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Demonstrators accuse CIA, FBI of discrimination in recruitment

By Brian Bloch
Emerald Associate Editor

A grievance filed by two University students accusing the CIA of discrimination and unlawful acts found support Tuesday from about 75 students who rallied in the EMU courtyard.

The student protesters voiced their discontent with the decision by the University Office of Career Planning and Placement to allow both the CIA and the FBI on campus to recruit students for employment.

Both the CIA and the FBI were scheduled to conduct interviews with students Tuesday and Wednesday. However, the protest was cut short when organizers learned the CIA had concluded its Tuesday interviews earlier than had been scheduled.

University students Tim Hughes and Shannon Oliver filed two separate grievances against the career placement office centered around the CIA's affirmative action policies and the agency's alleged civil and moral rights violations. Both grievances seek to revoke the agency's current ability to recruit University students on campus.

Hughes, who in his grievance represents the University gay and lesbian community, contends it is the regular practice of the CIA to discriminate in its hiring process on the basis of sexual orientation. According to Oregon Administrative Rules, action that "unreasonably differentiates among persons on the basis of sexual orientation" is discriminatory.

After attempting and subsequently failing to gain an interview with the CIA through the career planning and placement office, Hughes further alleged that the office is violating Oregon law by "assisting an employer known by them to discriminate on a prohibited basis in recruitment, hiring, or employment practices."

"The bottom line is I could be a straight-A student in nuclear physics and the most patriotic

guy in the world, but the mere fact that I am gay disqualifies me from working in the CIA," Hughes said.

Hughes said he will file the grievance with the University Affirmative Action Office and is prepared to submit it also to the American Civil Liberties Union if needed.

"We intend to press this all the way," Hughes said. "We plan on taking this very seriously this year and we don't want it swept under the rug."

Oliver, a representative from Student Campaign for Disarmament, filed a similar complaint against the University for allowing an agency to recruit on campus that she maintains is responsible for murder, terrorism, government overthrows and various other violations of U.S. and international laws.

Larry Smith, career planning and placement director, played down the reputation of the CIA and maintained the agency's right to recruit on campus when he fielded questions from Hughes, Oliver and the media.

"The issue of an organization being unpopular or accused of these crimes is one we should talk about," Smith said. "And in my view the University is an ideal setting to talk about that."

"The University is indeed a place that differing points of view can be expressed," Smith said. "There a wide variety of student interests on this campus ranging from one end of the spectrum to another."

Smith attributed the decision to allow the CIA to continue to recruit this year, even in light of a similar protest last year, to former University president Paul Olum.

"Dr. Olum made it clear that's the way he wanted it preserved," Smith said. "This year that decision was confirmed by president Brand."

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Photo by Martin Thiel

Gay and Lesbian Alliance co-director Laurel Sharp was one of about 75 students who vocalized opposition to Tuesday's presence of CIA recruiters on campus. Protesters criticized the CIA's actions and alleged discriminatory hiring practices.

Aide to DeFazio assesses new El Salvador uprising

By John Higgins
Emerald Contributor

The recent escalation of the civil war in El Salvador prompted two university students to meet yesterday with Jeff Steir, a congressional aide to Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Eugene).

Rob Margraf and Phillip Zerbo of the University of Oregon-University of El Salvador Sister University Project met with Steir for half an hour. They discussed the possible ramifications of the fiercest fighting in El Salvador in the ten-year war between the Salvadoran government and the rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Steir said DeFazio is opposed to the possible intervention of U.S. military troops, as well as any emergency aid package for the embattled Salvadoran government.

"What I see Peter doing right now is raising the consciousness of members of Congress," Steir said. "I'm going to urge him to make some one-minute floor speeches."

Steir said DeFazio, who is in his second term in Congress, has only limited influence. He also noted that the congressman is currently involved in a pitched battle to stop aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

"We have to choose our battles," Steir said. "We'll try and do something."

The rebel offensive catapulted El Salvador to the front pages of the nation's newspapers. UO/UES members waited by the phone Tuesday for updated information from El Salvador.

The Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador reported that the FMLN issued a communique calling for a general strike and popular uprising. The communique also called on junior officers of the Salvadoran armed forces to join in the uprising.

CISPES also cited a Tuesday San Francisco Chronicle report that claimed the Guatemalan High Command was planning to intervene militarily.

"When I was in Washington D.C. I depended on advocacy groups like CISPES for information," Steir said. He noted that members of Congress are not always privy to the information the U.S. State Department and the executive branch have.

Rob Margraf asked Steir for the support of DeFazio's office.

"We want to be able to say our Representative supports our efforts," Margraf said. "If I was able to say Peter DeFazio sent telexes to President Cristiani (president of El Salvador) it would help our work."

Phillip Zerbo also indicated there were some communication problems with DeFazio's office. "We're not get-

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Photo by Mia Bertelsen

University officials such as Gerrard Moseley (right) were on hand to hear Sandra Bennet, who was on campus Tuesday to speak out against drug use. Bennet's son died in a University fraternity house in 1986, presumably from cocaine use.

Mother decries drug use

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

The mother of a University student who died three and a half years ago at his fraternity house was on campus Tuesday afternoon to promote greater parental awareness of student drug use.

Garrett Douglas Hughes died suddenly in his room at the Theta Chi fraternity on March 13, 1986. He had celebrated his twenty-second birth-

day four days earlier.

Hughes' death went unexplained until a trace of cocaine was found in his urine. Medical research into the effects of cocaine use later concluded casual use of the drug is potentially lethal.

Although the cause of Hughes' sudden heart failure was never discovered, the parties in the case agree cocaine played a contributing factor.

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