, as problems that start and stop at the water’s edge. Instead they have a far-reaching impact on our domestic economy as well. Problems associated with “outsourcing” and “the race to the bottom” are well-known. Such problems complicate the analysis of our current trade policy with many forces and issues. Certainly, one factor that stands out is the role played by corporate power in the formulation and direction of trade policy. The dynamic of the current process of globalization is not simply caused by the laws of supply and demand leading to economic efficiency enforced by the added influence of technological advances. The issue of trade policy and globalization is also affected by the way that national sovereignty is yielding to corporate sovereignty and power. Only thirty nations are bigger than Wal-Mart. National sovereignty is being threatened by Article XVI, of the WTO, which could potentially abrogate national legislative action, especially in areas of labor and the environment. Chapter 11 of NAFTA grants corporations the right to sue governments for actions that the corporations regard as contrary to NAFTA rules and that threaten corporate profits. And certainly, the plight of the LDC (less developed countries) is being exacerbated by the IMF policies of imposing on them specific conditions and austerity. All of this portends an uncertain future for the WTO and the overall global trade policies now in place.

See Duncan on page 2
Duncan from page one

Dudley’s informative lecture was very well received by the audience. For a further insight into Dudley’s position on trade policy, it is recommended that RAPS membership secure a copy of Oregon’s Future, Spring 2003, focusing on international trade and edited by Barbara Dudley.

The upcoming May 27th lecture by Barbara Roberts, entitled “Death Without Denial, Grief Without Apology”, will be presented at 3:00 rather than at 5:00 as originally scheduled. Because of the reconstruction of the Vanport room, there will be a room change as well. A flier will be sent out to clarify further the particulars of the lecture. Please direct your questions to Troy Montserrat-Gonzales, at 725-3447 or raps@pdx.edu.

Richard Brinkman

Editor’s note: For a more detailed explanation of these technical issues raised in Dudley’s lecture, you are encouraged to read US Trade Policy: History, Theory and the WTO which Professor Brinkman co-authored and which is currently coming out in a second edition.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

RAPS versus PC

It has been recently voted on by the board that, after ‘several’ complaints (how many?) about the title of our house ‘organ’ (if one can still use that term in today’s PC world), that this name be changed because of the pending appearance of a certain chain restaurant by that same name. I believe that owls (wise as they are) have been called ‘hooters’ for years if not for centuries - long before boobs meant hooters as well. Owls were so named because they do exactly that - they ‘hoot’. My pre-PC dictionary also defines ‘boob’ as a stupid or gullible person; simpleton. I was president when the REPPS board decided that our previous house organ (oops) was a little too rigid and perhaps a change was in order. This change was precipitated also by the fact that newsletter articles submitted by REPPS members were becoming less and less frequent.

Leonard Kimbrell was asked to create a logo for this see Letters on page 4

Dean Marvin Kaiser’s Lecture

“The New Age of Aging”

Pot Luck—April 29th at 6:00—Cascade Room (SMSU)

The objectives of the RAPS organization are not simply to promote the welfare of retired personnel but also to maintain its connection with Portland State University. Portland State University comprises students, faculty and staff and all of whom are served by the administration. For this reason, the RAPS membership welcomes the opportunity to promote a further bonding with the administration as represented by Marvin A. Kaiser, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor of Sociology at Portland State University.

Dean Kaiser has an impressive CV, the details of which will be expanded upon on the evening of April 29th. Dean Kaiser has received many awards and honors. He received the Kansas State Outstanding Teaching Award in 1979 and was honored as the Flint Hills Social Worker of the Year in 1983. He served as a W.K. Kellogg National Fellow from 1985 to 1988. He has been invited as a special guest to the United Nations General Assembly and has served as a staff fellow and consultant to the United Nations office in Vienna. He has focused his scholarly efforts on domestic and international aging issues and community service. He is the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and monographs and is a co-author of a book, currently under review, entitled Family and Community Participation of the Elderly.

How can Dean Kaiser maintain optimistic and jovial countenance that he habitually wears? Perhaps during his lecture he will reveal his secret as how to cope with the aging process in such a stress-filled position as the Dean of CLAS. On behalf of Maxine Thomas, current president of RAPS, and the RAPS Board, I invite you to attend what should be an informative, enjoyable, and collegial evening with Marvin A. Kaiser, Dean of CLAS.

