



Friday, March 14, 2003

Author to lecture on the working poor

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

In conjunction with Oakland University's **Women's History Month**, the Student Life Lecture Board welcomes noted author, journalist and social commentator Barbara Ehrenreich to deliver her lecture "Nickel and Dimed: Down and Out in America" on Thursday, March 20, at noon in Varner Recital Hall.

Ehrenreich is an award-winning political essayist, columnist and one of the nation's most insightful social critics. Her commentaries have appeared in Time magazine, The Nation, Harper's, Z Magazine and Mother Jones. She is a Guggenheim Fellow and the author of "Blood Rites: Origins and History of the Passions of War," "The Worst Years of Our Lives: Irreverent Notes from an Age of Greed" (collected essays), "Fear of Falling: The Inner Life of the Middle Class" and "Kipper's Game" (a novel).

In her latest book, "Nickel and Dimed," Ehrenreich writes a different type of memoir by examining the lives of millions of invisible working poor. She explores how people live on the wages paid for unskilled labor and specifically how women forced into the job market by welfare reform would be able to survive on the \$6- to \$7-an-hour jobs generally available to them. To research this topic, Ehrenreich presented herself as an unskilled worker needing to earn a living following divorce. She entered the low end of the labor market and spent one month in three different sections of the country looking for the best-paying unskilled job she could gain and hoped to earn enough money to pay her rent for a second month.

The New York Times Book Review described the book as "valuable and illuminating ... We have Barbara Ehrenreich to thank for bringing us the news of America's working poor so clearly and directly, and conveying with it a deep moral outrage ... She is our premier reporter of the underside of capitalism."

All tickets have been distributed for this lecture. Those without tickets can still view the lecture via a live remote broadcast in the TV lounge in the lower level of the Oakland Center and in Lake Superior Room A in the Oakland Center.

For more information, contact the **Center for Student Activities** at (248) 370-2400 or csa@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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