

## Student seeks help in financial aid suit

By Doug Nash  
Of the Emerald

A University student says she will seek the help of the American Civil Liberties Union to retrieve the \$3,200 in financial aid she was denied for refusing to sign a selective service form.

Melissa Barker, a 26-year-old graduate student in sociology, says she refuses to comply with the federal Solomon Amendment "on the basis of conscience." The amendment requires all students receiving federal financial aid to certify they registered with the Selective Service or are exempt from having to register.

All males at least 18 years of age and born after 1959 must register for the draft.

As a woman born prior to 1959, Barker says she was unfairly targeted by the amendment.

"It (the Solomon Amendment) is having an impact on a class who were never intended to be punished or impacted," Barker says.

She is also bothered by the University's agreement to enforce the law.

"I would hope that the University would show some integrity and say we are not going to be the enforcement arm of the defense department," she says. "I find that frightening from the standpoint of academic freedom."

Associate Provost Gerard Moseley, however, says there is "very little the University can do" other than follow the

amendment's provisions.

"We can't do anything except abide by the law," he says.

Barker, who was denied \$2,400 in work study and \$800 in a guaranteed student loan, says she will seek the assistance of the local ACLU chapter.

And Dave Fidanque, head of Eugene's ACLU branch, says his organization is prepared to help.

"By having refused to sign the Solomon Amendment statement on registration for reasons of conscience, she is denied financial aid by the federal government," Fidanque says. "The ACLU would question whether there is a constitutional obligation on the part of the University to then pick up the financial aid directly."

That obligation comes from Article One, Section Three of the Oregon Constitution, which states "No law shall in any case whatever...interfere with the rights of conscience." Fidanque says there has been no litigation under the provision.

"You've got a woman who could never be drafted," says campus ACLU Director Tom Birkland. "She was punished because she chose to exercise her rights."

Fidanque adds it would be useless to attack the amendment on federal grounds, as there is already just such a case pending before the U. S. Supreme Court.

The case originated in Minnesota, where the American Civil Liberties Union and a public interest group are suing



Photo by Dave Kao

Melissa Barker, a University graduate student in sociology, refused to sign a selective service form and has lost all federal financial aid.

the selective service system and the Department of Education.

But local ACLU officials believe Barker presents an opportunity to attack the amendment on state grounds.

"The reason we'd be doing this is to use it as a test case," Birkland says. "We might be able to void what's happening in Oregon under the Oregon Constitution."

"If it were a state financial aid program it would be clear-cut," Fidanque notes. "But it's a federal program administered by the state and that's where it

gets fuzzy.

"I personally think it's something that deserves some research and review by our attorneys."

Barker says she was fortunate to be able to continue at the University at all.

"It's a luxury for me to be able to object and to be able to follow my conscience. There are people I know who want to object but the punishment (losing all federal financial aid) makes them unable to do so."

Barker says she has managed by cutting her course load from

12 to three credit hours this term and using the money she saved last summer for school. Still, much of the reading and conference work she is presently engaged in will not appear on her transcript, she says, because she is unable to afford formally registering for the courses.

"I'm basically eating a lot of macaroni and waiting until January when I will evaluate whether I can continue," she says.

"Personally I hope that my aid is restored. I want to continue at the University of Oregon."

## Moonies, traditional Christians debate Scriptures

By Joan Herman  
Of the Emerald

A debate between a Unification Church representative and a Christian minister elicited criticisms from both sides, as each offered conflicting — and sometimes heated — interpretations of "God's Word."

The debate was filmed by Cable 11 Television, a local public access station which airs noncommercial programs produced by Eugene community members. The debate's creator, John Guardino, produced the program to inform the public about the religious differences between Rev. Sun

Myung Moon's controversial Unification Church and traditional Christian churches. The debate will air sometime between Oct. 16-22, Guardino said.

Although the Unification Church, or Moonies as they often are called, claim to be a Christian church, Calvary Chapel minister

George Bryson attacked the church's belief in Rev. Moon as a "messiah" come to finish Jesus Christ's work on earth and repeatedly accused Moonies of misinterpreting the Bible.

"The trouble with groups like the Unification Church is they say they like Christ and then they go around contradicting everything he stood for," said Bryson, who hosts a weekly radio program, *Scripturally Speaking*.

"Substantial differences" between the Unification Church and traditional Christian churches include the Moonie's belief that God erred in having Christ crucified before his spiritual message was communicated; that communism is an earthly agent of Satan; and that Moon will usher in a newer, healthier world.

"Moon's 'healthy' world would be sicker than the unhealthy one today," Bryson said beneath glaring lights and television cameras. "There are thousands of people claiming to be messiahs today. But the New Testament says the same Christ will return to save us. The word 'messiah' is applied exclusively to Jesus Christ and no one else," he told about 20 people, most of whom were Moonies.

Yet the Unification Church's Oregon Director, Matthew Morrison, defended his church's belief that Rev. Moon is a modern

messiah offering a Christian counterproposal to communism's "anti-Christ movement."

"America is called upon by God to be a champion for Christianity and Christianity must understand the threat of atheistic communism. We are fools if we don't respond to this threat," Morrison said.

Yet, ironically, Bryson said, the Moonies want to design a world very similar to the communistic one they vehemently oppose.

"There is a big snow job because if I hear Rev. Moon right, he wants to take over the world, he wants to rule under his rule. And not only does he want to do that, but he wants to replace Christianity," he said, citing the Unification Church's principle text, *The Divine Principles*, as stating "Christ must go." When Morrison denied the claim, Bryson retorted that the *Divine Principles* must have been "revised substantially."

During breaks while a television crew inserted more film into the cameras, Morrison and Bryson continued to discuss their respective churches' differences. Near the program's end, audience members posed questions and several Moonies used the opportunity to explain the spiritual guidance they had received from their church.



Photo by Dave Kao

A debate between a Christian minister and a representative of the Unification Church was filmed Tuesday night by Cable 11 Television.