

Prisoners' Coalition meets, discusses symposium, bills

"We are perfectly legal," stated Scott Moser, director of the Oregon Prisoner's Coalition (OPC) following the remarks, by several OPC members that they had been subjected to enforcement agency surveillance in recent weeks.

During a meeting Monday afternoon in the EMU, OPC members discussed a summer symposium and state senate bills dealing with prison reforms, and analyzed the efforts of local, state, and federal agencies in restricting prisoners to the role of a second class citizen.

The discussion included a review of a symposium to be presented during the summer titled "Prisons and New Concepts." The three-day event will concentrate on the various problems encountered by prisoners during confinement. In addition, panel groups headed by informed persons both favorable and unfavorable toward prison reform will examine problems facing the convict when he is released. The program is scheduled to begin August 1.

Also discussed during Monday's meeting were several bills in the State Legislature concerning Oregon's corrections system.

OPC members noted that three senate bills in particular are an essential means of making the system more responsive and more "rehabilitating."

In essence, SB 376 would reinstate Corrections Division under the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). This action would subject sending a person to solitary confinement for more than 15 days, to the rules of the APA.

A second bill, SB 377, would retroactively revise all sentences imposed prior to the adoption of the revised criminal code, compliant with the new code.

SB 385 makes provisions for an inmate's right to counsel, witness, and testimony to insure due

process by placing the State Board of Parole and Probation under the auspices of the APA.

Further information on these bills or any other legislation pertaining to reforms in the corrections system of Oregon can be obtained by contacting the OPC office, room 312 EMU.

Following the meeting, Moser and Marvin Ryan, coordinator of the law project, answered a number of questions concerning the philosophy, activities, and goals of OPC.

Moser noted that in striving for reforms, the OPC has attempted to work within the system and follow the principles of the democratic process. However, this is not easily accomplished as there are many individuals in all social categories who are obstructing the activities of the OPC and other pro-prisoner, pro-reform groups for a number of reasons.

Ryan, accusing the FBI of harassing and following him in recent weeks, said, "OPC is involved in exposing the other side of the coin. We are attempting to demonstrate to the public what sort of problems prisoners face and that information presently given the public is highly questionable."

In addition, Ryan expressed his opinion that reprisals made by state agencies against prisoners and prison-reform movements were politically inspired and are indicative of a "political attitude represented by the Watergate incident."

Both men agreed that the OPC has been effective as a means of communication between disenfranchised convicts and the average citizen. OPC is constantly exploring new ideas and new methods in achieving their goal of returning prisoners to their rightful place in society.

By FSO members

Elections challenged

Testimony on two complaints questioning the legality of the recent Foreign Student Organization (FSO) constitution ratification and elections meeting was presented to the ASUO Elections Board Monday afternoon.

The two complaints were filed last Wednesday, six days after the FSO meeting, by Towansea Emudianughe and Uyoata Ekandem. Emudianughe and Ekandem as well as other FSO members presented testimony to the Election Board's only member, Fred Loveys.

Ekandem charged that there was "some confusion" when the FSO, by hand vote, defeated an amendment that would have restricted FSO membership to foreign students who did not have immigrant visas. He claimed

that immediately after the vote, which was 34-36, he asked the meeting's chairer, Ranjan Ray, to have another vote to clarify the results but said he was ignored. "It should have been repeated," Ekandem said, to make the election "proper."

Emudianughe also said the vote was improper but for a different reason. He said that anybody, including non-foreign students, could have voted on the constitutional amendment. "They decided to do it (vote on the other constitution amendments) by ballot, so they should have done this by ballot."

Steve Kwan, president of the Chinese Student Association and a member of the FSO elections board that conducted the elections, claimed he was "95 per cent sure" that no Americans had attended the meeting.

The vote on the immigrants amendment came after FSO members had voted by ballot on two amendments concerning the composition of the FSO Executive Council. Pay said he was asked a few moments later by Andries Mellema whether the amendment could be introduced. He said he told Mellema the amendment could be introduced, but indicated that many students had already cast their ballots by then. FSO executive secretary Arshad Pirani said there was "confusion" at that time.

Loveys said he would review the testimony and would submit the report to ASUO Vice President Deborah Barnett, the chief elections officer, who would make the final decision.

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Sunday, May 27, U Theatre
THE UNIVERSITY FILM SOCIETY

NUC
presents



Thur., May 24

COME BACK, AFRICA

COME BACK, AFRICA is a moving drama of Black humiliation in South African society, filmed in secret by Lionel Rogosin in Johannesburg. Winner of numerous international awards, this film shows through the story of one Zulu family, the bitter, frustrating and common drama of life in South Africa. It also captures the vitality and strength of the Africans, and the seeds of revolt in the small ghetto meeting places beyond the reach of the state. "Burning with integrity, it is the most damning indictment of apartheid and the pass system I have ever seen...How long are we going to allow these appalling conditions to exist?" -Mina Hibbitt, DAILY WORKER. "Highest recommendation: Extraordinary film, powerfully dramatic, brilliantly photographed, splendidly played against the explosive background of South Africa." - Jesse Zunker, CUE.

Also, THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES, a documentary on the national liberation movement in Mozambique.

177 Lawrence; 7:00 and 9:15 P.M.

Admission \$1.00

All profits go to movement & community groups

Funds for language classes recommended by committee

The Educational Opportunity Committee met Monday and recommended that University funds be allocated for the continuance of two classes for Spanish-speaking American students.

Myra Willard from Affirmative Action and Perry Powers, head of the romance language department, addressed the five-member committee.

Willard spoke on the problems faced by minority students, and the need for restructuring the University curriculum. According to Willard, "When a minority student comes to class he finds out how the other half, whites, live. European culture is considered the center of knowledge and values. And it just isn't. As long as people are taught that, they are always going to be prejudiced and ignorant. The University is losing a lot that way."

Powers appealed to the committee for a recommendation that the University fund two special minority classes, which were going to be cut due to lack of funds.

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TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY—OUTDOOR RESOURCE CENTER

DOWNSTAIRS IN THE EMU →