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Bourgeois

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poor in Latin America," he said, adding the ordeal was the first time he had seen impoverished people being mistreated by the military. "It angered me to see my country supporting this brutal dictator (Gen. Hugo Banzer) and his soldiers."

By the time Bourgeois came back from Bolivia, he was a critic of America's foreign policy. This was strengthened in 1989 after El Salvadoran troops massacred six Jesuit priests and two women. Bourgeois said at the time, the United States was pumping millions of dollars into that country in military aid. An American task force later reported that those responsible for the massacre were trained at the School of

the Americas.

Bourgeois came to Fort Benning, Ga. — where the school is located — and lived in an apartment next to the school's front gate where he started SOA Watch, a group dedicated to shutting the school down. He discovered that although SOA was largely unknown in the United States, many knew about it in South America.

"It's a school of assassins — it's a school of dictators," he said, adding that out of the 12 dictators who trained in the school, two included Gen. Manuel Noriega from Panama — currently serving 30 years at a federal prison in Miami for drug running — and Banzer, who is allegedly said to be responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people and is honored in the school's hall of fame.

Bourgeois said the school specializes in psychological warfare and counterinsurgency.

"The insurgents of Latin America are the poor who call for land reform, adequate housing, schools and medicine," he said.

WHISC spokesman Lee Rials disagreed and said Bourgeois is twisting the truth.

"I'm sure there were poor people in that group, but the insurgents are people who are seeking power," Rials said in an interview. "His whole theory is based on false assumptions."

Rials said while Bourgeois talks about former graduates suppressing the poor, the graduates are simply taught democracy-building skills at the school.

"If you can't specifically say that a person took this course, and that 20 years later that made him do some act — you can't make a connection," Rials said, adding that if a University

graduate committed a crime in the future, it would not be said that the University made him do it.

Courses at WHISC include leadership development, counterdrug operations, disaster relief and peace support operations.

"We don't teach (violence) — we don't encourage it," Rials said.

SOA Watch still gathers every November to protest the school at its front gate.

"We gather here to keep alive the memory of the victims," Bourgeois said, adding that the protests started with 10 people and are now 10,000 strong.

Eugene-area SOA Watch spokeswoman Peg Morton said many different people — from priests and nuns to anarchists — come to the protests.

"The fact is that torture is still being used in Latin America," she said. "You can't create democracy by torturing and killing citizens. Many of us here support the (SOA Watch) movement."

Besides protests, SOA watch has established a congressional bill, HR 1258, that calls for cutting off funding to the school and an independent investigation into the activities of its graduates. Bourgeois said the bill, which is signed by U.S. Reps. Darlene Hooley, D-West Linn, and Peter DeFazio, D-Eugene, will probably be voted on some time this fall and that people should write to Congress to support it.

"I'm going to Oregon to invite people to join our movement — to speak for the people of Latin America, whose voices have been taken away," Bourgeois said.

Contact the reporter at romangokhman@dailyemerald.com.

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Tie One On For Our Bargaining Team!

Thursday—May 22, 2003

Seeing Purple? The purple ribbons flying on campus today, May 22, represent the over 1,300 Classified Workers of SEIU/OPEU University of Oregon Local 085 currently engaged in collective bargaining with the Oregon University System.

The classified staff (foodservice, grounds maintenance, custodial, office support, lab prep, computer tech, childcare, accounting, library tech, security, trades and many more) work hard to serve and support the university community. We stand united for a fair and equitable contract!

WE SUPPORT OUR BARGAINING TEAM!



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KWVA

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The senate transferred \$39 from LGBTQAs AV set-up account to its annual events account, as well as transferring \$104 from office supplies to postage.

MEChA received \$69 out of surplus to cover a deficit from last year in the group's food account. The senate also transferred \$600 from Cinco de Mayo food holding to Cinco de Mayo account.

The senate transferred \$609 from the Multicultural Center's conferences account to its cultural ac-

count, as well as transferring \$300 from food holding to food account.

Pocket Playhouse requested a transfer of \$199 from its advertising account to new account called reference because the group wanted to start a theater scripts library open to all University students. After brief discussion, the senate quickly approved the transfer.

University Programs and Assessment received \$577 from surplus to send 12 students to the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity.

Contact the senior news reporter at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.

Research

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of how methylation inhibits certain genes, scientists might discover how to kill off troublesome cancer cells.

Working with Neurospora can help scientists figure out how methylation works for humans. In choosing the fungus, which is inexpensive and easy to grow, the Selker team avoids using animals to study DNA. The processes the Selker team research, such as RIP and DNA, are particularly unique to Neurospora.

"The processes we're interested in don't occur in the typical models, such as yeast or fruit flies," said Michael Freitag, a post-doctoral research associate at the Selker Lab. "Use of Neurospora has surged in the last 10 years."

The mold has been growing in popularity with researchers since the early 1900s. According to a recent article that Selker co-wrote in the scientific journal Nature, Neurospora has been used in scientific research since the 1920s. Freitag said Neurospora was heavily used in the 1940s in research that uncovered the workings of metabolism.

Lately, genetic research has become a highly debated topic, fueling criticism from all sides of the political spectrum. It is the focal point of issues such as genetically modified foods and stem cell research, and it has sparked questions concerning religious, political control and social justice perspectives.

In an article for technology watchdog journal Action Bioscience, Professor Philip L. Bereano of the University of Washington addressed how genetic research can potentially threaten individual civil liberties.

"Because technologies are the result of human interventions into the otherwise natural progression of activities (and not acts of God or of nature), they are themselves actually imbued with human intentions and purposes," Bereano wrote.

Selker believes the study of genetics is essential, but agreed it should be handled with care.

"The trouble with knowing more about genetics is that it can lead to both good and bad applications," Selker said. "The more we learn, the more responsible we need to be."

Contact the reporter at lindsaysauve@dailyemerald.com.

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