

Vera Cruz says UFW has more fights ahead

By JACKMAN WILSON
Of the Emerald

Philip Vera Cruz, 71-year-old second vice president of the United Farmworkers Union (UFW), spoke on campus Tuesday about the past, present and future of the farmworkers' movement.

"The movement today is no longer confined to the benefit of farmworkers," Vera Cruz told the audience of over 100 students. "The farmworkers' movement now embraces everybody."

Vera Cruz explained the struggle for unionization in terms of race and class. Over the years he believes, the movement has transcended itself and has come to represent class problems wherever they exist.

But the farmworkers' movement remains a labor struggle with specific objectives, many far from being achieved. Vera Cruz said the chief problem today is implementing the California law which allows farmworkers to choose their union.

The Teamsters and the growers, Vera Cruz said, are working to sabotage the law. They do this by refusing to allow UFW representatives to go onto their fields to talk to the workers, and by firing workers who support the farmworkers' union.

The UFW has been winning elections, Vera Cruz said, but "winning elections does not guarantee a contract." The only way growers will contract with the UFW is through boycott pressure. "This kind of talk—money talk—the growers understand."



The Teamsters win elections when growers tell their workers "you want to work for the union, go and work for the union," he said. The idea of unionization, Vera Cruz explained, is an abstract concept that is not easily explained to fieldworkers who have no education and are worried about their jobs. "The presence of the moon is the cause of high tides, and the presence of the union is the cause of high wages."

Another way growers work against unionization is by hiring illegal immigrants at low wages. Vera Cruz said these workers are the most difficult to organize since they can be deported if the growers decide they are troublemakers.

In the long run, however, Vera Cruz thinks illegal immigrants strengthen the farmworkers' movement. Some of them stay in the United States, gain citizenship and swell the numbers of the workers. Soon they organize and join the struggle to change the society.

A student told Vera Cruz about the efforts to get non-UFW products off campus, saying that while 75 per cent of the student body voting in a boycott elections supported the effort, the University administration had refused to take action. "What is your advice to us," the student asked, "who are struggling for justice for the farmworkers?"

Vera Cruz said colleges are not democratic institutions, and that violence was not the way to achieve this objective. "There are times you must go forward, there are times you must retreat."

Vera Cruz was born in the Philippine Islands in 1904 and came to the United States in the early '30s. He moved to Delano, California in 1943 and has been a farmworker ever since. In 1965 he helped set up the Agricultural Workers Organiza-

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ASUO may sue board over dormitory issue

The State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) has been charged with illegally spending nearly \$500,000 of excess dormitory revenue gained from student boarders.

In a Tuesday letter to Edward Branchfield, assistant attorney general of the state of Oregon and legal counsel for the board, attorney Robert Ackerman accused the board of violating its own policy in authorizing the use of those monies to construct tennis and handball courts at the University.

By LOIS LINDSAY
Of the Emerald

Ackerman represents the ASUO and seven other plaintiffs in the case. The other plaintiffs have been identified only as dormitory presidents and other individuals representing various campus housing facilities.

Ackerman's letter says his clients have legal grounds for their claim and instructs the board to commence negotiations to rectify the situation. Unless substantial progress is evident within 30 days, a complaint for a declaratory judgment and other litigation will commence.

The plaintiffs base their claim on action taken by the board in October 1969. During a meeting that month, the board authorized the construction of tennis and handball courts south of 15th Avenue from excess dormitory surplus. Eventually, nearly \$430,000 was taken from this fund to finance the project, according to Ackerman.

Although the Oregon State Emergency Board of Legislature approved construction of the facility on June 19, 1970, the plaintiffs claim that approval had qualifications. The approval stipulated that the project would be funded by bonds repaid by student fees, they say.

The legal basis for the student's claim is fourfold according to Ackerman's letter. The document claims the state board exceeded the authority specified in Article XI F (1) of the Oregon Constitution in utilizing the unpledged net revenues from the dormitory system to finance the facility.

The plaintiffs say the board acted contrary to state law ORS 351.160 in using the dormitory reserves to construct a facility of

"dissimilar use and character" from the dorms.

This statute authorizes construction of facilities only from "...obligated revenues of buildings or projects of a like character."

The student plaintiffs also claim they deserve recompense because the tennis and handball courts have been primarily utilized for instructional and recreational purposes for all students, staff and the general public.

They say the dormitory residents have no priority in using the facility.

According to ASUO Pres. Jim Bernau, a survey of actual usage of the facility shows that it is basically utilized for instructional purposes. He did not, however, have the exact statistics to substantiate the claim.

The plaintiffs say the state board has further violated its own policy in that it has not complied with section 70.125 of its administrative regulations. This section of the rules provides that the costs of facilities utilized for educational and other purposes be pro-rated.

This would require that the board instruct that costs of the facility come from instructional funds as well as dorm reserves proportionate to actual usage. This has not been done.

Ackerman's letter says the board can avoid litigation on the issue by replenishing the dormitory reserves and pro-rating costs in accordance with administrative regulation 70.125. But if "substantial progress" is not evident within 30 days, a complaint for declaratory judgment and other relief will be commenced.

According to Bernau, the complaint has already been drafted. He says other relief might constitute reinstatement of the money and interest and payment of damages.

