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**The Law and Politics of the DEATH PENALTY**  
*Abolition, Moratorium, or Reform?*

**University of Oregon**  
**March 1-2, 2002**

A conference sponsored by the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, featuring:


Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*  
 Mark Hatfield, former U.S. Senator and Oregon governor  
 Stephen B. Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights  
 Robert Blecker, writer and New York Law School professor  
 Bryan Stevenson, director of Alabama's Equal Justice Initiative  
 Charles J. Ogletree Jr., defense attorney and Harvard legal scholar

For more information:  
<http://www.morsechair.uoregon.edu/deathpen.shtml>  
 (541) 346-3700


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**'The Law and Politics of the Death Penalty'**


Featured speakers:  
 (clockwise from right)  
 former Oregon Gov. Mark Hatfield, Sister Helen Prejean, Steven B. Bright, Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree Jr., Illinois Gov. George Ryan, Bryan Stevenson, New York Law School Robert Blecker




HATFIELD




PREJEAN




BRIGHT




OGLETREE



RYAN



STEVENSON



BLECKER

**Penalty**  
 continued from page 1

the 2001-02 Wayne Morse chair professor of law and politics at the University. Ogletree, who has spoken frequently about racism in the U.S. criminal justice system, called the current system of capital punishment flawed and said now is a "most appropriate time" to discuss the issue of the death penalty in the United States.

The death penalty "is flawed in its application and goes against the views of the majority of the world's democratic governments," Ogletree said.

He added that recent advances in DNA evidence have contributed to numerous death sentences being overturned, and more such cases are pending. Given the permanence of a death sentence, it's vital to take an in-depth look at the issue, he said.

"We keep seeing cases where

people are getting it wrong," he said. "It's time to step back and say 'wait a minute, why are we making these mistakes?'"

The conference will also include keynote addresses from such notables as former Oregon Gov. Mark Hatfield, Sister Helen Prejean, author of the book "Dead Man Walking," and Illinois Gov. George Ryan — who suspended that state's death penalty amid doubts about the guilt of death row inmates.

Ryan, who agreed to participate in the conference just a few weeks ago, was actually one of the legislators who helped reinstate Illinois' death penalty in 1977. But after discovering that 13 men had been wrongly convicted and sentenced to die, Ryan surprised the world in January 2000 by announcing a moratorium on capital punishment in Illinois.

According to his spokesman Dennis Culloton, Ryan's decision to

attend the conference was part of the governor's larger search into his own support of the death penalty.

"The governor is very much on a journey," Culloton said. "He hasn't made up his mind on the big picture."

Morse Center director Margaret Hallock said the conference was already a success, just from the sheer number of people who have offered to participate. And she credits that success to Ogletree.

"I've never organized a conference where everyone invited agreed to attend," she said. "This conference is a gift that we are able to enjoy because of (Ogletree's) presence as Morse Professor."

Keynote addresses will be held in the EMU Ballroom. They are free and open to the public. The entire conference schedule can be found online at [www.morsechair.uoregon.edu](http://www.morsechair.uoregon.edu).

E-mail higher education editor Leon Tovey at [leontovey@dailyemerald.com](mailto:leontovey@dailyemerald.com).

**Art**  
 continued from page 1

at the San Quentin State Prison in California. There are many limitations on incarcerated artists, said Rasmussen, and Anderson was anxious for a chance to display his paintings.

"They can't just walk into a gallery and show their work," she said.

Rasmussen added that inmates are not allowed to profit from the sale of their work. Artwork by five

death row inmates, including Anderson, will be shown.

Accompanying this work will be two sets of photographs about the death penalty. Ziebell, a Texas photographer, will present a series documenting inmate's final meals. Ken Light, author of "Texas Death Row," will show portraits of individuals on death row.

Religious studies major W. Morgen Smith will be presenting two performance art pieces for the opening reception on Saturday. They will focus on the rites of last meals and words. Smith said the

"last words" piece is about the last words of women on death row and their relationship with a higher power.

"It has a lot to do with women finding God or Jesus while they're on death row," Smith said.

The "last meal" piece uses information from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice that lists all last meal requests made from 1973 to the present. Smith explained how one man didn't want to eat, but his mom insisted that he eat something before he died, so he had a burger. Another man wanted dirt for a voodoo ritual, and another requested Communion.

"People request the oddest things," Smith said.

The exhibit is being held in conjunction with "The Law and Politics of the Death Penalty: Abolition, Moratorium or Reform" conference presented by the Wayne Morse Center on Law and Policy in the School of Law on March 1 and 2.

Keynote speakers will include Helen Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking" and Charles Ogletree, Jr., a Harvard University legal scholar. Panel discussions will be held concerning the impact of capital punishment on victims and families and the relationship between race, gender and the death penalty.

The Adell McMillian Gallery is located near the EMU Ballroom. For more information, call 346-4373.

E-mail reporter Alix Kerl at [alixkerl@dailyemerald.com](mailto:alixkerl@dailyemerald.com).

**JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**



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**Films showing:**

- Tuesday - "Brooklyn Babylon"
- Wednesday - "Life and Times of Hank Greenberg"
- Thursday - "Pi"



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