

Woman speaks on discrimination in Bolivia

By **ANDY TRINCIA**
State and National Editor

Women and Indians in Bolivia are greatly discriminated against and poorly educated, a visiting Bolivian woman said in an interview Friday.

Lucila Mejia de Morales, executive national secretary of the Federation of Peasant Women in Bolivia, has been traveling around the United States for the past two weeks, visiting universities and speaking to women's and Indian groups.

Morales, speaking through interpreter George Giamble, associate director of the Campus Y, said information gained from women's groups here would help her organization's efforts to improve the role of women in Bolivian society.

"I will report back to the federation in Bolivia," she said. "I will talk and share my information, using it to analyze our situation. But I realize we have a different situation in Bolivia than women do in the United States."

Morales' trip to the United States was financed by the Washington, D.C.-based Institute of Policy Studies' Third World Women's Education Project.

Morales comes from the small village of Chiarumau in Bolivia's Aroma province. Coming from a village where all the women were illiterate, Morales left home at age 12 to put herself through school. She completed sixth grade, which is considered an excellent accomplishment for a peasant woman.

Speaking on discrimination, Morales referred to the indigenous peoples of Bolivia, specifically the Quechua and Aymara, the two major tribal groups and languages in Bolivia. Morales, who is trilingual, considers Aymara her first language, Quechua her second and Spanish her third.

"I am very impressed with the educational system and opportunities here," she said. "Here students in universities have their own rooms and cars. The whole system is very impressive and so much easier. Here

you also have lots of automated things where in Bolivia many things are handmade."

Morales said her group was founded five years ago and only recently started to achieve its objectives. One of the group's primary goals is to establish formal education for women.

"Women have no right to education," she said. "It is a social and cultural custom for the woman not to be educated. But in our heads we are equal."

Morales said women were treated as second rate citizens while Indian women were considered third rate. Most women are deprived of basic human and moral rights, she said.

Morales said her organization would like to increase the awareness of the sexual and ethnic discrimination in Bolivia.

"It will be a slow process, and we'll take it step-by-step," she said. "We will keep working until there's no more discrimination."

NEA endorses \$50 million bill to benefit high school dropouts

By **DEVI SEN**
Staff Writer

The National Education Association has endorsed a \$50 million bill, currently being debated in Congress, which will provide local school systems a way to keep high school kids from dropping out.

"The bill has a two-fold purpose," said Howard Carroll, NEA spokesman. "It would provide schools ways to identify potential dropouts and to urge them to keep up in school, and it will encourage young people who have left school to return."

One of the main goals is to keep young people in school, Carroll said. NEA Vice President Keith Geiger said before a Senate Subcommittee on

Education that 25 percent of the nation's 18-year-olds never graduate from high school.

Geiger, who testified in support of the \$50 million Dropout Prevention and Reentry Act, cited a report from the Business Advisory Commission to persuade the Senate to consider the bill.

Carroll said: "The problem with any program is that it will be something new added to each local school program. It isn't a good climate for anything new. The whole mood up here in Washington, D.C., is to cut as much money as possible," he said.

About 700,000 students dropped out of school last year, 300,000 of which were chronic truants, according to the recent Business Advisory Commission

report.

The dropout rate is higher for minorities and the poor. The rate is three to four times higher for children from poor families than for wealthy ones. White students drop out of school one and one-half to two times less than black and Hispanic students.

The NEA has established its own private dropout program, "Operation Rescue," where NEA members allocated \$1.7 million based on a dollar from each member, Carroll said.

"It's in its planning stage now," he said. "It will take a whole year to see if it's going to work in some states."

There are other proposals being considered, he said, but the program would definitely not begin before the 1986-87 school year.

Out of the \$1.7 million dollars, \$700,000 will fund outstanding, locally-developed dropout prevention pro-

grams and \$1 million will go into an on-going fund for the program as a whole, he said.

Carroll said: "Operation Rescue" would provide a counseling service, a program that would bring the family and the school together. The counseling will try and find out what the student's problem is, whether it is the home environment, peers, school environment or drug/alcohol abuse," he said.

Since the NEA is private, the money distributed among the school systems would come from recommendations from NEA affiliates, he said.

Carroll said the money from the government act, if passed, would be handled differently.

