



Photo by Angela Muniz

About 100 protestors greeted Gov. Neil Goldschmidt at the Eugene Hilton on Friday evening, asking him to intervene in the State Board of Higher Education's decision to retire University President Paul Olum.

Students take case to Goldschmidt

By Jeff Morgan
Emerald Reporter

About 100 demonstrators made one more effort to retain University President Paul Olum and to seek review of the State Board of Higher Education's decision-making process by taking their case to Gov. Neil Goldschmidt Friday evening.

But Goldschmidt angrily stalked away from the rally, apparently unmoved by the vocal crowd's appeals for intervention.

The state board voted 9-2 to force Olum's retirement in June of 1989, three years before Olum's preferred date of retirement. The board took the vote during a controversial telephone conference call, causing speculation on whether the vote broke the Oregon State Public Meetings Law.

Goldschmidt, who was in town for the centennial celebration of the Eugene Family YM-CA, met with protesters at the main entrance to the Eugene Hilton on East 6th Street.

The governor was greeted with applause, but was continually interrupted by questions from the crowd when he started to speak. Many of the protesters carried signs reading "Keep Paul Olum," "Neil, You've Betrayed Us" and "Neil, Don't Be An Accomplice."

"Would you stop interrupting me and then I'll finish and then

you can say whatever you want," Goldschmidt told the crowd.

The governor, who is a University alumnus and a former ASUO president, said when he was on campus in 1962, University President Arthur Flemming condoned letting Gus Hall, former secretary of the U.S. Communist Party, speak on campus.

"Because of that, a lot of people in this state wanted Arthur Flemming fired and they went to the governor (Mark Hatfield) and said, 'Fire the president.' The governor said that it isn't appropriate for a campus' future to be decided by the governor for any political reason," Goldschmidt said. "And it still isn't," he added.

The crowd responded with a number of questions. When Goldschmidt tried to answer and was again interrupted, he shook his head, rolled his eyes and turned to leave.

Rally organizer Bryan Moore grabbed Goldschmidt's shoulder to get his attention, but the governor angrily jerked away from Moore and strode back into the hotel.

Goldschmidt was followed by taunts and shouts of "Shame, shame, shame, shame, shame" from the crowd.

After Goldschmidt went back into the hotel, Moore said to the crowd, "This response is not a surprise to us."

"If he believes that these

issues do not affect him, then he's in space somewhere," said Moore, a Spanish graduate student.

The rally took a different approach than previous pro-Olum rallies. The focus was more on reviewing the state board's procedures than on saving Olum's job.

"The issue now is the state system and the fate of the institution," said ASUO Vice President Karen Gaffney.

"This crisis is far from being over. We're going to be concerned with this for a long time to come," Moore said.

University Associate Professor and State Rep. Carl Hosticka, D-Eugene, commented, "We've got a state board that's out of control. It's out of touch and out of line. It's time to bring them back into line."

Hosticka told the crowd that the state board's decision is un-

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By GARY LARSON



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