"But we're not taking any legal action now. We're waiting to see if they're willing to negotiate."

Bernau says he is unable to speculate on how the board will respond. "Based on past performance of the state board staff, it would be very difficult to predict anything they're going to do."

When contacted by the *Emerald*, attorney Branchfield refused to comment. He said he has not yet received a copy of the letter from Ackerman.

Music school first to air live concert programs

The University Music School has become the first in the nation to regularly broadcast live performances from its concert hall. The Beall Concert Series—two to three concerts a week—is broadcast by the University's radio station, KWAX 91.1 FM.

The concerts feature performances by music school faculty, guest artists, large ensembles and advanced degree students. Concerts are at 8 p.m. unless otherwise announced, and schedules are available on request from KWAX.

The series is produced jointly by KWAX-FM and the University Music Society (UMS).

The idea for the series came from a January 1975 conversation between Richard Koehler, assistant to the music school dean and director of field instruction services, and Karen Kammerer, then KWAX music director.

"We were talking about recording and broadcasting," said Koehler, "and just couldn't believe we hadn't any opportunities (for that) here. Karen and her engineers discovered that we already had an AM line drawn from here to

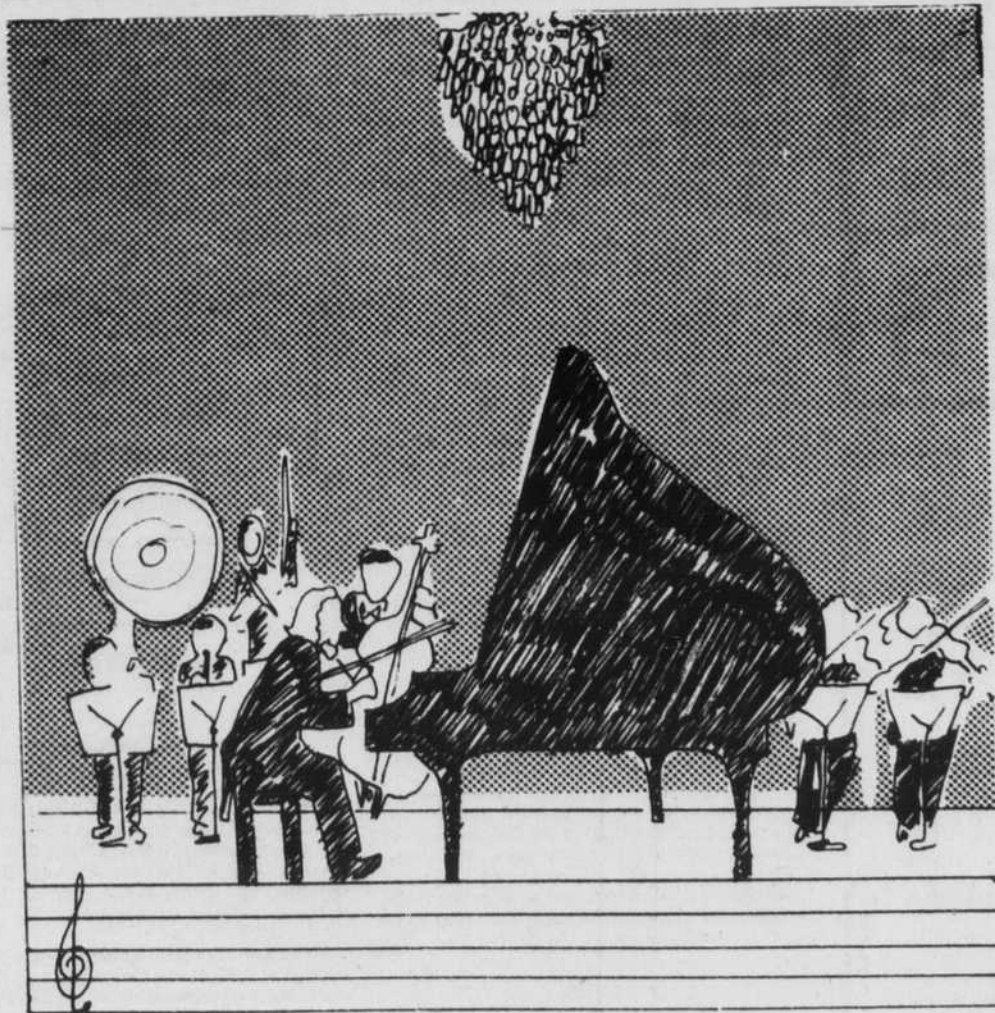
KWAX—all we needed was a second line for stereo."

No action was taken by the 1975 session of the Legislature as Koehler and the music school were busy lobbying for new building and renovation funds. During that time, however, Associate Dean Royce Saltzman (then acting dean) learned of and became interested in the idea.

The series had approval, but still needed funding. During fall term, the music school—through Koehler—successfully asked the Oregon Mother's Club to donate \$1,800 and KWAX asked for \$2,300 from the Eugene city room tax fund. The resultant \$4,100 paid for special wiring and stereo equipment in Beall Hall, and the installation of the second broadcast line between Beall and the KWAX studios in Villard Hall.

The series began January 16 with the live broadcast of the music school's University Centennial Celebration potpourri concert. Harris, KWAX music director, is the series producer, and is assisted by

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Graphic by JoAnn Fahlgren