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\$4 million suit, rents highlight summer issues

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

A \$4 million lawsuit was filed against the University this summer by its own Affirmative Action Director, Myra Willard. The suit charged discrimination against women and minorities in University employment practices and administrative tenure policies.

Named as defendants in the suit are University Pres. William Boyd, Chancellor Roy Lieuallen, University vice-presidents Ray Hawk and Paul Olum, the University and the State Board of Higher Education.

Willard filed the class-action suit in July on behalf of women and minorities who work in the state system, or who would have, had it not been for discriminatory policies and practices of the State Board and the University of Oregon.

The suit also alleges that University officials "conspired" to coerce Willard into not seeking administrative tenure in her position as Affirmative Action Director, and later denied tenure in retaliation for her refusal to withdraw her request.

"They did not give me tenure because of my race and sex, and because I oppose discriminatory practices," Willard said.

According to Ronald Rousseve, developmental studies professor and member of Willard's tenure evaluation committee, tenure is usually an "up or out" situation. When it is refused the employee is generally terminated when the contract expires, but Willard was offered a new contract in June.

The suit is now in the process of litigation and will be followed by the Emerald in a series of articles dealing with employment practices and affirmative action at the University and throughout the state system.

The University Year for Action (UYA) student volunteer program was denied a request for matching funds from the University, signaling the end of the federally supported program which "serves a lot of students, agencies and clients in the community," according to UYA director, Anita Runyan.

The request was for \$25,000 in University funds to match \$140,000 in federal grant money for a program designed to alleviate poverty through the application of University resources to the problems of the poor. UYA is administered by the federal ACTION agency along with VISTA, the Peace Corps and other programs.

A lack of available funds was the explanation offered for the University's decision to discontinue the program.

Reactions against the decision were strong as students, profes-



Myra Willard

sors, community members and social service personnel expressed disappointment, anger and disbelief. A letter-writing campaign was initiated by UYA supporters in the hope of reversing the University's decision.

The Amazon Appeals Board reversed a housing office decision in August concerning how rents are assigned each of the family housing units.

At issue was whether Amazon residents should have a percentage of their rent used to pay off the debt incurred from the construction of Westmoreland, a more modern housing project.

The Appeals Board's decision directs the University's Housing Office to increase rental rates at Westmoreland to meet next year's debt-service requirements. "In other words," the decision states, "the Westmoreland operation should be budgeted to be self-sufficient during that fiscal period."

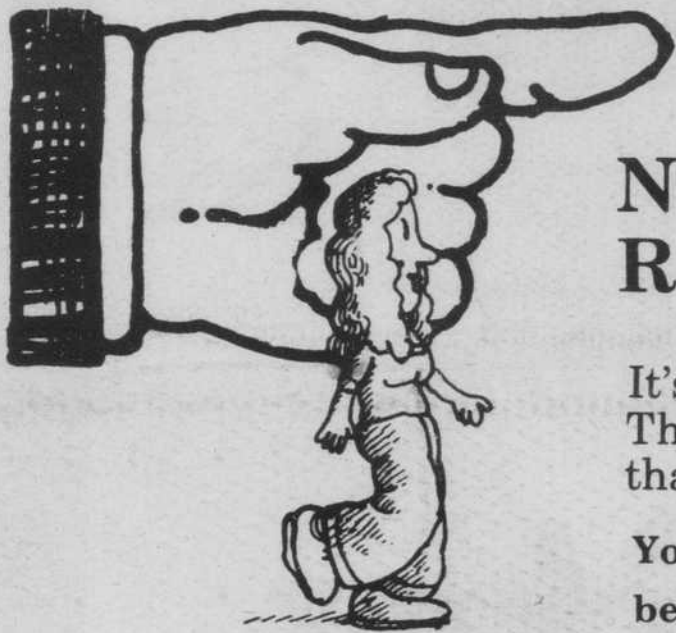
The Housing Office is also directed to maintain rental rates at Amazon sufficient to cover all operation costs of the facility and to fund a conditional reserve to cover current debt-service funded by Amazon rental revenue.

Women's intercollegiate athletics will make some gains in the coming year toward equity with the men's program, according to a Title IX progress report submitted by the University in July.

Two coaches and a clerical assistant have been added to the women's athletic program staff, and \$75,000 will be available for tuition scholarships for women athletes this year. Women will also have larger locker facilities and will use an expanded central equipment and supplies facility in the once males-only McArthur Court.

Also planned is the development of a softball diamond, discus-hammer and field hockey practice areas on the 18th Avenue and Agate Street fields, and a glass-enclosed display case for women's trophies which will be located near the men's trophy cases in McArthur Court.

(Continued on Page 19A)



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