

Abducted rock turns itself in to Pres. Boyd

The Museum of Natural History's missing imitation meteor landed on Pres. William Boyd's driveway Monday, after a nine-day disappearance.

The meteor was apparently unloaded from a pickup truck. "I heard something around 4 o'clock," said Boyd, "but I thought it was my neighbor unloading from an elk trip."

The meteor, a model of a meteorite found at Oregon City in 1902, is 8 feet long, 5 feet wide, 3 feet thick and weighs in excess of 300 pounds.

On discovering the meteor, Boyd called Campus Security for help. Initially Campus Security misunderstood Boyd and sent out one man to pick up a parking meter.

Security eventually straightened the mistake out, and two more men and a pickup truck managed to remove the meteor.

Boyd said that although he was temporarily delayed for work, the meteor was only a minor distraction.

The meteor has been missing from the Museum of

Natural History since Halloween. A note delivered to the EMU Grievance Center Friday indicated the meteor theft was part of a plot.

The imitation meteor was donated to the University in the early 1900s, and the University has spent much of the time since then trying to figure out what to do with it. It was displayed on the porch of McClure Hall until the building was demolished.

The meteor then spent 15 years in hiding, and in 1968 it was remodeled and stuck in front of the Museum of Natural History, where it remained until Halloween.

The crime began with an imitation suicide, intended to distract security officials. Meanwhile the meteor was lifted by thieves with an undeclared motive. Monday at 7 a.m. the group, which calls itself "Meteorite Cleaning Service," called the Oregon Daily Emerald offices to say the meteorite "has landed at President Boyd's."



Photo by Patrick Sullivan

"Excuse me, Pres. Boyd, was that a meteor or a parking meter you wanted moved?"

Sociology

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enough to design their own curriculum, says department member Gordon. The faculty should control staff development, he says, because they have a long term interest in the department, while students only have a transient interest.

As for the abolition of the executive committee, Gordon says, "It was just another layer of people in the department structure."

Johnson, a University faculty member for 21 years, says he had been a strong supporter of student power in the past and that the decision to reduce graduate student power was a painful one.

Johnson says Administration approval was not needed for his actions.

"In fact," Johnson says, "If we had to rely on the administration in these matters, there is a strong likelihood there would be no student representation."

Last spring, Johnson says, Paul Olum, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, visited the department, and was shocked that graduate students were allowed active participation in the department. "And he couldn't believe we would allow undergraduate participation," says Johnson.

But not all of the department is happy with the new department head's changes.

"Johnson has exacerbated the tension already present in the department," Van Houten says.

Tension arose last spring during a department squabble over hiring, when a liberal faction of the faculty favored hiring Marxists to fill any of three existing vacancies in the department. A conservative faction contended there were already enough Marxists in the department and opposed the hiring of any additional adherents of that ideology.

In department meetings, the six graduate students present comprised a liberal voting bloc that placed the conservatives in the minority.

The conservatives opposed what was meant to be a final compromise resolution passed by the liberals, which called for the hiring of a Marxist and two non-Marxists, all on three-year term renewable contracts.

"We had a reputation of being a very liberal department," says Joe Canali, graduate forum officer and general-department meeting representative. "But now we're probably the phoniest department on campus. We have input now, but no power."

Joan Acker, associate sociology professor, says she doesn't think any of the changes have improved the department.

"I'd advise graduate students to get their degress and get out of here," she says.

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