

Capital Press

The West's **Ag** Website



Home

Subscribe

News

Classified Ads

News Updates

Contact Us

AccuWeather.com
Enter U.S. zipcode or city, state

home : • breaking news : • **DAILY NEWS UPDATE**

Monday, May 14, 2007



Get Forecast

5/9/2007 1:10:00 PM

[Email this article](#) • [Print this article](#)
[Comment on this article](#)

More sustainable agriculture needed, says book author

About the book:

Carlo Petrini is on a tour of the United States promoting his latest book released May 8.

Dan Zinkand
Freelance Writer

Title: "Slow Food Nation: Why our Food Should be Good, Clean and Fair."

Retail price: \$22.50

Publisher: Rizzoli, New York.

A book with a similar title that Petrini co-authored with Alice Waters was released in 2006:

"Slow Food Nation: A Blueprint for Changing the Way We Eat."

Waters is the owner of Chez Panisse restaurant in Berkeley, Calif. Waters is often credited for re-introducing seasonably available food to American cuisine.

PORTLAND - Industrialized agriculture, inexpensive food, obesity and skyrocketing health costs are destructive practices that must be dealt with, said Carlo Petrini, president of Slow Food International, at a speech in Portland on May 8.

Petrini, based in Italy, flew to Oregon from Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss the themes in his most recent book, "Slow Food Nation: Why Our Food Should be Good, Clean and Fair." The book was released the same day.

Petrini and other Italians created Slow Food in 1989, and the organization has grown to about 100,000 members worldwide and 14,000 in the U.S.

Petrini's group often emphasizes that today's food is too fast, too homogenized, places too much emphasis on profit, has too little compensation for farmers and too much environmental damage.

Petrini called for the support of sustainable agriculture that allows the economy and ecology to complement and not conflict with each other.

The movement supports traditional food and culture, healthful eating, conviviality as part of dining and sustainable agriculture, Petrini said.

Petrini relentlessly criticized modern production agriculture in his hour-long presentation, which was interpreted by Corby Krummer, senior editor of The Atlantic Monthly magazine. Krummer also serves on the board of Slow Food USA.

"We wanted this industrial agriculture and it has pretty well destroyed everything," said Petrini.

The production of food should not be defined by quantity and profits, Petrini said. It should include considerations like "poetry, love, friendship, solidarity ... tranquility and sustainability," he said.

"Individually and collectively something has to change in our conception and attitude to life."

People who support Slow Food are not elitists, Petrini said. People have criticized the movement, saying its members and followers want to turn back the clock and that they "are not living in the real world." He disagrees.

The increasing numbers of farmers' markets and community supported agriculture networks and a growing ecological movement shows the Slow Food Nation revolution is well underway in the United States, Petrini said.

People have power and they affect agriculture by what they choose to eat.

[North Washington Implements](#)

[Gunn & Associates Real Estate](#)

[Mulrooney Auction](#)



Readers Advisory Panel



search
Advanced Search

3 FREE ISSUES

- Breaking News
- Daily News Update

- News
- Opinion
- Columns
- Climate Change
- Readers Advisory Panel
- Print Editions
- Photo Gallery
- Special Sections
- Blog
- Podcast
- Orchards, Nuts & Vines
- Oregon Ag In The Classroom Essays

- Multimedia
- Game Center
- Special Features

- Events Calendar
- Auction Calendar

- Classifieds
- New Online Ads Today
- Newspaper Ads
- Place an Ad

- Ag Marketplace
- Farms For Sale

- Links & Information
- About Capital Press
- Archives
- Site Map

- Home
- Feedback
- SUBSCRIBE
- Email Updates

[XML](#)

Newsstand
Readers Log in Here

Subscriber Login:

Zip Code:

Subscriber Number:

Subscriber Number:

Login

Log In Help

"With our choices, with our acts, we can have an influence on the political system," he said.

Petrini was the latest speaker in a lecture series sponsored by the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research in the Northwest, Hawaii and Southeast. Eric Schlosser, who wrote the book "Fast Food Nation: The Dark side of the All-American Meal," was the featured speaker in 2005.

Before Petrini spoke, Mary Durham, director of the Kaiser Permanente Center, said an American diet rich in inexpensive carbohydrates has led to diabetes and other health problems that cost the United States billions of dollars a year.

Food is not the sole problem, she said. Durham criticized U.S. farm policy that subsidizes five main crops - corn, wheat, rice, soybeans and cotton - and produces massive quantities of cheap sugar (high fructose corn syrup) and fats (soybeans meal is fed to livestock and poultry).

"We eat too much. We eat the wrong food," Durham said. "We are sedentary."

Durham noted that Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski was criticized for buying carbohydrate-laden foods when he and his wife recently spent \$21 a week - the amount they would receive in Food Stamps - to call attention to the problem of hunger in Oregon.

Kulongoski, like many poor people, chose these foods because they cost less than healthful foods like fruits and vegetables, Durham said.

Related Links:

- [Slow Food International](#)

Article Comment Submission Form

Please feel free to submit your comments about this article.

We can not guarantee a personal response to all comments left here. If your intent is to submit a letter for publication in Capital Press send it to opinion@capitalpress.com

Article comments are not posted immediately. Each submission must be approved by the website editor, who may edit content for appropriateness.

Note: All information is required. Your telephone number will not appear online.

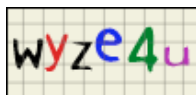
Name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Passcode:

This form will not send your comment unless you copy exactly the passcode seen below into the text field. This is an anti-spam device to help reduce the automated email spam coming through this form.



Please use all lowercase letters.

Message:

Submit

Clear Form