Contact Troy Montserrat-Gonzales for Details on the Potluck Arrangements (503) 725-3447

Richard Brinkman
**RAPS ACTIVITIES**

**RAPS HIKERS**

Six hikers participated in the March hike to the Japanese Gardens. The weather was perfect, and the hike was leisurely. The pavilion in the Japanese Gardens was hosting a traveling Japanese Doll Show. (See picture below) We spent about two hours in the Gardens before hiking back to the Hoyt Arboretum for lunch. During lunch we selected the May hike from the Friends of the Columbia Gorge spring hikes.

We will hike on Sunday, May 9th on the Weldon Wagon Road in Washington. Barbara Robinson, a native plant expert, will be on the hike along with local hike leader Dee Robertson. The hike is listed as good for wildflower viewing. In order to meet the rest of the hikers at 9:45am in Husum, WA., we will need to leave Portland by 8:00am. We will meet for carpooling on the Broadway side of Neuberger Hall. Parking is free in the parking structures on Sundays.

The April hike will be led by Marge Terdal. Meet Friday, April 16, at 9:30 at the visitor center for Tryon Creek Park in Southwest Portland. The entrance road to the visitor center is just off S.W. Terwilliger Blvd, about 1 mile south of Lewis & Clark College. We will walk between 3 and 5 miles on a variety of trails in the park.

Bring a snack or lunch. Call Marge Terdal (503-244-5714) or email <terdalm@pdx.edu> if you plan to come. We don’t want to leave without you.

Larry Sawyer

**RAPS BRIDGE GROUP**

The April bridge session will be held on Tuesday, April 13th at WILLAMETTE VIEW, 12705 S.E. River Road. To RSVP and ask for directions, phone Irene Place at 503 652-6528 or e-mail her at irene@wvresident.org.

**RAPS BOOK CLUB**

The March book for the RAPS Book Club discussed *Daughter of Persia* by Sattarch Farman Farmaian. We found it to be an interesting book on several levels. Farmaian was born into a wealthy family and thus had an atypical childhood as compared to other Iranians. She provided lots of insights into the Iranian culture and events during her lifetime.

The April book is *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines. It “is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shootout in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson’s godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting -- and defying -- the expected. This book has recently been on the Best Seller List even though it was published in 1993.

The April gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20 at 1:30 at Mary Brannan’s home. Call Mary at 503-239-1077 or e-mail at brannanmg@comcast.net for directions and to RSVP.

The May book club gathering will discuss *The Last Report of the Miracles of Little No Horse* written by Louise Erdrich. She is a writer of fiction about Native Americans. The gathering will be held at Marjorie Terdal’s home on Tuesday, May 18 at 1:30. Call Marjorie at 503-628-2252 or e-mail her at terdalm@pdx.edu for directions and to RSVP.

Mary Gordon-Brannan
whimsical creation was modeled after Groucho Marx (a wise man), complete with cigar. One member complained that the cigar looked more like a penis, so it was shortened - the cigar, that is. This logo has survived quite nicely until recent weeks. But we must be PC in today’s world, or so it seems. I am reminded of a couple of decades ago when PC was practically a religion. The well-known men’s clothier chain “The Gay Blade” became merely “The Blade”. An equally well-known Corvallis ice cream shop, “The Gay Parfait” changed its name to “The Parfait”. Were these establishments fearful that customers might stay away from their shops or perhaps because anyone caught caught in either establishment was presumed to be gay? Who knows. A zealot in San Francisco at that time went so far as to purge all books in the San Francisco Library of anything that included the word ‘gay’, including all the books of author, Gaye Talese and the WWII bomber, the Enola Gay. Today you can’t look at the front page of the Oregonian without counting that three-letter “G” word at least five times. I think it was in Orange County, California where, for a period of PC-ness that one could not write the term ‘bitch’ in the Orange County newspaper. One had to use ‘female dog’. My, how times change - or do they?

It is my humble opinion that owls will continue to be called ‘hooters’ long after the restaurants of the same name cease to exist. When this occurs will anyone give a ‘hoot’?