"The school district will have to apply for the grants," he said. "There will be basic guidelines, but because of limited funds, it will be based on need."

Committee retains subsidies

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — The House Ways and Means Committee, in a weekend of meetings that could decide the future revision of the federal tax system, voted Saturday to retain most of the tax advantages now used to subsidize construction of low-income housing.

The housing issue is of particular importance in New York City, where officials feared that President Reagan's proposed restrictions on tax-exempt bonds would prevent developers from building apartments for poor people.

news in brief

to his ship, was a stowaway. He was finally carried back to the ship screaming on Friday by eight Soviet seamen.

Patient progress encouraging

PITTSBURGH — Doctors were "very encouraged" Saturday with the progress of artificial heart recipient Thomas Gaidosh, while across the state, in Hershey, Anthony Mandia said that he would like to wait for his human heart at home.

Both men are awaiting human hearts to replace the artificial devices beating in their chests.

Doctors at Presbyterian-University Hospital in Pittsburgh said Gaidosh's progress was "a beautiful example of the marriage between the Jarvik-7 artificial heart and the patient's own physiology."

Whale herding

RIO VISTA, Calif. — California's wandering whale was sighted Saturday 58 miles from the ocean and a task force took to their boats in renewed efforts to herd the giant mammal from the Sacramento River to the open sea.

Marine biologists, fishermen and construction workers took off after the whale — nicknamed "Humphrey" and "E.T." — after he was sighted two miles below the bridge that rescuers forced him to swim under a day before.

Hussein, Arafat showdown

AMMAN, Jordan — King Hussein, increasingly mad at Yasser Arafat, may threaten to drop the PLO chariman from his peace initiative, forcing him to make an unequivocal declaration recognizing Israel and renouncing violence, said Palestinian, Jordanian and Western diplomatic sources.

The showdown is expected today at a scheduled meeting here between Hussein and Arafat.

Russian seaman thrown back

NEW ORLEANS — A Russian seaman apparently seeking to defect to the United States jumped into the Mississippi River and swam ashore but was returned to his ship by federal officials who could not understand what he was saying, U.S. authorities said Saturday.

Border Patrol agents believed the man, who also jumped from a crewboat that later took him back

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U.N. spokeswoman discusses effect of superpower's attitudes

By **JILL GERBER** and **ANJETTA McQUEEN**
Staff Writers

The United States and the Soviet Union give minor weight to multilateral disarmament compared to bilateral disarmament between their two countries, said Inga Thorsson in her public lecture, "History of the Arms Race: A European Perspective" Thursday.

Thorsson, head of the United Nations Department of Social Development, spoke to an audience of about 80 at

Hanes Arts Theater in the Ackland Building to commemorate National U.N. Day.

Thorsson, who served as Swedish undersecretary of state, said her speech was from a neutral European perspective.

"The superpowers tend to regard other countries with indifference except when a particular policy affects them in some way," she said.

She said that the upcoming talks in Geneva had more short-term impor-

importance. However, the need for multilateral disarmament is of long-term importance.

"The world is at a crossroad with the arms race," she said. "Pursue the arms race or end it."

Thorsson said the arms race was both quantitative and qualitative.

One nine-megaton Soviet Poseidon missile could destroy 200 of the nation's largest cities, while a single 24-megaton missile launched from a Trident submarine "could destroy every important city in the Northern Hemisphere," she said.

national economies. The \$900 billion spent on arms is 25 times greater than what wealthy nations spend on fighting hunger, she said.

The United States and the Soviet Union share 62 percent of the world's nuclear expenditures but even the world's richest country, the United States, cannot afford the high expenditure of the Strategic Defense Initiative, or "Star Wars," Thorsson said.

There is distrust and suspicion between the superpowers. There is no political will to disarm and there is a struggle between the powers for military supremacy, she said.

She said the proliferation of nuclear weapons would not disappear in our lifetime.

The lecture was sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and the department of international studies.

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for the record

Thursday's story "New capstone courses to be offered" incorrectly identified the course "Human resources, population and environment" as Biology 94A. The course will be offered as Biology 56 this spring.

Thursday's story "Groups may find unity in CAN" incorrectly identified the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association as the Campus Gay and Lesbian Association.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets these reporting errors.

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