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Speech focuses on civil rights

Mara Stine
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The right-wing movement is costing people their lives and their rights, said the Fight the Right project organizer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force during a speech Thursday at the University.

About 175 people attended Scot Nakagawa's speech that focused on explaining the right-wing party and its national movement.

Scot Nakagawa illustrated the theme of loss of life by describing the Oct. 7 murder of two gay men in Jones County, Miss. The men were shot in the head while returning home from a potluck, dragged to a railroad track and then left with their "pants lowered in a gesture of humiliation," Nakagawa said.

The murder is not considered a civil rights violation because gays and lesbians are not included in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, he said. In the same county, a lesbian couple reported 64 different incidents of harassment including gunshots, death threats and bombs.

"Gay and Lesbian residents of Jones County, Miss., are living in a situation in which their lives are being threatened and our federal government is unable to protect them," Nakagawa said. "That is the cost in terms of human lives."

The national right-wing movement must be blocked, he said, because, "all deserve a dignified life and this movement impedes that."

Nakagawa described the right-wing movement as a continuum in which conservatives are in

the middle because they would like things to stay the same. He also said many groups which lie to the right of conservatives are not conservative by definition although they claim to be.

To the right of the conservatives is the multiple-use reformers, Nakagawa said, which is a convergence between large corporations and the religious-right to make profits from extracting natural resources. He cited recreational fishing outfitters and those who fight Native-American treaty rights as an example of this "corporation sponsored" movement.

To the right of the multiple-use reformers is the theocratic right, composed of "those particular people who would like to take their ideas and constitutionalize them, to make them into the law of the land," Nakagawa said.

The theocratic right uses political power to further their religious beliefs and are "based on a set of ideas and social hierarchy that allow for bigoted... dehumanizing beliefs to be popular," he said. Theocratic right-wing groups such as the OCA, Christian Coalition, Rutherford Institute and Concerned Women for America use issues that unify the right wing but confuse the mainstream.

The theocratic right has a "shared political strategy that relies on the accommodation of those of us who disagree because we are divided and confused," Nakagawa said.

This group is capturing mainstream attention by focusing on eliminating welfare and social services which, Nakagawa said, are the very programs that carry

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— Scot Nakagawa
Project Organizer

out the Civil Rights Act. "We want the words but not the programs," he said.

The group furthest to the right, Nakagawa said, are white supremacists who use violence and politics as power. This group includes the Ku Klux Klan, Christian Identity Activists, Christian Patriots, professional Neo-Nazis and skin heads.

Nakagawa said white supremacists like the Christian Patriots, try to infiltrate the Democratic and Republican parties with their points of view to further their mission of promoting white supremacy through the political process.

"(White supremacy) is a very real threat in the United States," he said. "On the last Martin Luther King Day there were more rallies sponsored by KKK chapters in our country than has ever occurred since 1964."

"The last time I checked, the America I live in had a constitution that said all people are created equal," Nakagawa said. "That theory, however, is not manifested in law."

■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

Oregon Ballroom Dance Club will meet today at 5:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room D. For more information, call 346-3731.

Race Task Force will meet today at noon in the EMU Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-3216.

Science Fiction Enthusiasts will meet today to discuss "The Girl Who Was Plugged In" by James Tiptree Jr. at 4:30 p.m. in Room 605 Prince Lucien Campbell. For more information or a copy of the story, call 346-3910.

Star Trek Information Center will meet today at 5 p.m. in EMU Century Room B.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Center will offer an Internship Options workshop today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

Career Center will offer an office orientation today from 2 to 3 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

Career Center will accept bid cards and resumes for interviews with the following organizations: Dictaphone, Lady Foot Locker, Sherwin Williams, State Farm, Wallace Computer and Yergen & Meyer through Wednesday in Room 224 Hendricks. For more information call, 346-3235.

Lesbian, Gay, & Bisexual Alliance will offer a drop-in group session for women today from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid. For more information, call 346-3360 or 484-1707.

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