Gordon Solie

Editor’s response: No one suggests, so far as I know, that the name had any sexual implication for those who chose it. As a professor of English and therefore, perforce, a modest student of language and what happens to it, I know that once a word acquires a new sexual or scatological meaning, that meaning will prevail. The history of the word toilet, is a case in point. It once meant the cloth that a lady wore to protect her clothes when her wig was powdered. One may miss old meaning of “gay.” There is no precise synonym for that meaning. But the language has changed irreversibly. The complaints were not that many, but they were strongly felt, and the board chose to respect them.

Book Review

Academic Murders Increase: Physics Department Hit

In the realm of detective fiction, the academic world, a frequent setting for crimes of passion - heaven knows why, for academia is noted for its gentle ways and kind motives.

English departments have often been used as settings, perhaps because subject matter, a reflection of life, is close to the elemental rages and passions of real life. A relatively new series of academic detective novels, however, reveals murderous passions where they might be least expected -- in the cool and dispassionate cells of a physics department.

The author of this series is herself an inhabitant of the world she writes about. She is Camilla Minichino, currently a professor of physics at Golden Gate University in San Francisco and also a scientific editor at Livermore National Laboratory. Besides teaching, she has been writing a series of novels that she call “Periodic Tables Mysteries,” each one bearing the name of one of the elements: The Hydrogen Murder, The Helium Murder, The Lithium Murder etc. As of spring 2004, she has published the sixth in the series, The Carbon Murder.

In the early books, her central continuing character is introduced: Dr. Gloria Lamerino, like her creator a woman physicist, but one who has worked in Berkeley but retires and returns to her home town, Revere, Massachusetts. Here she is consulted by police on science-related cases.

In an early book in the series, The Helium Murder, for example, she exposes as murder a hit-and-run accident, in which a congresswoman is killed just before she is about to cast a crucial vote regarding the government’s helium reserves.

In her most recent book, The Carbon Murder, Gloria’s god-daughter returns to Revere from a bad job in Houston to work in a carbon research facility. She is being stalked by an ex-boy friend, see Book Review page 5
and, when one of her woman friends and students is murdered, she thinks he might be responsible. Gloria steps in and, using the technical information at her command, solves an elaborate plot.

Though the plots are substantial and engrossing, one of the most appealing features of the Minichino books is their extensive use of detailed scientific information, not merely as background but as data relevant to the solving of the plot. For instance, she writes of a carbon research facility, “Imagine roasting petroleum at about a thousand degrees and getting miniature diamonds for your trouble.”

Also in Carbon, Gloria presents us with such information as, ”A single nanotube can be ten to one hundred times stronger than steel. We demonstrated that these tiny tubes can be opened and filled with a variety of materials, including biological materials.”

These tiny tidbits are embedded in books that provide strong plots, delightful characters, and a pleasurable treatment of the academic milieu. Who would have thought that learning physics could be so much fun.

Stanley Johnson

---

**OBITUARIES**

Emeritus Dean Lee V. Ragsdale, was born December 25, 1912, in Baker City and died March 4, 2004 in Medford. His wife, Elizabeth (“Betty”) preceded him in death in 1998. An obituary for Lee appeared in the *Oregonian* on March 13, 2004. A memorial service was held on March 22 at the Portland First Congregational Church. Contributions may be sent to the Medford School District Athletic Fund, 500 Monroe Street, Medford OR 97501, or to a favorite charity.

After high school, Lee, self-characterized as “just an Eastern Oregon boy,” attended Eastern Oregon College for two years and was student body president. In 1938, he completed a B.S. in physical education at Willamette University and subsequently took M.S. (1952) and D.Ed. (1966) degrees in physical education at the University of Oregon. His professional career began with high-school teaching and coaching in White Salmon and Camas, Washington, at Mt. Angel Prep school in Oregon, before he moved to Medford High School in 1948. From 1952 to 1966 he served as Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health for the Medford School District. In 1966, he came to PSU to head a burgeoning Department of Health and .

