

ASUO Prez reveals summer plans

# Herrera to assault student apathy

By JOCK HATFIELD  
Of the Emerald

Student government won't be comatose this summer if new ASUO prez. Ramon Herrera has his way.

Students tend to categorize ASUO politics as farcical, ridiculous, a tempest in a tea pot — you name it. Yet its programs control \$1 million in funds. Herrera sees this summer as a time to fortify his resources for an assault on student apathy.

"Students aren't very interested in ASUO during the year," says Herrera. "But during the summer it's even worse." Herrera accuses his predecessor, Gary Feldman, of being pessimistic in his attitude toward the ASUO Executive and the student body. "I'm going to try to correct this," Herrera says.

He'll do this by holding staff meetings every two weeks, meeting with University officials and getting to know students. Herrera says he's already gone out, located some students, and taken notes.

"Summer is the time to organize for the academic year," says Herrera. "I'm new to this job, and it will give me a chance to get familiar with the University."

ASUO controls a variety of programs, ranging from minority



Ramon Herrera

Emerald photo

student unions to the Office of Student Advocacy, which provides free minor legal services for students. Herrera wants to get to know these programs, and stay informed on their activities.

Herrera also hopes to keep up with University politics. "We want to keep up with the issues over the summer," he says. "It's too easy to let them slide until the fall."

Herrera has several areas of

particular interest. The divestment of stocks, with interests in racist South African countries remains an issue for Herrera, though divestment was ruled illegal by Attorney General Jim Redden.

Herrera will go ahead with an appeal of the ruling. "I'm a strong proponent of divestment," says Herrera, "I'm committed to continuing the appeals process."

Herrera considers the recent contract negotiations between the University and Graduate teaching fellows important, and will be meeting with Boyd to discuss the issue later this month.

The athletic department is currently considering the construction

of a basketball pavilion to replace Mac Court. "I want to keep up on the Mac Court issue," Herrera explains. "The athletic department will be having an advisor committee consider the issue, and the students should have input."

Herrera hopes to institute a computer registration system. "I want a pre-registration program," he says. "I want to have more than comment on this issue; I want input."

Herrera also hopes to use the summer to become familiar with legislative issues for the coming year. He wants to have a "working relationship" with the Oregon Student lobby.

## Peters suing State Board on discrimination charge

By BERNARD SCHWARTZ  
Of the Emerald

A \$400,000 suit is being brought against Chancellor Roy Lieuallen and the State Board of Higher Education by an affirmative action expert who claims his civil rights were violated.

Lewis Peters, who is the affirmative action officer for the state Adult and Family Services Division, filed the suit in the U.S. District Court in Portland.

Peters, who is black, said he was discriminated against when he wasn't hired for a newly formed compliance officer job in the chancellor's office. The position of compliance officer was created to ensure that state education programs comply with anti-discrimination laws.

Melinda Grier, a white woman, was hired as compliance officer in January, 1977.

William Canessa, a Portland attorney representing the defendants, denied there was any racial discrimination involved in the hiring decision.

Peters, however, said discrimi-

nation did occur "simply because they did not hire the best qualified person for the job."

Peters said he is qualified for the position of compliance officer because he is familiar with anti-discrimination laws and their implementation. He has taught affirmative action classes for the school of Community Service and Public Affairs, and has conducted affirmative action workshops for such corporations as Boise-Cascade and Georgia-Pacific.

When he was not hired for the compliance officer's job, Peters filed complaints with the federal government's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, (EEOC), and with the state labor bureau's Civil Rights Division.

At that time, Peters said in a telephone interview, his only course of action was to file his complaint with the two independent agencies. In July, 1977, however, a law was passed making it possible for an individual to go directly to federal court in such discrimination cases, Peters said.

Peters took advantage of the

new law 18 months after he filed his complaints with the state's Civil Rights Division and with the EEOC because neither had made a decision about the case.

Rather than go "through the maze" or working through the two independent agencies, Peters filed suit.

Elevating the entire matter to the courts is also preferable because people "take note and respond," to court rulings, Peters said.

Peters expects the trial will occur within a year.

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