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Parents speak out against measures

Bells say daughter died because of Indiana law

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Reporter

The parents of an Indiana teen-ager who died in 1988 after obtaining an illegal abortion urged students on Thursday to vote against Oregon state ballot measures 8 and 10.

William and Karen Bell, appearing at a Students for Choice Rally in the EMU Courtyard, said their daughter Becky was a victim of an Indiana law that requires parental notification before an abortion can be performed on a woman under the age of 18.

On Nov. 6, Oregonians will vote on Ballot Measure 10 which, if passed, would put a similar law into place. Measure 8 would make all abortions illegal, except in cases of reported rape or incest or to save the life of a pregnant woman.

Proponents of Measure 10 say it would improve communication between a daughter and her parents. William and Karen Bell disagree.

"Becky Bell is proof that these laws don't work," William Bell said.

Proponents of the measure "think 'this will make our daughter come to us,' but they're wrong," he said.

"We would have voted for it two years ago," Karen Bell said. "But we know it didn't force her to tell us."

"I wish I didn't have to be here today to tell you this, but I don't want this to happen to anyone else."

Karen Bell said Becky became pregnant at 17. When she went to a women's clinic for an abortion, she was told that her parents would have to be notified. Because Becky didn't want to disappoint her parents she did not tell them, but instead had an illegal abortion, Karen Bell said.

Within a few days of the illegal operation, she became ill. Six days after the abortion, William and Karen Bell took their daughter to a hospital. She still refused to tell them what had happened. She died later that night. A coroner called to tell them the cause of Becky's death.

"We couldn't believe this happened to us," Karen Bell said. "We're a good family. We communicate."

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Photo by Sean Poston

Karen Bell and her husband William spoke on campus Thursday, urging students to vote against ballot measures 8 and 10.

South African urges support for sanctions

Says apartheid, racial injustice are weakening

By Cathy Peterson
Emerald Reporter

With the entire non-white South African population inhabiting 14 percent of the country's half a million square miles, land redistribution is potentially one of the biggest issues facing South Africans, an internationally regarded human rights authority said Thursday.

South African Fatima Meer told a Wilamette Hall audience that Westerners might view black South Africans as "callous" for wanting a share of the country's land, but to bear in mind the inequalities in current land distribution. The average black peasant has three acres, while the average white farmer has more than 1,000, she said.

"We have a racial structure in terms of which every amenity exists in a state of gross and intolerable imbalance," Meer said.

Meer, who is of Indian descent, is the University's fifth Carlton and Wilberta Ripley Savage Visiting Professor in the International Relations and Peace Department. She is teaching two courses at the University this fall: "Women in South

Africa" and "Current Issues in Peacemaking: Focus on Conflict and Change in Southern Africa, the Middle, India and Trinidad."

University President Myles Brand, who introduced Meer, called her combination of academics and activism "a model for us at the University."

Meer described a history of racism and separation in South Africa dating to colonialization. She said European missionaries in Africa drained the continent of culture, and were the first to believe that "the heathens could not be raised." They also introduced violence and property rights, neither of which the culture had seen before, Meer said.

The African philosophy of Ubuntu, which weaves together humans and the natural environment in a balance, clashed with religious Calvinism, capitalism and individualism, all philosophies brought to Africa by European colonists.

"Survival of the fittest became the reality of the African continent," she said. "From that background we approach racism in South Africa today."

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Briefly

Members of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals are not pleased that they are unable to view animal holding facilities in Streisinger Hall.

See story, Page 3

With just 12 days left until the Nov. 6 election, and with the fate of the Trojan nuclear power plant hanging in the balance, two nationally known experts warned students Thursday of the dangers surrounding the plant's continued operation.

See story, Page 4

Entertainment



Avalon is a first-rate film that captures the trials and triumphs of an Eastern European immigrant family in Baltimore in the 1940s and '50s.

See review, Page 8

Sports



The Stanford Cardinal, 2-5, invades Autzen Stadium Saturday to take on the 5-2 Ducks, hoping to improve on an inconsistent season.

See Oregon Football Roster, Section B

Almanac

Today is the last day to change grade options or to change credits in variable-credit courses without a \$10 fee. It is also the last day to submit doctoral oral defense applications (Graduate School, Room 125 Chapman).



Photo by Sean Poston

Fatima Meer, a visiting South African scholar, said the world should maintain its pressure against apartheid.