

oregon daily emerald

An Independent Student Newspaper

Friday, April 13, 1973

Vo. 74, No. 1445

In letter to Clark

Ethnic studies react to restructuring

The recent administrative decision to abolish the supportive service programs at the University prompted the Ethnic Studies committee Thursday to begin drafting a letter to President Robert Clark requesting immediate re-evaluation of the decision.

Graciela Batista, an instructor in the Romance Language department and currently involved in teaching Chicano students who are in supportive service programs, spoke to the committee on how she sees the decision as hurting the minority students.

When the programs were initiated in 1968 they were designed to give the minority students easy access to the faculty and administration so that they could express problems or difficulties they were having within the University structure. "Now they are being

By LAURA BRENNER
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pushed farther back down the ladder," said Batista. The students may go only to their director and he must go through three other levels before the problem finally reaches the president. The students may have no contact at all with the upper levels of administration. "This frustrates the group objectives. It keeps students away from contact with the faculty," commented Batista.

The fact was brought up that these programs are interested in academic achievement and are strongly backed by the student unions which are more politically oriented. If the supportive services programs are eliminated then an important area of minority involvement in the university may be cut out; that of academics.

The reorganization proposals would include initiating cultural and skill centers rather than the service programs. This decision for reorganization was not discussed with any of the student groups involved. "This is typical of the high-handed administration at this university," said Edwin Bingham of the history department. He asked about the possibility that the reorganization was done so that the University could have a better chance for federal funds, however, commented one of the student members of the committee, "HEW said it would fund the supportive service programs if some of the duplicity was eliminated. All they had to do was cut out duplications. But the University is using the reason of federal funds to pass their new program. Besides the state is now funding the program anyway."

"There was no academic case made for reorganization," said Ted Matthes of the Math department. Three Indian groups informed the administration that this structure the administration proposes is not the type the Indians will stay under, "but," commented Agnes Picotte, ex-officio for George Mills, "it doesn't make any difference to anybody."

"If one of the first lessons of ethnic studies is to teach Whites to be sensitive to minority problems and if the first move is to crush the minorities then the lesson wasn't very well learned," stated Batista.

The Ethnic Studies Committee decided to send a letter to the president concerning their disapproval of the new decision and their beliefs that second thoughts should be given to making the decision a reality.



Photo by Steve Tweed

The Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, a nationally known modern dance group, currently in residency in Eugene School District 4J, will make a brief free public appearance in downtown Eugene at noon on Thursday. The Company is in the District teaching, demonstrating, and performing, sponsored by a special grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Oregon Arts Commission. To conclude their visit here, the Company has scheduled a public concert at South Eugene High School for Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for students and will be available at the door or may be purchased at any Eugene school.

Horton, Burks and Allen featured on 'Circus'

A large part of the law enforcement force of Lane County was represented on KZEL-FM's "American Circus" Wednesday evening. The show, hosted by Grattan Kerans, featured Lane County District Attorney Pat Horton, Sheriff David Burks and Eugene Police Chief Dale Allen. Chief Allen said that "in the past 20 years there have been tremendous changes" in the police scene of Eugene. While he would classify most changes as improvements, he cited the "alarming increase in the crime rate in this area" as a discouraging factor.

The subject of issuing citations for marijuana offenders got considerable attention during the one hour discussion. Horton said

that "seven or eight" citations have been issued "in the past few days." He defended the concept of issuing citations for marijuana by pointing out that the change represents a "fairer" way of doing things.

"It's fairer than locking someone up for a weekend because he's a student and has no money for bail," Horton said.

Allen said that his police department is now in the process of moving towards "prevention of crime" as a means of improving conditions in Eugene. He also emphasized the new gains made in the juvenile area and upgrading of police personnel.

Horton clarified a charge made against him that he had made a campaign promise to get rid of

the Lane County Inter-agency Narcotics Team (LINT). During the campaign, Horton said, he had called for the "drastic overhaul" of LINT and that the use of citations and the new concentration on big dealers and hard narcotics is in the spirit of his statement.

On the question of female participation in Lane County's law agencies, each of the show's guests discussed their particular contributions to equality. The sheriff's office has female clerks, the district attorney's office has a woman deputy D.A., and the EPD has recently allowed three female police officers on the force.

In response to a question from
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Shield law signed

SALEM (UPI) — Gov. Tom McCall, a former newsman, has signed an unqualified shield law protecting Oregon reporters from being forced to reveal confidential sources of information.

The law, which takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature, protects newsmen from court orders and other governmental bodies seeking confidential information.

"This is not a shield for reporters," the Republican governor said Wednesday. "It is a shield for the public's right to know."

"I never thought I would have to advance and sign a bill authorizing freedom of the press," McCall added. "I've always believed freedom of the press was assured by the United States and Oregon Constitutions."

"However, the U.S. Supreme Court has said — temporarily, I think — that the United States Constitution does not say what it clearly says."