

Loera prepares appeal against firing

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

Manuel Loera plans to appeal a decision by University Pres. William Boyd that upheld his firing from the High School Equivalency Program.

Loera, a former dorm supervisor for HEP, was fired from his position in December by HEP director Jim Romero on charges of incompetency and "moral misconduct."

Loera says he will take his case to the Oregon Court of Appeals because he "didn't see any justice" in the recent termination hearing, which was conducted by a faculty committee.

Because the committee was part of the University, Loera says, the committee members had a conflict of interest in deciding his case. "I can never be satisfied with their decision."

The three-member committee "reluctantly but unanimously" upheld Loera's termination, finding the evidence to be supportive of Romero's charges. However, the committee also found that Romero and the University administration had not followed usual procedures in Loera's termination, failing also to provide "adequate supervision and leadership" to the HEP program.

Supporting the committee's findings, Boyd promised an investigation of the HEP program after any possible appeal action by Loera. Susan Pease, Loera's lawyer, says that an appeal has not yet been filed, though Loera has 60 days to file according to administrative rules.

Boyd says that he would go ahead with a "quiet but thorough examination" of the HEP program after the

close of the Legislature and spring commencement, not to imply that the program is "weak," but because the committee suggested improvements could be made.

"We'll seek ways to improve the program," he said. "I have confidence that Romero has already made substantial improvements in the program."

"No one can fairly indict a brand-new leader for old problems," Boyd says that it's too early to see whether new leadership can solve them. Romero took over the HEP program in January, 1978.

If the HEP director "believed what he believed" when he brought charges against Loera, says Boyd, then that shows "only high standards are being accepted" in the program.

Boyd adds that it's very important not

to read too much into the committee's charges that administrative rules weren't followed to the letter. Romero's "seriousness of purpose" and "efforts of recruitment" are evidence that "HEP is stronger than it's ever been before."

An appeal by Loera might affect the timing of a HEP investigation, says Boyd, as he would prefer the case was closed before making public comments. But even if the case goes to court, Boyd says he plans to proceed with the investigation, since an appeal could be a lengthy process.

The dismissal of Pat Gallegos, admissions counselor, from the hearing committee has not been fully explained, says Loera. Romero challenged her because her husband, Enrique Gallegos, is a former HEP director.

OSPIRG emphasizes student involvement

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

When financial support for the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group from state colleges and universities began to taper last year, OSPIRG leaders decided to do something about it.

That something has become OSPIRG's emphasis on student involvement.

"People are OSPIRG's main resource," says Steve Reynolds, chair of the organization's Eugene board. "OSPIRG has been resting on a base of research. It's only recently that we've been actively recruiting."

OSPIRG was so busy building up its credibility by intensive research and lobbying efforts, that it almost ignored students beyond the core staff, says Reynolds.

"Students have always run the show in OSPIRG," he says.

"But those students shut out other students by paying attention to research."

OSPIRG is still primarily a research group, says Reynolds, adding that the organization now is interested in adding more students — and more work — to OSPIRG's efforts.

OSPIRG was established in 1970 after consumer advocate Ralph Nader urged students to work on consumer issues. Since then OSPIRG has become the teeth in consumer advocacy for students, biting into issues such as landlord-tenant relations, juvenile rights, preservation of wilderness areas, utility deposits, and proposed pay telephone increases.

Local policy boards coordinate local projects and suggest statewide projects to the 19-member state board. The state board is composed of elected representatives from local boards.

Although OSPIRG has been

criticized for its use of professional staff, Reynolds says staff is needed and is part of the reason for OSPIRG's success.

"Students supply the ideas and work while the professional staff provides the expertise," he says, adding that staff is also necessary to provide continuity since student organizations are heavily hit by turnover.

The new emphasis on students is also bringing more money to OSPIRG, says Mark Lampe, the group's campus organizer.

Lampe says that Oregon State University has increased funding for the program from \$5,000 this year to \$8,000 next year, after participation on that campus grew from two students last fall to over 80 winter and spring terms.

That increase in student interest is due to an intensive recruitment effort by OSPIRG, says Lampe, adding that this University is next on the list for a heavy recruitment effort.

But that effort will come with a decrease in subsidy from the

the University students.

Although the Incidental Fee Committee approved OSPIRG's request for \$41,700, 1978-79 ASUO Pres. Ramon Herrera cut 10 percent of that amount after the responsibility of final program allocations came under his control.

The ASUO still gives OSPIRG a bigger chunk of its budget than other state schools, says Lampe, adding that OSPIRG sees ASUO's level of funding as a goal for other schools to work toward.

Draft, environmental rally set

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

An Environmental Folk Rally featuring the Smokey Valley String Band and speeches on the draft and environmental issues including nuclear power will be held from 1-6 p.m. Sun-

day in the EMU Breezeway.

"The rally will be sort of a kick-off for the new ASUO administration," says Clark Harris, ASUO press officer. "This will be the first time that the ASUO has supported environmental and anti-draft actions with a concert."

The event is sponsored by the ASUO, the Survival Center, Coalition Opposed to Registration and the Draft, and Students for a Nuclear-Free Future.

The ASUO is co-sponsoring the event to bring the various environmental groups together, says Harris, adding that the programs suffer from a lack of communication.

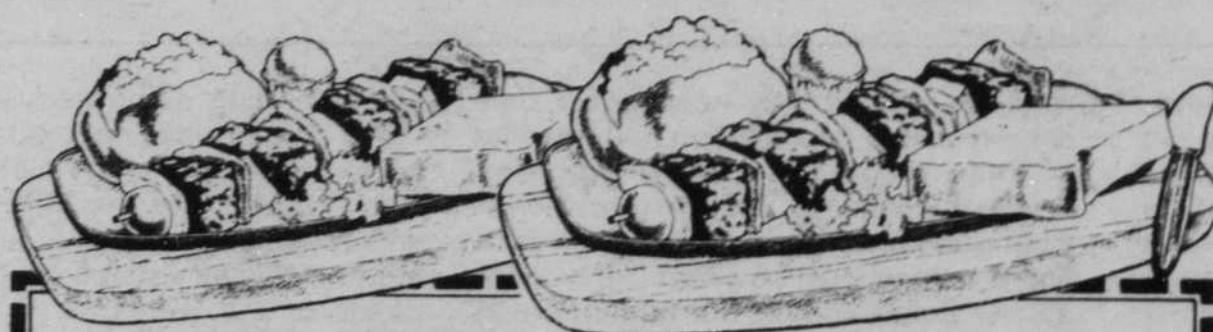
The rally was originally scheduled to be held on the east lawn of the EMU but was changed to the EMU's

breezeway after dorm residents complained that the noise would interrupt their studying.

"We feel that this change will give dorm residents the freedom that they need to study and live, while providing a place where people can still come and listen to some good folk music, environmental and anti-draft speakers," Harris says, adding that the ASUO plans to work with dorm residents and ASUO programs in establishing a policy for the use of the east lawn.

Scheduled speakers include ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett, who will talk about the ASUO's role in environmental issues and draft opposition, and speakers from CORD and University Veterans talking about the draft and draft registration.

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