

Yasuda represents students at state level

By KEITH BERNE
Of the Emerald

Board member voices concerns

University student Elizabeth Warner-Yasuda is working to voice student concerns to her colleagues on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education.

Yasuda, 22, is one of two student members on the 11-member board. She is also the youngest board member and a minority. As a Japanese-American born in Yokohama and raised in Oregon, she says she felt nervous about how she would be received when she joined the board in August.

"Before my first meeting in August at the Oregon Health Sciences Center, I had pre-conceptions about the board," she says. "I pictured a lot of fat, white, cigar-smoking men sitting behind big oak desks."

Yasuda says she couldn't have been more wrong. "I have the greatest respect for the board members. Everyone of them has a spicy, full background, and they vote according to the issues. I think Oregon is lucky to have such people."

Responsibilities of the state board

members include regulation of tuition fees and admission requirements, and managing and controlling all financial operations of Oregon's eight state colleges.

Yasuda, a senior in political science with a focus on ethnic studies, is an outspoken advocate of affirmative action programs that increase involvement of women and minorities in society. She cites this concern as her major reason for applying for the governor-appointed position of student representative.

"I felt it was high time women and minorities be represented on the board," she says. "I felt I could contribute, so I wrote Gov. Atiyeh a rather direct letter about women and minorities on the board." After a Senate hearing confirming her appointment, she joined the board.

Three of the current board's 11 members are women — Yasuda, former state representative Edith Green and Jane Carpenter. And the board also has one black member — Alvin Batiste, a

Portland engineer and physical scientist for the Bonneville Power Administration.

"I think that one of the important things I have to stress is that I can relate the student concerns — tuition and academic quality," Yasuda says. "The best way to do that, I find, is to work with the Oregon Student Lobby and the ASUO." She adds that her interests at the University are the same as those at other state system schools.

Yasuda says she disagrees with a recent board decision which allows state system college presidents the option of raising admission grade point average requirements.

The original admission proposal, which did not include the presidential option, was well done, she says, but adds that "nowhere in the report did it say anything about prospective minority applicants and its impact on them."

When she questioned the state board staff about the policy's impact on minorities, she says she received a "Rut there's not that many of them anyway" re-

sponse.

She eventually voted against the final proposal last month, but it passed 6-4 — an unusually close vote for the board, Yasuda says.

She relates the admission policy's problem with her own experiences.

"My father was dying of cancer when I was in high school and my family was impoverished," she says. "Like other minorities, I had to go to work at a young age to support my family. I didn't have time to focus on academics — for low-income whites, it's the same."

Ignorance and inability to learn are not the major causes for low GPAs among minority and low-income students, Yasuda adds.

Among Yasuda's goals as a student representative are keeping tuition down, improving the quality of education and battling student apathy.

She says she feels she has the respect of the board. "I have a full vote and I feel the board members are very concerned about my viewpoint, opinions and feelings — especially as a student, a woman and a minority."

Disarmament

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"Once we overcome that mental block that we shouldn't know about nuclear weapons, we will begin to look at the issue



Howard Morland

the same way we look at other problems created by industry."

The United States should disarm immediately, Morland advised.

"There is no defense against nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons don't provide any defense," he added. "It's a completely offensive weapon."

The idea that stockpiling nuclear weapons will deter attacks is only a hypothesis, Morland said, adding that most of the nation's nuclear weapons are "first-strike" offensive weapons.

"The arms race has created a world balanced on the edge of

nuclear destruction," Morland said. The reliance on first-strike weapons enhances the chances of a nuclear war and guarantees that such a war would be total, rather than limited, war, he added.

"Either we use them or we lose them," he said.

If the United States disposed of its first-strike nuclear weapons, Morland said, he has "no doubt that the Soviet Union will follow our lead. If they didn't, we wouldn't lose anything. The world would be a much safer place if only one side has first-strike weapons. All we're doing now is adding to the stockpile."

Seven U.S. factories with 20,000 workers each are producing three H-bombs per day, Morland said. The United States has a stockpile of 25,000 H-bombs — 25 times the number needed to destroy all the major cities of the Soviet Union, he added.

"They have a hard time figuring out where to store those bombs," Morland said.

And the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty II is not a step toward disarmament, he added.

"The SALT agreements are merely a way to give respect-

ability to the arms race," he said. "It creates a false sense of security and an illusion that we're going in the right direction."

"The SALT II talks are based on a bilateral feeling that nuclear weapons are good and that the United States is going to lose out if it limits nuclear weapons if the Soviet Union doesn't also," Morland said.

And SALT II talks create more nuclear weapons, Morland said,

adding that Carter is now pushing for the MX missile so that SALT II will pass.

Morland said he doubts the publication of his article gave secret information to smaller countries or radicals and prompted them to build H-bombs.

"A basement operation couldn't build the bomb," he said. "And I don't think they (scientists in small countries) are waiting around for me to tell them how a H-bomb works so

they can build one."

Morland said he plans to write a book about his experiences gathering information for his article and about the "secret" of the bomb. He added that he'd like to write other expose articles in addition to touring the country and talking about his H-bomb experiences.

"I'm interested in doing anything that will open up the U.S. military complex to public scrutiny."

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