BSU head seeks student input

Photo by Kim Smith

Pat Melson

By DAWN CALVERT
Of the Emerald

New Black Student Union (BSU) Director Pat Melson maintains an open door policy and students are welcome to drop into the office at any time.

Melson feels that many black students on campus may not be aware of the opportunities BSU offers them.

"Sometimes they just need someone to listen to how they are feeling about certain things — a friend to talk to or a way to unwind," she says.

Melson is experienced in dealing with the problems of black students. Last year she researched a special study in the Northwest for "Better Chance," a privately funded program in Boston. After interviewing students, she found the main issue among blacks seemed to be a feeling of social isolation.

She is now using her experiences in planning BSU activities and has scheduled several workshops for the year. The first one will concentrate on career alternatives and choosing a major. Melson is seeking input from students on future workshop topics.

Another activity will involve selecting students to go to Nigeria in February for the World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture. The students' week long stay in Nigeria will be sponsored by the BSU. They will share their experiences with other students upon their return to the University.

A large historical symposium is also planned for February. "We want to exchange our historic culture with all other groups," Melson explained. BSU and other student unions at the University will work together in presenting cultural heritage information and in sponsoring a multi-ethnic talent night.

Melson also sees a need for the students to communicate more directly with the faculty, so she is scheduling a different faculty member to come into the BSU office every Friday for open rap sessions with the students. "We hope to establish more rapport with the faculty and staff through the rap sessions," she says.

Increased communication and cooperation with the Eugene community is another goal of this year's BSU. Melson says she would like to remove any negative stereotyping concerning black students and project a positive image. "We are hoping for community input and support" stressed Melson.

AOP

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and Munoz to assistant registrar.

Neither Campillo nor Munoz would comment on the meeting.

Ward says the committee will send a report of its findings to the office of University Pres. William Boyd, and a report to the faculty when investigations conclude.

Stephen Beard, a student on the committee, says, "We have no sanctioned authority; we can only make recommendations. "I feel personally that the whole financial aid office is mismanaged. I think we may recommend the whole structure be changed."

While the investigation specifically concerns the AOP, its roots go back to the beginning of last fall, when the newly hired Boyd decided to make some changes in minority programs. When Boyd arrived, minority and low income students were dealing with the Educational Opportunity Services (EOS) as a separate office of the University, for all their affairs. Boyd decided to close four cultural centers and changed the name of the program to Academic Opportunities Program.

Boyd's reorganization caused a great deal of controversy in the community and a few resignations of administrators under the old EOS program. In the wake of this controversy come a hearing in February, 1975, to determine the AOP's effectiveness.

At that hearing, AOP students charged that the AOP was not treating them fairly, and leveled charges against Campillo and Munoz.

Campillo and Munoz were accused of using demeaning language toward students applying for aid, and awarding financial aid on the basis of personal reaction toward recipients. The two administrators denied such action.

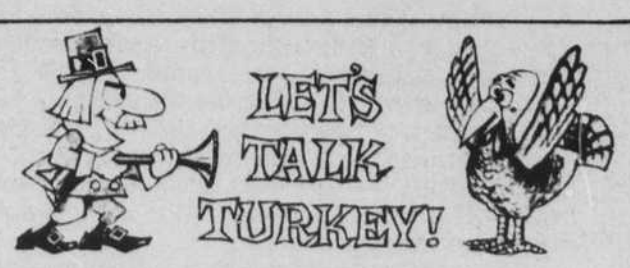
After the stormy hearing, the Universtiy Senate referred the alleged misuse of authority to the Student Faculty Grievance Committe, and the investigation began. The committee conducted hearings throughout May and June, and met four or five times during the summer. Today's meeting will be the first meeting this term.

During the course of the investigation, the AOP underwent further reorganization. The AOP was stripped of its academic advising, financial aid and admissions functions, leaving only its central office. The removed activites were absorbed into regular students services and advising channels.

Bicentennial Ms. on display

"Bicentennial Ms.," a multi-media art exhibit by 10 Southern Oregon State College women, is on display in the Mezzanine Gallery of the Lane Community College library through Friday.

Varied media such as fabric collage and sculpture, stained glass, macrame and ceramic sculpture will be shown. Gallery hours are 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.



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