



Students form peace circle

A peace parade kicked off this week's "week of education," attracting about 100 marchers and several counter-protesters.

The paraders gathered at the University Bookstore and marched down 13th Ave. to the EMU courtyard to the beat of drums and chants. They carried signs calling for an end to the arms race and towed a "dragon" float.

As the parade made its way through campus, onlookers lined both sides of the street and a crowd of more than 100 gathered to watch the procession pass the free speech area to the EMU courtyard.

At the free speech area, counter-protesters met the paraders, chanting "freeze today, fry tomorrow" and "peace through strength," advocating the continued construction of nuclear weapons.

The protesters remained there for about half an hour. The parade inaugurated a week of activities co-sponsored by Students for a Nuclear Free Future and the Faculty Arms Control Group. The events are part of a nationwide event occurring in more than 700 campuses and cities.

Photo by Brian Erb

Panel stresses island's history in judging policy

By Melissa Martin
Of the Emerald

People must understand Grenada's history if they want to correctly judge Pres. Ronald Reagan's Caribbean policy, agreed members of a newly-formed faculty group opposed to U.S. action in the island nation.

"There has always been a fear in Grenada of U.S. invasion," said Ed Ferguson, Oregon State University history professor and one of the panel members in Monday's discussion sponsored by Faculty Against Intervention in Central America.

Three weeks ago no one knew how to pronounce the name of the tiny nation, which measures 13 miles in length and has a population of 110,000, Ferguson said.

U.S. marines moved into Grenada after its leader Maurice Bishop was assassinated and his government overthrown.

In just three years, the Bishop government had reduced unemployment in Grenada from 49 to 13 percent, increased health care programs, provided housing loans for working people with small incomes, created social security for the aged, and done away with racism toward blacks, said Ferguson.

"Women had equality and absence of sexual harassment for the first time in Grenada," he said.

But the United States always was opposed to Bishop, Ferguson said. Americans supported the corrupt dictatorship of Sir Eric Garry that was set up after Grenada's 1974 independence from Britain, he said.

During Garry's regime, elections were rigged, the economy stagnated and the army — called "Green Beasts" by the people — terrorized the Grenadian population.

Finally, the New Jewel Movement, a group of middle-class black youths led by Bishop, "formed an armed ring" and staged a bloodless coup in 1979, Ferguson said.

"But it was not a utopia," Ferguson said of Bishop's new government. Serious problems remained, including slow elections, a stifled press and political prisoners.

"The United States didn't want a repetition of Cuba. It was a long-standing policy in the United States to reverse that revolution," Ferguson said. The administration refused to provide arms to Grenada and tried to block loans from Britain and the international monetary fund, he added.

"The events last week gave the United States the opportunity to carry out a scenario that had actually been in the books for several years," Ferguson said.

That scenario was a picture the United States painted in 1981. The administration planned to rescue Americans in Grenada and replace Bishop's revolutionary government with a "democracy," Ferguson said.

But the United States couldn't complete the plan because Bishop was a popular leader who was supported by the surrounding Caribbean countries, he said.

"Why did the United States wait until Oct. 25 to carry out the invasion?" Ferguson asked rhetorically.

He gave a possible answer: When Bishop was killed Oct. 19, support for the revolutionary government decreased and the doors opened for the administration to follow through with a plan it had rehearsed years ago.

People must also realize the United States used Grenada as a public opinion vehicle to see if similar action could be taken in Nicaragua, panel member and Sociology Prof. Joan Acker said.

U.S. involvement in Nicaraguan politics could be dangerous for this country, she added.

"I think the American people need to realize we would be getting into a long, bloody, disgraceful war if we get into the Nicaragua revolution. They are better prepared than Grenada," Acker said.

Board members meet 'informally'

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

Five student members of the EMU Board met at a campus-area apartment Sunday night to discuss the status of "Footnotes" and OSPIRG as well as the formation of specific guidelines regarding EMU lease holders.

The members did not vote on any issues, but decided to recommend to the board House Committee that OSPIRG not be charged rent and that Footnotes should pay for its space in the building.

The group decided to compare the rent and occupied space of Sooters, a hair-styling business located near Footnotes, to the student service business to determine what might be a fair amount of rent to charge.

The board also discussed whether state law required them to put space up for open bid when a contract expired. The connection between state law and leases remained unclear so the group decided to make no decisions or recommendations Sunday to carry to the Board.

Each member agreed to further research the current rental practices and bring personal recommendations to the next House Committee meeting.

The board members concluded the meeting by establishing the agenda for the next House Committee meeting.

Also emerging from the meeting is a question of whether the meeting violated Oregon public meetings statutes.

"The Oregon form of government requires an informed public aware of the deliberations and decisions of governing

bodies and the information upon which such decisions were made," according to the statutes. "It is the intent of ORS 192.610 to 192.690 that decisions of governing bodies be arrived at openly."

A governing body is "the members of any public body which consists of two or more members, with the authority to make decisions for or recommendations to a public body on policy or administration," according to the statutes.

Further, "Meeting means the convening of a governing body of a public body for which a quorum is required in order to make a decision or to deliberate toward a decision on any matter..."

Another statute pertinent to the issue states: "No special meeting shall be held without at least 24 hours notice to the members of the governing body, the news media which have requested notice and the general public..."

Dan Cohen, chair of the EMU Board and the original host of Sunday's meeting, says the members did not consider the discussion a meeting because only five members of the 11-person EMU Board were invited.

"I certainly did not consider it a meeting when I invited the people over," Cohen said.

However, a note posted above Cohen's desk in the ASUO Executive Suite Friday invited five board members and "anyone else who's interested" to an "informal meeting" to be held in Cohen's apartment "to discuss OSPIRG and Footnotes."

The question of whether the board members technically violated the open meeting laws is unclear even to experts.

The uncertain interpretation centers on

whether the group constituted a quorum of some form.

Board member Marc Spence, who also attended the meeting, said they were careful to restrict Sunday's attendance to five members because it would not constitute quorum of the EMU Board.

However, the business discussed had been assigned to a subcommittee of the board's House Committee.

The final make-up of the sub-committee has not been determined, Spence said. But the House Committee is composed of four members and can be expanded to five to include the chair if the chair so decides, he said.

But board and house committee member Frank Geltner, the assistant director of University programs, said he thought the members invited to the meeting composed the subcommittee.

Three of the four members of the House Committee as well as Cohen were at the Sunday meeting.

If a majority of the committee or subcommittee was present and discussed business pertinent to either committee, the members violated the law, according to John Reuling of the attorney general's office.

Because the number of members on each committee is undetermined, the question of a quorum being present is ambiguous. However, it appears the members violated the spirit of the law, according to Dave Bennett of the Oregon Newspaper Publisher's Association.

But Spence says, "We weren't intending to violate even the spirit of the law, but rather accomplish some goals."