

Placement aide assists minority students

By GAYLA LEOPARD
Of the Emerald

When it comes to finding a job, "everybody's marketable," says John Estrada of the Career Planning and Placement

Center.

"You basically have to know how to market yourself," says Estrada, the placement assistant for minority affairs.

One "problem area" with

minority students and employment is that minority students often are unaware of the job market and what's open to them, Estrada says.

Another problem is the lack of time and manpower needed to provide all the information needed. So students who need help go to Estrada.

"You just can't physically hit everyone on campus and tell them about it (student services)."

Students who find positions often spread career information by word of mouth. This creates a network of people with information that "feeds on itself," Estrada says.

To complement this network, Estrada organizes workshops on "job search," resume-writing and job interviews.

In addition, he works with minority student unions and remedial academic groups around campus and attends seminars. He also assists internship developer Deborah Chereck in arranging internships for minority students.

Despite the subtle barriers that affect minority employees in some fields, Estrada says all

prospective employers who work through the center follow a policy of non-discrimination.

The University, despite its small minority population, is "just a sampling of what's happening nationwide" with minorities.

Minorities are encouraged to apply to all University departments, Estrada says, and his office works closely with affirmative action director

Norma McFadden.

Estrada says his line of work is also vulnerable to the budget ax.

"I don't foresee my position being funded next year," says Estrada, whose post was created at the beginning of the current academic year.

But while he is working, Estrada says he'll try to help minorities "take better hold" of job opportunities.



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

John Estrada

State divestment bill favored

By GREG WASSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM — What role politics should play in investment decisions is a controversial question. Gov. Vic Atiyeh thinks the two should be separate. Rep. Margie Hendriksen, D-Eugene, disagrees.

Hendriksen supports a bill calling for the state to divest stocks in companies doing substantial business — more than 50 employees or \$500,000 — with countries with established systems of discrimination.

Hendriksen says there is a line of repression that, if crossed, bars the state from investing its money in good conscience.

"This bill has chosen to draw the line rather narrowly, by saying we will not invest our money in countries that, by law, practice racial discrimination."

South Africa currently is the only country in the world that meets that definition.

Monday, Bill Sutherland, the Quaker representative to South Africa and surrounding countries, held a press conference to explain why the divestment bill should be supported.

Sutherland catalogued the familiar list of atrocities perpetrated on the black majority by the white minority government in South Africa.

Direct impact is only one reason to support the idea, Sutherland says.

"The second thing is that I have found that it is important to the resistance in South Africa from a moral point of view that they know that people in other parts of the world are taking this kind of action."

Sutherland added that it's a mistake to assume divestment means financial loss. He pointed to the city of Berkeley, which had a more valuable investment portfolio after divestment than before.

The bill, HB 2618, is property of the House Committee on Aging and Minority Affairs and is scheduled for its first public hearing Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday afternoon, the Senate Justice Committee took testimony on a series of bills aimed at curbing domestic violence and aiding victims.

The first, SB 355, would allow police officers to make an arrest anywhere when they have probable cause to believe an assault has occurred. Present law requires that any arrest be

made at the scene of the disturbance.

Finally, the legislation requires an arrest even if the victim objects. It also says the officer must take precautions to see that the abuse isn't repeated, including advising the victim of shelter homes and other community services available.



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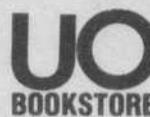


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