

Honored librarian speaks against Patriot Act

Horn has a history of dissent, including going to jail instead of testifying against the Harrisburg Seven

BY TYLER GRAF
FREELANCE REPORTER

Librarian activist Zoia Horn spoke about her efforts to advocate on behalf of intellectual rights during a speech entitled "From the Harrisburg Seven to the Patriot Act" on Thursday morning in the Knight Library Browsing Room.

According to Judith Krug, the director of the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom, Horn was the first librarian to "spend time in jail for the value of our profession."

In 1971 Horn was in the public spotlight after the United States government subpoenaed her to testify against the Harrisburg Seven, an anti-Vietnam War group charged with 23 counts of conspiracy, including plotting to kidnap Henry Kissinger. The government asked Horn to divulge confidential patron information about Fathers Dan

and Philip Berrigan, two peace activist Catholic priests.

The prosecution took more than five weeks to present its case against the Harrisburg Seven; the defense, led by former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark, took less than five minutes.

"Your Honor, the defendants shall always seek peace," Clark said, after the judge asked the defense to present its first witness. "They continue to proclaim their innocence. The defense rests."

Ironically, as Lyndon Johnson's attorney general, Clark had prosecuted the Boston Five, a group of anti-war protesters similar to the Harrisburg Seven. Clark would later serve as legal counsel to an array of controversial figures, including former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, on whose behalf Clark sued the United States

and British governments for the 1986 bombing of Tripoli, which left a number of Libyan civilians killed and wounded. Clark lost the case.

Horn said that prior to her testimony she had pangs of conscience.

"What would happen if I refused to testify?" Horn asked her lawyer. She said a bemused look crossed his "boyish" face.

When Horn finally took the stand, she had a statement already prepared.

"Your Honor, it is because I respect the function of the court to protect the rights of the individual that I must refuse to testify," Horn said. "I cannot in good conscience lead myself to this black charade."

Horn was taken from the witness stand, shackled and given an ultimatum: She could either testify or spend the remainder of the trial behind bars. She refused to testify, believing that the trial would last three months. Ultimately, Horn spent only 20 days in jail, including her birthday, before the trial

"fizzled to an end," in part due to Clark's unorthodox five-minute defense. In the end, the Harrisburg Seven was convicted only of the minor charge of smuggling letters out of prison.

During Horn's time in jail, the American Library Association refused to stand behind Horn because she was "challenging a duly constituted court of the law," Horn said.

However, for her lifetime of activism, Horn has won numerous awards, including a California Library Association Award, a Jackie Eubanks Award and a Robert B. Downs Award.

Currently, Horn spends her time speaking against the Patriot Act, which she believes usurps intellectual freedom and targets dissenting voices. Horn said that the Patriot Act provides "those in power with the tools they need."

In Horn's opinion, the most offensive part of the Patriot Act is Section 215, which pertains to libraries and librarians. Section 215 requires libraries to divulge their patrons' checkout

records without their patrons' consent. Prior to the Patriot Act, the government needed a warrant and probable cause to access such information.

Horn, who immigrated to North America from Russia in 1926, drew parallels between the Patriot Act and the tactics of Nazis and Stalinists.

"Do you remember the Gestapo in Germany? They had a group of people in neighborhoods in charge of spying," Horn said, a reference to the Terrorism Information Prevention System.

Proposed in conjunction with the Patriot Act in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks and since scrapped, the TIPS program would have asked community members to report suspicious activity to local law enforcement.

In the future, citizens will have to be more critical of governmental policies that restrict intellectual rights, Horn said.

"It would be good to repeal the USA Patriot Act," Horn said. "We can do better, but it's not likely."

Miss Oregon: Contestants say there are misconceptions about pageant

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"She's been in a lot of these and has a lot of experience," Leon McKenzie said.

The contestants competed in a bathing suit competition, an evening wear competition, a causal wear competition and a talent competition.

For her talent, McKenzie sang a tribute to Tina Turner.

"When she puts on the Tina Turner wig and the Tina Turner outfit, she actually looks just like her," Leon McKenzie said.

Marberry sang "It Don't Mean a Thing," from the Broadway musical "Sophisticated Ladies." Marberry has been singing for many years.

"I've been singing as my talent since

I started," Marberry said.

Each contestant also advocates for a "platform" — an issue that the contestant is involved in.

McKenzie's platform is about helping kids learn life lessons through sports.

To advance this platform, she has volunteered with numerous groups, including the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

McKenzie's interest in youth athletics began with her father, who is a high school track coach.

"She's been doing track since she could barely walk and soccer since she was five," Leon McKenzie said.

When Marberry learned that pageant contestants must represent a

platform, her brother, who has cerebral palsy, came to mind.

"My platform is supporting and advocating those with developmental disabilities," she said.

"I thought about my brother," Marberry said. "I thought about how I could help break down the barriers facing people like my brother."

She has volunteered with several agencies that support people with developmental disabilities, including The Arc.

Years ago, Marberry told her mother that someday she would be competing in pageants like the women on television.

Marberry said there are a lot of misconceptions about the Miss

America Organization.

The pageants focus less on appearance and more on stage presence, according to Marberry.

"It's really about communication," she said. "We need someone that's beautiful inside and out. It's all about poise and grace."

Marberry said there is also a perception that pageant contests treat each other poorly.

"Really, these girls have become like family to me. I'm really very honored to be on the same stage as these 22 women I'm on stage with," she said.

Marberry said Miss Oregon is not just a beauty pageant but a "scholarship program for young women."

Leon McKenzie spoke about the

financial advantage to pageant participation. His daughter has probably earned about \$6,000 toward her education through pageants, he said.

McKenzie is a journalism major. Marberry is a pre-med and psychology student.

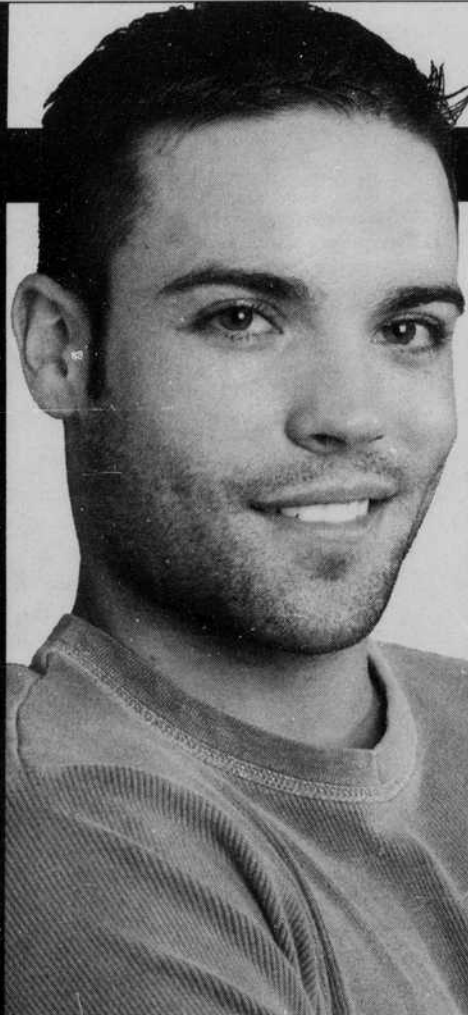
Fleck won a \$10,000 scholarship in addition to the right to compete in the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City.

The only Miss Oregon to win the Miss America pageant was Katie Harmon in 2002.

Neither Sarah Warner — Miss Lane County — nor the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program could be reached for comment.

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