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Former student seeks bid from Democrats

Hopes to be 'political surprise'

By Peter Meier
Of the Emerald

Former University student Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois announced Monday he is joining the race for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination.

Simon, 58, was born and raised in Eugene. At 16, he attended the University to study journalism, and was sports editor for the Oregon Daily Emerald and sports reporter for the Eugene Register-Guard.

The liberal politician, known for wearing bow ties and horn-rimmed glasses, found his most triumphant election victory when he ousted longtime Illinois Republican Sen. Charles Percy in 1984, according to information provided by the University News Bureau.

Although a dark-horse candidate, Simon hopes to be the political surprise of 1988.

"I would not be entering this contest unless I believed I could win," he said.

His chances are improved by former front-runner Gary Hart's abandonment of the race. In contrast to Hart, the "New-Ideas" candidate, Simon invokes the names of his party's past, praising the domestic policies of Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Johnson and the foreign policies of Carter.

Speaking last month, Simon said he sees himself as a mainstream Democrat.

"I dream of an America at work in a world at peace. This is not some distant dream impossible to achieve. It can happen if we have leadership rooted in the traditional values of our party. I am not a neo-anything. I am a Democrat."

Simon answered questions at a University news conference Thursday night via telephone from Washington, D.C.

"I am not joining the crowd that says we (the Democrats) ought to shift the base of our party to please the country club set," Simon said during the teleconference.

"We have to create a country where there are job opportunities for everyone."

Simon left the University of Oregon at 19, moving with his family to Illinois, where he became the nation's youngest newspaper publisher, negotiating a \$3,600 bank loan to buy the weekly Troy Tribune in Illinois.

Simon began his political career at 25 when he won a seat in the Illinois Legislature. After 14 years in the Legislature, he served four years as lieutenant governor. He was the U.S. congressman from Illinois' 22nd district from 1975-85.

Simon said during the teleconference that he hopes to visit Eugene sometime this summer or early fall, but no definite plans have been set.



Photo by James Marks

Professor Randy Moore and Suezane Kim have found friendship while taking part in the mentor-student program sponsored by the Council for Minority Education.

Minority students gain mentors

By Laurie Schwartz
Of the Emerald

When freshman Suezane Kim heard that music Professor Randall Moore had been trying to reach her she thought, "Oh no, what did I do?"

Then she found out Moore was just being friendly. He had been chosen to be her mentor through a new program that pairs minority students with faculty members for a supportive and informal relationship.

The program is sponsored by the Council for Minority Education, a University office devoted to the recruitment and retention of minority students.

"Going to college and being away from home is a traumatic experience for anyone," said Carla Gary, program coordinator. "Add to that students of color who come from urban areas who grow up in situations where they are the majority. The rest of the country does not mirror this lack of color" at the University, she added.

Kim joined the program as "an opportunity to meet a faculty member on a more personal level as opposed to an academic level," she said.

National surveys have shown that minority students are less likely than white students to

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Minority tuition waiver critics say it may not be enough

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

The minority student tuition-waiver plan probably will benefit most those students who least need it, said Oscar Hernandez, director of MEChA, the University's Hispanic student union.

The State Board of Higher Education last week approved a plan to give free tuition to black, Hispanic and Native American students from Oregon who enter state colleges and universities next fall.

The goal of the plan is to double minority enrollment at schools in the State System of Higher Education by the fall of 1989.

The plan is aimed at raising the col-

lege participation rate of those minority students to equal the participation rate of white students.

Hernandez said the plan is a step in the right direction, but financial aid for students should be based on need, and should consider each specific student's background, not just the merit of students' academic records.

The plan calls for eligible students to have a minimum 2.75 high school grade point average and successful completion of the high school course requirements for State System admission.

"There are people who don't want to claim their Hispanic or Native American heritage because they grew up in upper-middle class environments. They may

claim to be Hispanic just because they can get these benefits, even though they don't really need them," Hernandez said. "They are the ones who are more likely to have a 3.00 or a 3.50 GPA."

"Even though (the requirement) is only a 2.5 or 2.75 GPA, if you're from a lower income background, if you have a really bad situation around you, those people might have a harder time to pull a 2.75," Hernandez said.

But the issue of adequate financial aid for all needy students is separate from the specific issue of minority enrollments, said Gary Christensen, State System director of school relations. Students who have financial need qualify for a vast array of need-based

financial aid programs, he said.

The goals of the free tuition plan are "chiefly educational and only secondarily financial," Christensen said.

Hernandez's criticism is valid in that the program is meant to serve minority students who meet the regular admissions requirements, Christensen said. "But we know that the vast majority of these students will have financial need anyway."

Students who do not meet the regular admissions requirements may be admitted to State System institutions as exceptional cases. These students then may qualify for need-based financial aid pro-

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IFC chairwoman confirmed for court position

The Student Senate on Monday confirmed the appointment of Jodie Mooney to the ASUO Constitution Court.

Mooney, a third-year law student, is currently Incidental Fee Committee chairwoman. ASUO President Steve Nelson said Mooney's appointment will begin once her term of office with the fee committee is completed on May 24.

Her experience on the fee committee has given her a "bird's eye view" of student politics, and her con-

stitutional law classes will aid her in understanding constitutional interpretation, Mooney told senators during the confirmation hearing.

"I'm really pleased," she said when informed of the confirmation. "This gives me the opportunity to continue to be involved in student government next year."

There were two openings on the court, but Nelson said there was nobody else he was ready to appoint to the second opening.

The Senate also confirmed three appointments to Student Projects, Inc.: Steve Hoyt, Anne Wyatt and Ian Reekie.

SPI is a non-profit student corporation that owns Footnotes and administers the ASUO Health Insurance Program for the ASUO Executive.

Hoyt's appointment will have to be approved by the Constitution Court because he is a member of next year's IFC.