

Petition critical of procedure

By Laurie Schwartz
Of the Emerald

The Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation is circulating a petition asking for an independent committee to review the University's procedure for handling sexual harassment complaints, according to Chuck Hunt, president of the GTFF local chapter.

The petition originated with a group of petition members who asked for support from the GTFF, Hunt said.

Members of the group who could be contacted asked that their names not appear in the Emerald due to "fear of retaliation."

Petitions were mailed out to GTFs last week, although Campus Mail blocked distribution of the petitions for 24 hours based on a claim that the petitions were political, Hunt said.

The petition states, "At the very least, the spirit of the University of Oregon's affirmative action programs has been violated numerous times, leaving the University vulnerable and compromised because of a widening gap between what it espouses and what it actually accomplishes."

Sexual harassment complaints are handled by the campus Office of Affirmative Action.

The University's Committee on the Status of Women currently is reviewing the policies on sexual harassment.

University President Paul Olum appointed the 15-member committee.

But Hunt and members of the faculty group who wrote the petition said an outside review was needed to avoid conflicts of interest that arise when an institution investigates itself.

Hunt said the GTFF first became interested in the issue following the August 1986 conviction of Stephen Reynolds, a former religious studies professor, for the rape of a

five-year-old girl. Six students interviewed by the Emerald in an article published Oct. 13 indicated Reynolds had sexually harassed them in some manner. One incident dated back 14 years.

"Harassment (complaint) procedures on this campus are a joke," Hunt said on Sunday.

Hunt said in speaking with GTFs about their departments he was "amazed at the general knowledge of harassment — and nothing's being done."

The timing of the petition drive, "right in the middle of dead week," will probably lessen the response by students, faculty and staff, Hunt said, but added, "Even if we don't get a lot of signatures, it's an educational tool."

The petition calls for protection from retaliation for those filing sexual harassment complaints, and expresses concern about incomplete record keeping on the progress of complaints.

The petition also calls for "the need to eliminate the conflict of interest that exists when the director of affirmative action also serves as an assistant to the (University) president."

The petitions state that they should be returned to the Reading and Research Discussion Group at 636 PLC. The group hopes to get 1,000 signatures, and is considering taking the petition to the University Senate, according to a member of the group who does not want to be identified.

Yvonne Vowels, a GTF who is circulating the petition, said she is not faulting the work of the Committee on the Status of Women, but she added that independent consultants are needed to augment that committee's work.

"The Committee on the Status of Women can only go so far in calling for reform of a system of which it is a part," she said.

Laurels

The University School of Music has awarded the 1987 Nils B. Hult Scholarship to Ty Young of Victoria, British Columbia. Young, a junior, is the principal cellist of the University symphony. Young will receive an award of \$3000.

The Burlington Northern Foundation of Seattle has renewed an \$18,000 grant to the University of Oregon Foundation to recognize faculty teaching excellence.

Richard Paulin, director of the University of Oregon Museum of Art, has announced he will retire June 30 after 16 years as head of the campus museum.

Diana Brown Sheridan, a doctoral candidate at the University, is the 1987 recipient of the Beatrice Stevens Scholarship for Peace Studies. Sheridan will receive \$1,000.

Kore, the honor society for sorority women, has selected eight new members: Stacy

Turlay, Elizabeth Warren, Beth Blue, Susan Humphries, Kimberly McCormick, Jennifer Kottkamp, Denise Hazen, and Julie Garstka.

Fourteen University students have been named recipients of Dean's Awards for Services. Timothy Corrigan, Susan Guild, Debra Liebowitz, Patricia McGuire, Shannon Meehan, Mary Menard, Don Rich, Gwyneth Hamaker, Soledad Bastiancich, Stephen Nelson, Sarah Lachkar, Frale de Guzman and Morompi Ole-Ronkei received certificates on May 16.

The University of Oregon Mothers' Club has awarded scholarships to students Soledad Bastiancich, Michelle Sponsel, Kelly Skye, Debbie Rose, Geri Naumcheff, Gregory Corbin, Carol Scheeff, Susan Robblee, Lisa Bergquist, and Grant Searles.

Legislative update

AIDS test okay given nod

By B.J. Thomsen
Of the Emerald

The Oregon House on Friday gave a resounding 57-2 nod to a bill that would require patient consent before testing for exposure to the AIDS virus could be performed.

Kristine Gebbie, administrator for the Oregon State Health Division, requested the consent provision, House Bill 2067, because she said she feared prejudicial action against a person if discovered to have been tested for AIDS.

In other business on Friday, the House was divided concerning a bill that, if approved by voters, would require motorcyclists to wear helmets.

The bill was sent to the Senate with a 32-28 House vote after debate on who should pay the medical costs for those sustaining head injuries in motorcycle crashes and whether individual freedoms were being encroached on by a desire to save lives.

A proposed child pornography amendment to the Oregon Constitution designed to strengthen laws prohibiting pornography involving people less than age 18 years of age

passed the Senate 22-7 on Tuesday.

The amendment says, "nothing in this section (addressing free speech) affords protection to photographic displays of sadomasochistic abuse or conduct by persons under 18 years of age."

Senate Joint Resolution 18 now moves to the House for consideration.

Movie makers may see Oregon through a more favorable eye if a bill passed by the Senate on Wednesday 25-4 becomes law.

Senate Bill 920 would exempt the wages of film crews coming from other states to make movies in Oregon from Oregon income taxes.

Supporters of the bill say film making environmentally is clean and lucrative for the state, and Oregon should do everything in its power to encourage movies to be filmed in the state.

Sen. Bill Frye, D-Eugene, opposed the bill, arguing the measure was unfair to working Oregonians because it give a tax break to a particular group of people that Oregon could be collecting taxes from.

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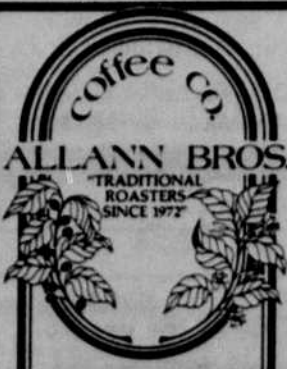
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