

Fund-raising films draw a line of campus groups

By DANE CLAUSSEN
Of the Emerald

The Sufi Circle, Ananda Marga Society, New American Movement, "Con Pop Film Soc," Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America and May Day Cultural Committee all have something in common — they all show films on campus.

But that's where any similarity ends.

The Sufi Circle — a "religion, for lack of a better word," according to one member, shows films as one of their main funding source.

The circle, which donates its film profits to Sufi groups, Oxfam, and other non-profit organizations and events, shows "good" films that have received considerable critical acclaim, according to Zamyot Kirby, a member of the group.

"We draw the line at movies that are totally frivolous ... say R-rated ... or have sexual transgressions."

The group is showing an R-rated movie this spring, but it makes a point about war — "its lack of desirability," says Kirby.

Profits for "My Brilliant Career," shown early this month, were about \$300, Kirby says.

Shyam Sundar, a non-student involved with the Ananda Marga Society, says that although the society, an "international socio-spiritual organization," tries to select movies that are profitable, money is not the only consideration.

The Society, a group that primarily "teaches the practices of meditation and yoga" and currently boasts about 15 members, donates its profits to social causes such as children orphaned in the 1977 Guatemala earthquake and local activities such as "food recycling."

"We don't give movies that are R-rated or X-rated. We like to show at least a few films that are inspiring, uplifting," Sundar says.

"The movies aren't a thing we use to promote our group. They're just to support activities," Sundar says.

Movie patrons occasionally ask what the group is, but "most just come to see movies," he says. However, the group did pass out a leaflet at its movies at the beginning of the year explaining what the group is and how it uses its profits from films, says Sundar.

All income from movie ticket

sales must be deposited in an appropriate EMU account, University department account, or a Trust Fund Account, according to EMU guidelines.

Trust fund accounts hold money for recognized and registered organizations whose "activities are outside the business" of the EMU.

Questions of profits "going into students' pockets" were a reason for the establishment of the trust accounts, says Jan Clark of the EMU Cultural Forum.

Any "student group" — defined as having at least three members who attend the University — approved by the Student Administrative Board and filed with EMU administration — is eligible to show films, according to Clark.

The New American Movement also selects films to show by balancing quality and profitability of the movies, says member Tony LeMay.

LeMay's group is part of a national "democratic, socialist, feminist" organization, LeMay says. Half of its 12 members are students.

Labor unions, strikes, nuclear protests, and abortion rights action, are major concerns of the New American Movement, LeMay says.

It shows films that "are not offensive to anyone," he says.

The group would like to show more educational films, but since they "lose money," the group won't until it can afford to, LeMay says.

"Con Pop Film Soc" is an "acronym for Contemporary Popular Music Studies Program Film Society," says Paul Friedlander, a professor at the University's music school.

An "adjunct to the program at the School of Music," the society shows only film series of The Beatles or The Rolling Stones, says Friedlander, who teaches a "history of Rock in five parts — everybody from Elvis Presley to New Wave."

The society compiles "fairly rare clips and puts them together in a showing," he says.

Profits go for music books held on "reserve" in the library, films to show to classes, and to perpetuate the film series, Friedlander says.

Unlike the other groups showing films, "we stick to our subject," says Robert Guitteau of the Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America.

"We don't bring commercial films," Guitteau explains. The council's annual film series

"sticks to the purposes of the council."

"We've done our best to bring films of variety but the film industry in Latin America is not booming," Guitteau says.

The May Day Cultural Committee shows only one or two films per term, according to Albert Szymanski, a member of the group and University sociology professor.

The group, described by Szymanski as a "progressive organization," prefers to show "progressive films that will result in a little bit of money," he says.

The Committee attempts to show films that are both educational and entertaining, Szymanski says.

The organization uses profits primarily to sponsor forums at the University such as one two weeks ago to protest the Reagan Administration's economic policies, he says.

Profits average about \$100 per film, Szymanski says, but the organization "has been known to lose a lot of money on a film."

The Young Women's Christian Association, Alpha Kappa Psi, English Graduate Student Advisory Council, and other organizations also occasionally show films on campus.

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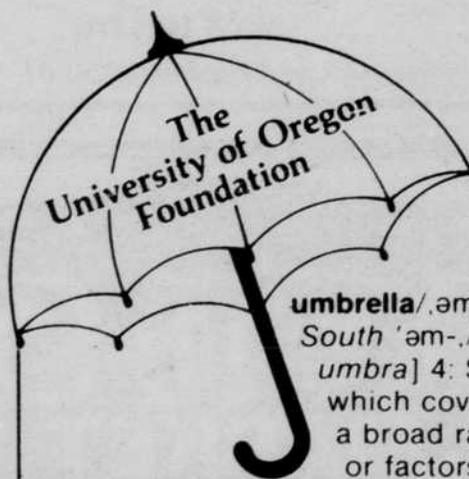
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