

tonight under the sponsorship of the Council For Human Rights in Latin America and the ASUO. The speech will be at the Latin American Cultural Center at 1236 Kincaid St.

The ASUO and the Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People will sponsor speaker Margaret Randall on Sunday at 8 p.m. at a location to be announced.

Coalition members were angry about the inclusion of Norma Cordell, director of the Eugene Center for the Healing Arts, as a symposium speaker. Geo. Ann Baker, who spoke with the backing of NASU, said Cordell was a non-Indian who was misusing Native American ritual and religious beliefs.

The coalition also claimed that suggestions by minority women had been ignored by the task force and that none of the student unions representing minorities had been contacted for input into the planning of the symposium.

"I gave suggestions to committee members as to women of color that they (the Women's Task Force) could contact when I heard that much of their planning was revolving around the white woman's experience," Sharon Elise, a graduate teaching fellow in the sociology department, said Tuesday at a press conference called by the coalition. Elise said she was ignored and treated disrespectfully by members of the task force.

"Each and every one of these contacts (involving task force members) with women of color left us feeling offended, humiliated and crossed," she said.

But Heather MacTaggart, the coordinator of the Women's Task Force, said she was unaware that there was any problem with the symposium planning until the boycott was announced two days ago. "We were given no options," she said. The only recourse was to cancel the symposium, she said.

The task force recommended to the ASUO that the symposium be canceled because it would not be balanced without the participation of the speakers scheduled to speak about racism, MacTaggart said.

She also had put up posters encouraging everyone to be involved in planning the symposium and had had difficulty in finding women of any race who wanted to be involved, she said.

"If I had to do it again, I would definitely go personally to contact the different groups and see if I could get involvement," she said. "We did contact classes. But I would suggest for next year a much stronger effort."

She also said she believes the issue of racism on campus is a valid one to be raised and that she would recommend that future task force members attend a class on anti-racism.

A list of grievances circulated by the coalition included the charge that task force members had used racist language in speaking to coalition members. As an example, said Baker, a task force member seemed to believe that Indian women should appear wearing feathers and beadwork. Baker called this

stereotyping and a "racist slur."

But MacTaggart responded, saying that unfounded rumors had been circulated, and comments had been taken out of context and misinterpreted.

Coalition member Roderica Bell said she had volunteered with the task force until last week and characterized the task force as extremely disorganized.

MacTaggart said the task force got a late start on the project and that she had been working 13 hours a day for weeks on organizing the symposium.

"It's been rough because we haven't had much help," she said. "We're just a very small group of women who are not used to doing this. We're new at the idea of putting on a symposium."

"I hope that next year, whatever mistakes were made this time can be changed and a process can be developed to work it out," she added.

"Most of the speakers are very disappointed," MacTaggart said. "We had a tremendous symposium planned."

The ASUO already has paid for T-shirts, posters and airplane fares for speakers, who included poet Judy Grahn from the Bay Area in California.

"Women of color have consistently had problems with the Women's Symposium" in previous years, Elise said. "This is part of a systematic racism operating on this campus."

Coalition members plan to organize their own symposium on May 17, although the details have not yet been worked out.

"It would have been nice (to have won control of the Executive), but we can do a whole lot without being in the Executive," he said. He sees the presidential loss last week as strengthening the party overall, he added.

"The past election has more than anything banded individual members together," said Jodie Mooney, the current IFC chairwoman and recent SPA vice-presidential candidate. Mooney, Liebowitz and Wettern all stressed SPA's activity over the next year as being vital in next year's election.

"We have made the commitment to stay together next year," Liebowitz said. "And next year, people will hear about SPA as a group rather than SPA as the Executive."

Mooney gave one reason why SPA lost the Executive this year: the athletic vote.

"The athletes voted them (Kasey Brooks and Karen Gaffney) into office," she said. "I believe the 1,400 students who voted for Sarah and I were the mature, concerned students on this campus."

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1985 Oregon Legislature, he said. "I feel betrayed, to put it mildly."

Oregon allotted \$267,000 to the program for a two-year period that began this school year. Three hundred students currently benefit from the program, Lee said.

"Why punish students because people are not living up to an agreement?" asked Education Committee Vice Chairman Rep. Ted Calouri, R-Beaverton. A more compelling argument in favor of the measure should be whether it would help Oregon schools, he said.

More than 50,000 Oregon students apply for financial aid, of which 14,000 receive awards, Lee said. And while Lee indicated he is not opposed to the idea of supporting Oregon students at schools outside of Oregon that could provide a better education, he is upset with

Washington for not following through with its agreement.

Lee said he would encourage student grant reciprocations and in-state tuition agreements with other states — granted they provide aid for their students who attend Oregon schools. But for the present time, the need grants should be used for Oregon students in Oregon, he said.

"If Washington wants to get its act together and approve the reciprocity, we would certainly support it," Lee said.

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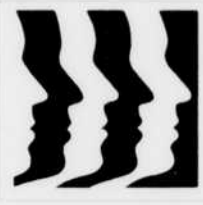

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