

'Recruitment' by Moonies concerns administrators

By Joan Herman
Of the Emerald

This is the third in a four-part series examining the Unification Church.

University administrators are responding cautiously, although openly, to plans by the Unification Church to use videomobiles in spreading the word of Rev. Sun Myung Moon to students on campus.

The controversial church's recent move to Eugene is part of a national three-year drive to educate people about Moon's Unification movement, says its Oregon Director Matthew Morrison. In Oregon, the Unificationists — or Moonies, as they are popularly known — are focusing on the two major college towns, Corvallis and Eugene, because young adults are more receptive to the church's teachings, Morrison says.

This concerns University officials, as well as parents.

Although University administrators don't want to overreact to the church's plans, "that doesn't mean we're not very concerned they've targeted the University," says acting dean of students Shirley Wilson.

Wilson's and other administrators' concerns are evidenced by their quick actions taken immediately after they learned the Unification Church's schemes to come to Eugene.

Within a week of learning about the move Wilson had organized a meeting with representatives from various University groups, including legal and public relations officials, students and EMU supervisors, to discuss how to handle the sensitive issue.

The group unanimously decided to "treat the church with an open hand, yet inform students," and make the Unificationists abide by University regulations just like any other organization, Wilson says.

For example, organizations are allowed in campus public areas, as well as in public buildings. Yet they do not have a right to disrupt classes or enter dormitories and other living quarters, Wilson says. If any organization were to break these rules, immediate action would be taken to rectify the situation, which could mean banning an organization from campus.

In addition, Wilson sent a letter to all faculty members, resident assistants and student counselors, informing them about the Moonie's plans.

Wilson then placed a half-page advertisement in the Emerald titled "Learn To Be A Questioner."

The bright yellow ad warned students to be wary of overly friendly and zealous strangers who invite them to dinners or workshops. It explained the "two

basic principles for brainwashing," and cautioned students to question people who are vague about identifying the organization with which they are affiliated.

Although the ad never mentioned the words "Unification Church" or "cults," Wilson says she decided to place the ad after learning about the Unification Church's plans. She hopes the ad discreetly informs students of not



'Look...with great care...before you join any proselytizing group'
— Pres. Olum

'I don't care who it is, they have a right to be here'
— Kevin Kouns

just the Moonies but of similar organizations, as well.

Brochures containing information identical to the ad's are available at the ASUO office and the Office of Student Affairs.

In his annual address to new students Sept. 19, University Pres. Paul Olum referred to the Moonies, and cautioned students not to let themselves be "pressured into anything without adequate thought, consideration and discussion."

Olum told the students his remarks did not specifically concern the Moonies, but many groups which may be interested in recruitment.

"You are away from home and from the people with whom you can usually discuss these matters. I urge you most strongly to look at these issues with very great care before you join or commit yourself to any proselytizing group," Olum said.

Because the University is a public institution, the Unification Church has a legal right to speak on campus, Olum said. "The laws of free speech permit it."

If the University were to take any actions to remove such an organization, it could be sued, says law Prof. Peter Swan, Olum's legal advisor.

Student government is taking a similar stance to the administrators'. Vice President Kevin Kouns says one of his major concerns is that the church's freedoms of speech and civil liberties rights be observed.

"I don't care who it is," Kouns says, "they have a right" to be here.

"Students fought for the free speech platform and have long fought for their rights. It's real important for that to be maintained," he says.

Yet if students feel their rights have been infringed upon by an organization, the ASUO has a student advocate who can be reached through the ASUO office, Kouns says.

Not everyone agrees the University should allow the Unification Church on campus. Because the church has been accused of allegedly brainwashing its followers, deceiving them about the group's true identity and preventing them from leaving, some people say the church has no place on college campuses.

"I think the (Unificationists) are bad news and I don't think they should be allowed on college campuses any more than the American Nazi Party should be on college campuses," says Helen (not her real name), whose daughter was involved briefly with the Unification Church.

Administrators "stop other things from being on campus," she says. "You can't have a nudist colony on campus."

Helen says the Moonies deceived her daughter about their real affiliation when they urged her to join the "Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles," which Helen and others knowledgeable about the church, say is a front organization for the church. CARP, which is located at several large universities across the nation, is used to lure unsuspecting students into Moon's group, Helen says.

Wilson admits that if "we could keep one person out of the Moonies who doesn't want to be there, we will do anything they can." Yet unless a student's rights are violated or a University regulation is broken, University officials will do nothing else.

"We have the highest respect for students' abilities to make voluntary choices," Wilson says. "We just ask that they get all the information they can about an organization" before joining it.

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