

Editorial

Grievance prompts definitive action

A decision has been reached in the recent discrimination claim against the University School of Law: According to administration reports, the school did not racially discriminate by hiring a white male professor instead of a member of a minority group.

In University President Paul Olum's report, "Investigation of Law School Recruitment Activities, 1987-88," it is noted that of the four finalists reviewed, two were minorities. One minority candidate declined the law school's offer, and the other accepted a position elsewhere.

At a public forum on the steps of Johnson Hall last Friday, Olum said he shared the concerns of the law students who filed the discrimination grievance, and predicted that the law school would hire a minority in the near future. To Law School Dean Maurice Holland, that means this coming fall and winter terms.

The final three paragraphs of Olum's report state that he hopes the next recruitment process will result in the appointment of a minority.

To accomplish this objective, Olum and Holland have agreed that the next search to fill a vacant position in the Law School will be in the area of Natural Resources Law/Environmental Law/Indian Law — a position which has been vacant for the last year. Olum sees this area as one in which there is a likelihood of finding well-qualified minority candidates.

While the Natural Resources/Environmental Law/Indian Law position has been vacant for a year, and perhaps should have been filled by now, it is important to note that the administration has realized this is a matter of significance.

It is unfortunate that it took a law school grievance to expose the demand, but it is promising that the administration is taking definitive action on the problem.

Replace the fortress or change the name

The scene: Fort Stevens State Park, Warrenton, Ore.

The saga: When the park was established, it was as the home of a 32-foot-tall earthen fortress — Fort Stevens. But now, only a grassy pasture remains where the fort once stood.

Built during the Civil War, the fort had gun emplacements, several buildings, and 15-foot-deep moat. It gained fame during World War II as the only location on the U.S. mainland to be attacked by the Japanese after it was fired upon by a Japanese submarine.

So where is Fort Stevens now?

Unfortunately, the fortress was demolished in 1939 and replaced by marching grounds for a National Guard unit activated during World War II.

But now, park director and history buff Craig Tutor hopes to restore the fort. This fall, he will apply for a grant from the Oregon State Parks Division to do some research on the possibility.

The fort should be restored, because Oregon's state parks consistently rank among the nation's top 10 tourist draws — tourism is an important industry for this state.

Besides, "Grassy Pasture State Park" just doesn't sound right.



Letters

No stonewalling

The ASUO sponsored an "informational picket" regarding President Olum's decision to conduct an informal investigation into the Law School's hiring policies, instead of a formal one. Much of the information distributed at this picket was inaccurate. People in this community should know these facts:

- President Olum has voluntarily conducted an investigation into the student grievance, even though the Department of Justice advised that no such investigation was necessary. Far from "stonewalling," he is taking every possible legal step.

- This investigation is in addition to one conducted by the Affirmative Action office, which found no discrimination.

- The students apparently are not satisfied with the informal investigation because, although its findings and conclusions will be made public, the underlying documents remain confidential. To satisfy the students, then, the University would have to breach many confidences, including con-

fidential information submitted by the applicants themselves, their recommenders, etc.

The students apparently want the University to adopt a policy under which any student dissatisfied with a faculty hire (and we must remember that most "affirmative action" complaints are reverse discrimination claims filed by non-minorities) can compel full public disclosure of all material in confidential files. The result will be to make candidates and recommenders extremely reluctant to participate in a University faculty search.

- Allowing what the students seek here would permit any dissatisfied student to compel opening confidential files of candidates who, like the minority candidates in this case, have not and apparently do not authorize disclosure.

Maurice J. Holland
Dean, School of Law

taxable tuition waivers.) and there is "no money" to help the GTFs meet basic living expenses.

Sounds about "par" for the imperial state board. Not content to have forced President Olum to retire, crammed the bloated "Total Information System" down our throats and thumbed their noses at faculty and student input, the board is now proposing a 10 percent increase to our tuition (which is already one of the highest of any public school system in the western United States).

If things keep going the way that they have been, we may end up with Ronald Reagan as our new chancellor. He will be out of a job soon, and his policies as emperor of the United States make him the "perfect candidate" for this state board!

Randy MacDonald
Political science

Imperialism

Let's see if I've got this right: The State Board of Higher Education is proposing to increase the chancellor's salary by \$3,440 per year from \$102,060 to \$105,500.

At the same time, Graduate Teaching Fellows have suffered an effective pay cut of 20-50 percent from their already meager wages (resulting from the state board's decision to withhold income for now-

Any suckers?

I recognize that the Emerald cannot control the behavior of its readers who throw newspapers on the ground. But here's a great suggestion that will help clean up the mess, and the Emerald can help!

Replace the Emerald containers under the Breezeway and in front of the Bookstore with better containers, like the one in front of Geology.

Most of the papers strewn all over the Breezeway are not due to students, but to the wind. Why not place some device (a rock perhaps?) on top of the papers?

I've been picking up Emeralds from the sidewalks all over campus every day for three and a half years now. Please help soon, because I'm graduating and who knows if some other sucker will do it.

Laura Humphries
Student

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