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GTFF voices grievances outside Johnson Hall

By Mike Drummond
Emerald Associate Editor

Rumblings of labor unrest were heard once again on campus when Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation President Chuck Hunt and a handful of GTFFs gathered on the steps of Johnson Hall Tuesday morning to voice their grievances with the State System of Higher Education and the University.

Unlike the recently resolved Oregon Public Employees Union dispute, campus GTFFs aren't demanding wage increases, but rather policy leniency regarding health care, job evaluations and "censorship" of their newsletter.

Graduate teaching fellows also would like the State System and the University to provide

job descriptions or lists of job requirements for GTFFs.

At Tuesday's press conference Hunt elaborated on GTFF demands, and maintained that the State System and the University have refused to give ground even though the GTFF has attempted to seek a compromise, Hunt said.

The GTFF contract expired July 1, 1987. Negotiations between the GTFF, the State System and the University continued for six months; however, negotiations broke off last Thursday when a state mediator's proposal was rejected by the union.

Hunt and other GTFFs said the mediator's proposal was identical to one they had rejected earlier, and now the union may be forced to call in a factfinder to help resolve their grievances.

Hunt admitted that the GTFF probably does not have the power to pull off an effective strike, but maintained with its 900 members on campus, their grievances should be heard.

Ken Ramsing, acting dean of the graduate school, said the press conference and the broken negotiations came as a surprise.

"I think that there has been movement (on the part of the University) and we have bargained in good faith," Ramsing said.

Even though a strike is unlikely, Ramsing said the University has taken the GTFF seriously in the past and will continue to do so. "They (GTFFs) are an important part of our academic community," Ramsing added.

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Miller withdraws from district race

Eugene City Councilor Jeff Miller withdrew from the race for the District 39 state Legislative seat Monday. Miller was one of five candidates seeking to replace Ron Eachus, D-Eugene, who will resign from the seat if he is confirmed Thursday by the state Senate as a state public utility commission member.

No opposition is expected in the Senate.

Miller said although he would like to work in the state Legislature and this is a good opportunity to do it, he has too many commitments in Eugene. Leaving his job for six months

to work at the Legislature would be very difficult, he said.

"Basically, it's just bad timing," Miller said. "When I got on the (city) council I didn't see it as a stepping stone. I did it because there were things I wanted to do, and now I'm in the middle of doing them."

Janet Kerans, the Democratic party's District 39 chairwoman, said the withdrawal makes the party's job easier now that only four candidates remain for the post. A District 39 Democratic committee of about 70 will choose three names to submit to the county commissioner's office, which will then choose

Eachus' replacement.

A withdrawal is "always disappointing to see when the candidate is well qualified," Kerans said.

The four other candidates are Eugene lawyer Jim Edmunson, Bethel School Board member Wes Hare, Santa Clara area firefighter Carl Below and retired Eugene school teacher Don Leslie. Eachus' term expires at the end of 1988.

The 39th District is heavily Democratic and includes portions of northwest Eugene, the River Road-Santa Clara area and Bethel-Danebo. Eachus has held the seat since 1985.



Photo by Andre Kanieri

Chuck Hunt GTFF president voiced the federation's complaints with the State System of Higher Education and the University at a press conference held Oct. 6 on the steps of Johnson Hall. The federation will meet again Thursday to discuss further action.

Needs not being met, minority students say

By Michael Fisher
Emerald Contributor

The University has long expressed a desire to attract minority students to its classrooms. Many who are enrolled, however, feel their educational and social needs aren't being met.

"Our increased efforts to recruit minorities have begun to pay off," said University Provost Richard Hill. "The general attitude on campus toward minorities is supportive. The consciousness of the faculty has been raised in this area over the last 10 years."

Members of the minority student population, however, say some important areas of support are absent at the University.

"Getting minorities here is only a small part of it; the main thing is to get them to stay," said Stanley Sykes, a black student majoring in pre-engineering.

"People need group unity where they live, and it's just not here for blacks," said Sykes.

Julie Sprague, a black business major, feels that the lack of minority faculty members and peers on campus hinders minority students' ability to fit in.

"You don't have nobody to lean on," said Sprague. "It's hard to find other people who you have something in common with."

Bo Kim, an Asian-American student studying business, agrees that "there aren't many role models for minority students, and that's not very encouraging to them."

"The University is concentrating on numbers (of minority students) and not on quality," she said.

Carla Gary, assistant director of the Council for Minority Education at the University, feels "we should be worried

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Job hunting should begin now

By Bryan Houston
Emerald Contributor

For those students who will be graduating from the University this year, or who are recent graduates, the time to begin searching for a job is now.

But before one should start scouring the classified ads, plenty of preparation is essential, according to local career counselors.

Knowing one's abilities and limits is a point stressed by career counselors for all fields. According to a University career counselor, the best way to accomplish this is with a self-assessment evaluation, affording the student the information necessary for success in their pursuits.

The self-assessment process pinpoints the student's skills and points the way for the job search, said Ben Jeffries, a counselor in the University's Career Planning and Placement Services office.

"In a self-assessment, the person should determine his

or her strengths, skills, and interests; what would they like to do and where would they like to do it; who they would be interested in working for and the setting they would like to work in," Jeffries said.

Susan Roudebush, a career counselor who works out of her home providing private consultations, concurs.

"The first major step in a job search is analyzing one's skills and accomplishments and figuring out what career fits those skills," she said.

Both counselors said that a person enlisting help in a job search should go to a career placement office with the self-assessment process pretty much completed.

Jeffries suggested that after this is completed, the searcher should expand on the things that he or she does well by listing accomplishments and achievements in those strength areas.

"Accomplishments can be work-related, civic-related or something else. Employers want those who can help

them," he said.

The self-assessment process is never-ending because the further a search continues, the more the searchers discover about themselves and their abilities, he said.

Tim Howes, 22, a senior accounting major, started his job search last spring feeling confident and prepared for the hunt, he said.

Workers with Career Planning and Placement Services also helped Howes understand how their system worked, and he said he undertook some individual research about interviewing for the job.

"It's a great program if you take advantage of it," he said.

Howes advised students searching for a job through CPPS should be persistent and dedicated to finding the right job, and should keep up with the always-changing information that is provided through the office.

When the process comes to a point where the student can safely determine what career

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