

The Odyssey Project

The Way To A Thriving Public Life

by Kirk Elliott

One way for us all to be safe is to live in gated communities, lock up our houses, and roll up the car windows and lock the car doors when we go out. But doing all that would not make us free-- we'd be locking ourselves up.

Another way to be safe, is to live a thriving public life in which everyone can participate. The key for everyone including low-income people participating, says Earl Shorris in "Riches for the Poor", is to introduce low-income people to the humanities. That's where people can learn reflective thinking, learn to question the way things are, and argue for changes.



Prof. Emily Auerbach

Emily Auerbach, prof. in
continued on page 2, see Odyssey

Odyssey *(continued from p. 1)*

Liberal Studies and Arts and in Continuing Studies at the U.W., is helping to start the Odyssey Project. The project is patterned after Shorris' Clemente Course in the Humanities at Bard College in N.Y. In the Clemente course, people read Socrates, Thomas Jefferson, and Martin Luther King, Jr. and others. "History, religion, philosophy, art, and literature get to the heart of what it is to be a human being, and why we might live our lives differently," says Emily Auerbach.

The Odyssey Project is a sampler course at college level. People will read Socrates and Jefferson and others, "and it's not dumbed down, either," says Emily. The classes will be discussion oriented, with questions and arguing about what's covered. Students who complete the course will get six credits toward a bachelor's degree at the U.W. After completing the course, there are bridge programs at the U.W., there is financial aid, and there is also housing for single mothers.

Classes will be held from Sept. to May, on Weds. evenings 6-9 pm, at the Harambee Center on South Park St. Tuition is free, and books will be provided. Dinner will be provided for participants and their families 5:30-6:00 pm. Child care and transportation will be provided. (Volunteers are needed!) For information and to apply, contact: Emily Auerbach, 608-262-3733, eauebach@dcs.wisc.edu