

Harassment rules tightened

Sexual harassment in any form is now officially prohibited at the University as a result of new grievance procedures adopted late last spring, according to Norma McFadden, University affirmative action director.

"The University believes that unwelcome sexual activity induced by persons abusing positions of economic, supervisory, or academic power is inherently undesirable and oppressive," the new rules state in part.

The rules, which bring the University in line with federal and state laws, make official grievance procedures McFadden says her office had already been following.

The University can deal with sexual harassment complaints both formally and informally, she says. The "informal" way is most often used because "true offenders are few and far between."

"One or two (complaints) have reached a 'formal level,' if you will, but all the rest have been worked out informally and been resolved to the grievant's satisfaction," McFadden says. "Sexual

harassment is so much a matter of individual perception."

Quite often, all that is necessary to resolve the situation is private and off-the-record discussion with those principally involved, she says. But if the informal method fails, her office is prepared to conduct a formal and discreet inquiry into the allegations. Offenders can be reprimanded, suspended, or terminated.

McFadden urges all members of the University community who believe they have been sexually harassed to consult her office.

"If you perceive that this is happening to you or something is making you very uncomfortable, you don't have to deal with it by yourself," she says. "There's lots of good information for people dealing with a situation they don't like."

McFadden says the new rules are a reflection of the University's overall commitment to affirmative action.

"The University promotes a sex fair, race fair environment for everyone here."

Motor vehicle rates increase

By Paul Golden
Of the Emerald

Rates have increased on many basic licensing and vehicle registration fees in Oregon as a result of measures passed by the 1983 State Legislature.

Among the changes, which went into effect Saturday, is one that will raise the cost of a first-time driver's license by \$2 to a total of \$13. Another change will increase the cost of renewing a driver's license by \$2 to a total of \$13.

These changes, along with a number of others, were made necessary by the rising expenses of Motor Vehicle Division programs, according to Vinita Howard, state public service manager.

"The last ten years we've been under a legislative mandate where we go over our fees every year to make sure the programs are self-supporting, so we don't have to take from the highway fees," Howard says. "The fees have to cover the cost of the program."

There are a number of other rate hikes scheduled, and Howard puts the blame on the economy.

"Since inflation has been climbing, we've seen more increases," she says. "It will be interesting to see if our next cost-study report shows that the rates are OK, now that inflation is slowing."

Another announcement by the DMV is that certain traffic infractions will cost more. The minimum bail and fine for illegally parking in a handicapped space is now \$25. Failing to stop for a school or worker bus which is flashing its red lights will become a Class A infraction. It was formerly Class B.

Ignoring a traffic ticket will also prove more expensive. A \$15 reinstatement fee will be collected when a driver's license is suspended for failure to appear in court when cited for a traffic violation. This is in addition to the current \$25 reinstatement fee paid to the DMV.

Weaver lashes out at 'dead dinosaurs'

Solar energy is the only solution to our desperate energy plight, according to Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore.

Weaver encouraged solar energy development and criticized government efforts to "repress" it in his keynote speech at the

Solar Energy Association of Oregon's annual conference at the Eugene Hilton Saturday.

Attaining energy independence can best be achieved through solar energy because the sun is not vulnerable to outside interference, he said.

"No one can steal it, it won't melt down, terrorists can't hold it hostage and the Russians can't invade it," he said.

Weaver pointed to the limitations of what he called "exotic" energy resources.

He called the depletion of oil reserves in the past century "the most flagrant abuse in the history of the world."

Nuclear power is a "dead dinosaur," he said, and added that no applications for new nuclear power plants have been filed in six years.

Development of solar energy will have to come from small businesses and entrepreneurs, instead of the giant corporations involved in the development of other energy sources, he said.

"The sun is deregulated and open for business."



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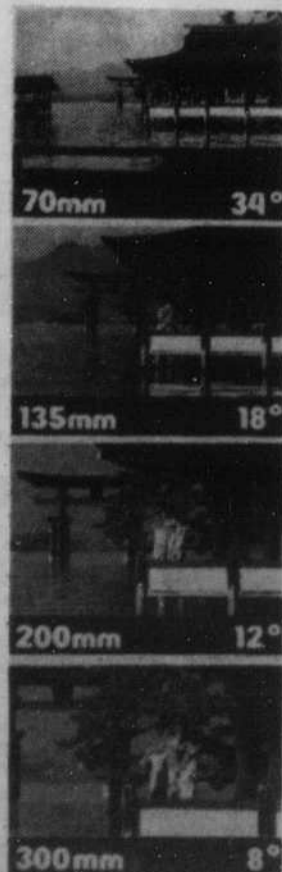
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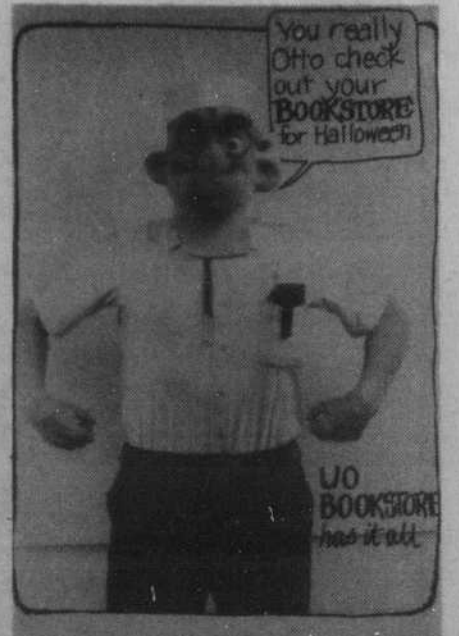
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