



University graduate
promotes first novel
See Page 13

Oregon Daily Emerald

Thursday, April 2, 1987

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 88, Number 93

Students ask court to prevent OSPIRG from receiving funds

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

Three University students asked the ASUO Constitution Court on Wednesday to place a permanent injunction against the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group, questioning the legality of some of the group's political activities.

James Randall, former Incidental Fee Committee chairman; Laura Romano, EMU Board member; and Ron Munion, IFC and EMU Board member, submitted a petition to the court asking it to "order" ASUO President Steve Nelson to recommend to the State Board of Higher Education that OSPIRG be denied incidental fee money. They also asked the court to prohibit the IFC from allocating those funds.

In addition, the petitioners asked the court to prevent the EMU Board from providing OSPIRG with rent-free office space in the EMU. They also asked the court to prohibit OSPIRG from referring to itself as the Oregon Student Public Interest Group, OSPIRG or any name similar to that of the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group.

"OSPIRG is as much a political group as the Democrats," Randall said, saying that according to a 1985 state attorney general opinion, politically partisan groups cannot receive incidental fees.

But Maureen Kirk, OSPIRG State Board of Directors chairwoman, said OSPIRG is not affiliated with any organized political ideology and therefore is not a partisan group.

OSPIRG is in accordance with state law as mandated by the attorney general's office and has actively made sure it has been acting within the law, she said.

"The attorney general's decision says incidental fee money cannot be used to fund ballot measure campaigns," she said, which includes supporting ballot measures out of the EMU office. OSPIRG does not conduct these activities with incidental fees and is therefore in compliance with the law, she said.

Randall was involved in an attempt last fall to place a similar injunction against the group's funds. While OSPIRG's funds were frozen for a short time, the court decided to lift the temporary injunction but gave Randall 10 days to formally request a second hearing. Randall did not do so because he wanted time to form a stronger case, he said.

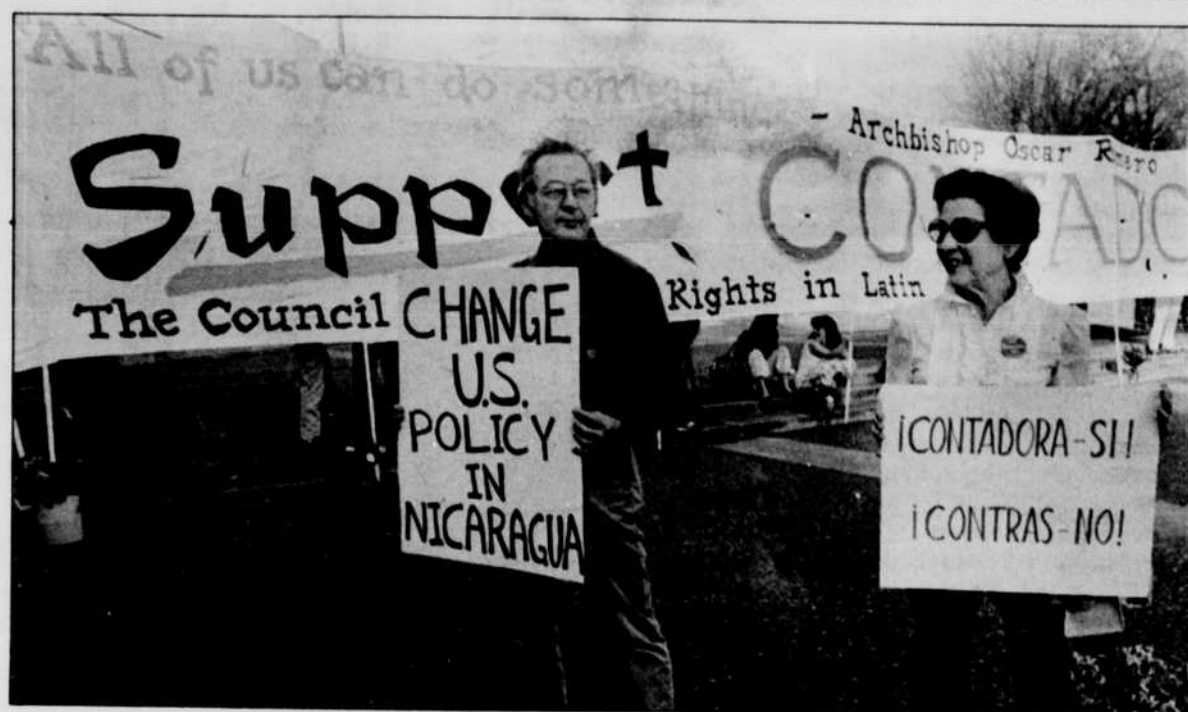
He has spent the last several months helping a third-year University law student research the case and form a strictly legal argument against OSPIRG's funding, he said.

