

University hosting international tour group

The Folklore and Ethnic Studies Program at the University is again hosting a group of international scholars, journalists, cultural center directors and artists who are participating in the "Regional Culture in the United States" program.

The program is a national tour established to promote

greater understanding and communication between Americans and their colleagues abroad. The program gives international scholars a glimpse into the United States by studying the country first-hand through visits to America's regional and folk cultures.

The visit to Eugene, which began Sunday, marks the third

consecutive time since the program's inception that this University has been chosen to host the group. The strength of the University faculty and the success of the previous visits were praised by former visitors who singled out the Eugene portion of the tour as the highlight of their trip.

Folklorist Sharon Sherman and ethnic studies specialist Ed Coleman, co-directors of the Folklore and Ethnic Studies program, will emphasize the traditional aspects of Northwest culture during the foreign visitors' four-day stay in Eugene. Sherman and Coleman are both on the English faculty.

This year's participants come from 17 different countries. They will be accompanied by three representatives from the Department of State.

Upon arrival, the group was toasted at a faculty reception.

Their program opened with viewings of locally produced films, which will introduce them to the crafts, cultures and occupations of the Pacific Northwest.

During their stay, they will inspect lava flows on the way to Sisters, where they will visit with wood sculptor and carver "Skip" Armstrong, whose work is well-known in galleries throughout the West.

A trip to the Oregon coast will feature a stop at quilt-maker Kathleen Ware's home and a meeting with author Ken Kesey, who has invited the group to his coast residence.

Informal lectures by members of the Folklore and Ethnic Studies faculty will be supplemented by presentations on such topics as Native American culture by Vanessa Brown and

the development of American popular music by local vocalist-keyboardist Steven Jaye.

Other topics will include cattle drives, ethnic diversity in the region, immigrant communities and distinctive occupations, such as ranching, logging and fishing and their international dimensions. A trip to the Fifth Street Public Market and the University Bookstore will round out the Northwest portion of the tour.

The group visited New England, the Deep South, the Midwest and Southwest before arriving in Eugene. Their trip will conclude in Los Angeles. The U.S. Information Agency and the National Council for International Visitors are the national sponsors for the program, which was organized by the University of Mississippi's Center for Southern Culture.

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Apartheid

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South Africa, not any issues of morality," Morris says.

In fact, 92 of the 110 major foreign companies in South Africa recently signed a statement asking the government to initiate reforms, Morris says. Some foreign companies have jumped ship, but Morris believes this is a cop-out.

"They should stay there and pressure for equal wages, insurance, housing and opportunity in education. Are they going to be responsible or turn their backs and run?"

He views his father's company, which refurbishes 40-gallon drums, as a model.

"He fired his white manager who wouldn't allow the blacks to rise" into higher positions within the company, he says.

Morris' father also has learned how to circumvent the oppressive governmental standards. He constructed a fortress with the 40-gallon drums, the center serving as a hiding place for black workers dodging police during passbook check raids.

Internal change in South Africa will be a product of external pressure, Morris says.

In this vein, he applauds the ASUO for their efforts in an eight-year divestment battle with the Oregon Investment Council and State System. The ASUO lost the lawsuit last December and now is in the appeals stage. However, Morris believes a different approach might prove more effective.

He suggests a plan that would appeal to a large part of the student body.

"Ideally we could invite (Nobel Prize winner) Desmond Tutu and (the Rev.) Jerry Falwell to speak here on campus and make it a West Coast event, then announce a boycott of the products from the most abusive U.S. companies in South Africa."

A worried look crosses Morris' expressive face as he considers South Africa's future.

"The government is just putting out fires

now," he says. "A lot of blacks are embracing violence (and) feel there is no other option."

The state of emergency instigated by the South African government is perpetuating the violence that has resulted in hundreds of deaths, Morris believes.

A revolution would cause a major migration of whites, taking with them their money and skills, Morris says.

'The true pronunciation of apartheid is 'apart-hate.' All black South Africans want you to say it the correct way because that is exactly what it is — apartness with hatred.'

— Tony Morris

"If there was a revolution tomorrow, I'm afraid the U.S. government would side with the whites. The U.S. is run by corporate interests," he says.

The United States should instead play a positive role, such as offering political asylum to white South African youths who refuse to enter the military, Morris says.

He also advocates strong international pressure on Botha to sit down and talk with black leaders about power sharing. And distribution of power, land and resources must begin with equal education for blacks, he says.

Morris has a vision for South Africa — he would like to return in 20 years to find the country governed by blacks.

"The longer this is delayed, the worse it will be for whites. It should have changed yesterday."

"The black leaders are sensible — they realize the whites have a contribution to make," he says.

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