

NEWS RELEASE

University of Oregon

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4/30/70

A STATEMENT FROM THE PROGRAMS FOR THE DISADVANTAGED PERTAINING TO RECENT
STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

The programs for the disadvantaged (Upward Bound, High School Equivalency Program, Project 75, Native American Educational Program and Mexican-American Education Program) concur that the student strike does not relate directly to the goals of these programs. Several major points should be taken into consideration:

1. The various "demands" relating to minority and disadvantaged students were advocated not at the first calling but in the second.
2. Program students cannot afford classroom boycott since the ambition of the programs is to take full advantage of all course offerings at this University.
3. All program students receive financial aids. That financial aid is subject to being withdrawn if program students participate in "disruptive activity."
4. The consequence of participation in some aspects of the strike requires the willingness to be arrested and to pay bail. To our knowledge no program student can afford the police record and the bail money.
5. It should be remembered that the political climate in the state and nation is one where the first victims of retribution are the programs creating educational opportunities.

(more)

6. The assumption cannot be made that the striking students and the programs are in the same negotiating situation. After the strike almost all of the striking students have a secure niche in the University. This is not true of the program students. Negotiations with the University relate to the day in and day out continuation of the programs and academic success of program students.

Program students (if any) who participate, do so entirely on an individual basis. The program directors have instructed program students on these points and concurrence has been obtained. Because the University has not held itself accountable to the complete success of program students, program students cannot be held accountable for the unresolved problems in the University.

We do not fear nor avoid confrontations on relevant issues, and the public at large should take careful note that we do not prefer injustice to disorder. The fact is that this "strike" is not relevant to our needs or desires, and we wish to make clear to each of our communities that we do not support it.

Signed by:

Jose de la Isla, Director
High School Equivalency Program

Felipe Canedo, Director
Mexican-American Program

Richard Wilson, Director
Native-American Program

Lucious Hicks, Co-Director
Project - 75

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