Kirk said she wasn't surprised by the petition, but was surprised at its timing.

"This seemed to be laid to rest with the Constitution Court decision in the fall," she said.

She said part of the confusion stems from Oregon

Turn to OSPIRG, Page 8



Rallying for peace

D.W. Whitman (left) and Martha Robbins demonstrate in support of the Contadora peace treaty Wednesday in front of a banner made from 10 bed sheets. The demonstration was part of a rally at the Federal Building in downtown Eugene to support the treaty, which supporters say will bring peace to Central America.

Photo by Sherlyn Bjorkgren
See related story, Page 6

Legislators' concerns threaten plan to switch from quarters to semesters

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

The plan to change state colleges and universities from the quarter system to semesters might be postponed or dropped unless higher education officials can satisfy concerns being voiced by a handful of Oregon lawmakers.

In legislative hearings this week, members of the Education Budgeting Subcommittee argued that the change to semesters will result in unnecessary costs for the state's financially strapped colleges and universities.

Subcommittee members also argued that the change might aggravate the problems faced by students who transfer from community colleges to four-year colleges and universities.

Some legislators contend that students who transfer from Oregon community colleges to Oregon four-year colleges have to repeat lower-division courses

because of a lack of cooperation between the schools.

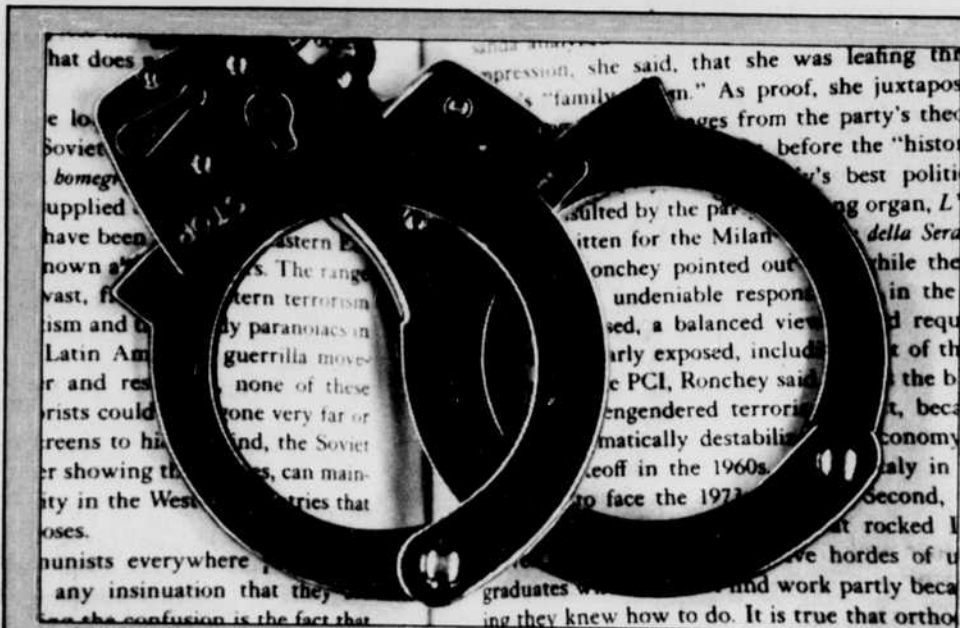
"It sounded like there was substantial interest on the subcommittee to postpone the semester system conversion until the transfer credit problems are taken care of," said Oregon Student Lobby Director Sherry Oeser after the hearing Wednesday.

The State Board of Higher Education decided in January to change Oregon's public, four-year colleges and universities from the current quarter system to semesters beginning in 1990.

Higher education officials who support the semester system say the conversion process will not cost colleges and universities anything. Instead, they argue that colleges and universities can expect substantial savings from the elimination of one term's registration process and one term of book purchases once the semester system is in place.

Faculty members are being appointed at each col-

Turn to Semester, Page 8



Bookstore security forces minimize shoplifting loss

By Scott Maben
Of the Emerald

A store's best defense against shoplifting isn't conducted through the lens of a high-perched video camera but through the well-trained eye of an undercover security guard.

Such is the philosophy of Jim Williams, general manager of the University Bookstore.

The bookstore apprehends and prosecutes between 80 and 120 shoplifters each year, yet loses as much as \$80,000 a year largely due to theft, estimates Williams, who worked in the bookstore as a University student in the 1960s

before he was put in charge of security upon his return in 1972 as assistant manager.

The bookstore's shoplifting loss represents about 1 percent of the store's annual sales volume of \$8.5 million. According to Williams, other local retailers probably experience shrinkage of 2 or 3 percent.

Why the difference?

Williams attributes it almost entirely to an outstanding security program based on well-trained personnel.

"Frankly, we're considered to be

Turn to Security, Page 4