*see Obituaries page 6*

---

**RAPS WINETAISING EVENT**

“Geology, Soils and Winemaking in Oregon: A Talk and a Taste”

At 6:00 p.m., February 26 twenty nine RAPS members gathered in the Cascade Room, Smith Memorial Center, to participate in a potluck with an added feature. Geology Professor Scott Burns spoke to the group and explained why Oregon has become a world famous state for the production of fine wines from the pinot noir grape. After discussing all of the factors that contribute to a great bottle of wine, Scott focused on geology and the soils. There are many soils from which to choose, but Oregon vineyard managers favor two soils: the Jory series formed on basalt and the Willakenzie series formed on marine sediments. The “Great Debate” in Oregon winemaking is which soil produces the best pinot noir grapes and henceforth the best wine.

At the end of a very interesting talk, those present had an opportunity to taste wines from each of these soils from the same winemaker, elevation, grape plants, and exposure. The group’s expressed preference for one or the other of the sampled wines was just about evenly divided! Professor Burns has made this presentation to many groups, and he indicated that the RAPS’s split decision was about normal for this exercise.

We are grateful to Professor Burns for sharing his wine and his knowledge with us. It was a great social event and it expanded our appreciation of our state’s wine production.

Victor Dahl
Obituaries continued

Physical Education. Lee became dean of newly-formed School of Health and Physical Education in 1977, and the next year he retired as Dean Emeritus and later moved to Medford.

His public school and university experience gave him state-wide and national recognition as a highly respected, scholarly educator. Many Oregon school districts engaged him as a consultant, and he actively participated in and held office in several national professional organizations encompassing his specialty. Dr. Jack Schendel, who succeeded Lee as dean in 1978, characterized him as a “key player” in advancing the department to School status. Regrettably, budgetary considerations led to amalgamating that School’s function with other academic units in 1992.

In addition to devotion to sports as a participant, coach, and spectator, Lee enjoyed outdoor activities, including golf and fishing for salmon and steelhead. (I can testify from personal experience that he played highly competitive game of handball.) He and Betty traveled widely, and his intellectual curiosity prompted him to be an avid reader.

His daughter, Dana Kramer of Medford; son, Richard of Skillman, New Jersey; two brothers; four grandchildren; and, two great-grandchildren survive him. Many PSU community friends recall Lee with great affection. The University community owes a debt of gratitude for devoted service and significant contributions that consistently exerted positive influence on our academic enterprise.

Victor C. Dahl

JOHN H. WIRTZ IN MEMORIAM

John H. Wirtz, Associate Professor of Biology Emeritus, was born November 13, 1923, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and died December 18, 2003, at home in Hillsboro. His spouse, Felicia, survives him. A memorial celebrating John’s life was held in January at Skyline Memorial Gardens. The Kaiser Hospice or the Leukemia Foundation are suggested as recipients of any remembrances. A full-length obituary appeared in the Oregonian on December 31, 2003.

John’s life and career combined scientific, academic, and cultural pursuits. After military service (1941 to 1945) he attended Illinois Institute of Technology, earned a B.S. in biology (1952) at Loyola University, and finished an M.S. in biology (1954) at the University of Wyoming. John and Felicia worked for five summers as Ranger Naturalists at Crater Lake National Park. They earned Ph.D. degrees in biology at Oregon State University in 1961. In 1957 Dr. Wirtz joined Portland State College as a General Science instructor.

Following that instructional unit’s termination in 1972, John taught Biology until retirement in 1985. Professor Wirtz’s well-organized, thoughtful approach to undergraduate education consistently attracted large enrollments of enthusiastic students. In 1966 he was one of 30 PSC faculty members to receive a Mosser award based solely upon student evaluation of teaching excellence. He received a Danforth Award for excellence in science instruction. He and Felicia traveled extensively, and she assisted him in coordinating a Summer Session study program bringing PSU students to Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan.

They served as volunteers and board members for such cultural activities as the Chamber Music Northwest, Friends of Chamber Music, the Florestan Trio, the PSU Opera and Piano Series, and the Oregon Repertory theater.

In its forested, tranquil setting the Wirtz home displays a special interest in nature and plant life. For many years, he hosted students there, using the grounds as a laboratory for understanding soil layers and other natural phenomena. John maintained a well-equipped workshop for his notable carving and woodworking skills.

John developed many friendships across the campus. He was an original member of the Ferdinand Society and RAPS. We mourn him and miss his company. On behalf of RAPS membership, the governing board sends its heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Felicia, whom we hope we continue to see at our events.

Victor C. Dahl