

Emerald charged with sexual discrimination

By Lisa Loving
Of the Emerald

A grievance over selection of the 1986-87 Oregon Daily Emerald editor may lead to a sex discrimination lawsuit, according to an unsuccessful applicant.

Michelle Brence, managing editor of the Emerald, is pursuing University channels to challenge the Oregon Daily Emerald Board of Directors' selection of Community Editor Paul Sturtz for the top spot on the campus paper.

The board, a 10-member panel composed of students, faculty, staff and one community newspaper representative, voted 5 to 4 Thursday night in Sturtz's favor. Board chairman Scott Diehl, of The Register-Guard, was not present. Brence and Sturtz were the only applicants considered by the board.

While a University legal adviser has counseled her to exhaust all Emerald grievance procedures first, Brence said she is willing to sue the Emerald board if she deems it necessary. If a lawsuit is brought, she said, "I have a feeling it would be a sexual discrimination suit based on affirmative action guidelines."

The avenues for addressing Brence's complaint are unclear. According to Diehl, "At this point we're not even sure what the procedure is for reviewing the grievance."

Bill Kittredge, director of the ASUO Office of Student Advocacy, said, "My understand-

ing of her grievance is that she's saying she is a more qualified woman who was not hired in lieu of a less-qualified man."

Criteria for selection of the editor, however, was not specifically spelled out, said board member Allan Lazo.

I don't think there was any real official criteria that we used," he said. "I don't know if there should have been or not." Lazo added that all members had the same information about the applicants.

Current Emerald Editor Julie Shippen, a member of the board who participated in the deliberations, said, "I believe that people had pre-decided against Michelle as an applicant."

Elected student board member Jennie Bricker disagreed with Shippen's analysis of the selection process. "The whole function of the Emerald board is to make a democratic decision," Bricker said. "I don't see how people can think there's been an injustice done by the committee."

Shippen said Brence's opinion pieces written earlier this year, during her tenure as editorial page editor, partly hindered her bid for the job. "Plain and simple, Michelle wrote editorials," Shippen said, "and from time to time the editorials would be directed at student groups."

Shippen said some student board members participate in organizations that were criticized by Brence.

"I don't believe that some of the people on the board have the Emerald's best interest in mind," Shippen added. "I think their being on the board has to do with extending student politics where student politics don't belong."

Of the 10 board members, seven are students. In addition to the Emerald editor, those positions include one elected University student at large, two representatives appointed by the ASUO president, and three members elected by and from the Emerald news, production and advertising departments.

Shippen said, "You take a gamble when you let the ASUO president appoint people [to the ODE Board]. You question whether or not they want to be on the board for the right reasons."

ASUO President Lynn Pinckney appointed only one board member, contrary to general procedure. Pinckney failed to appoint the second board position, which later was filled through a board appointment.

"How one person could destroy a board that large is beyond me," Pinckney said. She added, "I think Adam Apalategui [her appointee] has

been a fine board member. His interest in the University is campuswide."

Bricker disagreed with charges that politics had an undue effect on the deliberations. "What I was looking for in an editor was someone who could bring a positive change to the Emerald," Bricker said. "I didn't think Michelle was the one to bring that change about."

Of the candidates, Bricker said, "I thought they were pretty equally qualified." She added that Sturtz's lack of experience on the Emerald is balanced by his work on other publications, while Brence's background centers almost exclusively on the University paper.

Funding Continued from Page 1

its money independently of the IFC, Randall said. Alternative funding methods have not been fully explored and should be, he added.

"Advertising in Eugene is a bit shaky because we are an opinion journal," Mann said. The press run is limited to 4,000 copies and somewhat limited to campus circulation, which further discourages advertisers, he said.

"Must we fund free speech?" asked IFC member Ka-Yin Siew. If the Commentator is funded, Siew questioned whether every other newsletter on campus would have to be funded.

Next year's editor will receive \$270 for the nine-month position, which has been a volunteer post since the paper's inception.

In other business, the IFC ap-

propriated \$65,000 for University childcare subsidies for the upcoming year.

Between 175 and 200 families participate in the program currently, said Carol Berry, accountant of the Child Care Development Center. This number reflects an increased number of parents attending the University as full-time students, she said.

The Child Care Task Force will look into the costs and options of child care available for students and report to the IFC in October, Randall said.

The IFC also authorized a transfer of \$300 in Student Senate stipend funds for the creation of a Student Senate handbook.

The handbook will be used as a reference manual and may help retain Student Senate members, Lawrence said.

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