

Editorial

Neil should stay out of chancellor mess

Frustrations continue to grow over Oregon's agonizing search for a new higher education chancellor.

The latest development in this on-going fiasco is the Wednesday resignation of Charles Duncan, coordinator of the Oregon State System's chancellor search committee. Duncan quit his post, saying the process should have ended with the acceptance of one of the four finalists unanimously recommended by the board. Instead, at the conclusion of the first search, three of the finalists dropped out and the board declined to approve the remaining one.

Duncan, a professor emeritus of journalism here at the University, also said that beginning of a new search should be delayed, and that it would be difficult to locate a better selection for chancellor within a reasonable time.

Originally, Duncan was critical of Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's influence on the chancellor search. While he has toned down some of his accusations, he is not the only person to be flustered by Goldschmidt's demands.

The Governor began this mess when he asked Chancellor William E. "Bud" Davis to resign last year. Goldschmidt has placed seven of the 11 members of the State System of Higher Education. With this considerable influence, and his demands, there is reason to believe that Goldschmidt, even indirectly, greatly influenced the decision to reject the finalists.

If this is indeed the case, then the time has come for Goldschmidt to put on his Nikes and get away from the chancellor search process. Goldschmidt has a very clear, laudable plan for including education as part of his "Oregon Comeback." We doubt very strongly that this continuing damage to the state's higher education system will contribute to that plan.

There's a riot goin' on at Saturday Market

It depends on who you hear it from: Last weekend, the mellow, counter-culture crowd at Eugene's Saturday Market turned into an ugly, blood-lusting mob; or nasty, fascist police brutalized some helpless civilians, including a pregnant woman.

The near riot at the last Saturday Market began when Eugene police officers attempted to arrest 42-year-old Alton Augustus Thomas on suspicion of selling drugs. Apparently, Thomas' 18-year old girlfriend, Alicia Ann Driscoll, who is six months pregnant, began to interfere with the arrest, saying the police had no right to be at Saturday Market.

What happened next is unclear. Police claim that Thomas tried to walk away, calling to the growing, sympathetic crowd for help. Immediately, the police were mobbed and threatened as people punched them in their throats and went for their guns. Witnesses report that the police used billy clubs and unnecessary force, hitting innocent bystanders.

Additional police arrived to clear the place, rescue the injured officers and arrest Thomas and Driscoll. About a dozen people marched down to City Hall after the melee to file written complaints.

Given the conflicting stories, it is hard to side with either party. We do expect the Eugene Police Department to investigate the complaints seriously. However, we also expect the police to do their job, anywhere that job is required. Policemen should not become unwelcome at Saturday Market, nor should citizens be inhibiting the conduct of legitimate police business.

Students pass AIDS quiz, but fail the big test

In their classrooms, they are learning the vital knowledge. In their restrooms, they have access to condoms from handy vending machines. But in their bedrooms, most college students, both here at the University and at Oregon State University, have not changed their sexual habits to prevent contracting the AIDS virus.

A recent survey conducted of 450 OSU undergraduates by researchers Lizbeth Gray and Marie Saracino revealed that while 81 percent of the students admitted having sexual intercourse over the past year, more than 60 percent of those who had sex did not use condoms.

The survey also showed that the students were well-informed enough about AIDS to pass a basic knowledge test about the virus. It is to their shame that students consider this knowledge expendable and refuse to act upon it.

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BEATIE



"Now I really need drought aid. The wind blast from the president's helicopter blades blew all my topsoil away."

Commentary

Willamette Greenway in danger from research park development

I am writing to ask for your support in the environmental campaign to protect the Willamette Greenway from overdevelopment through the proposed Eugene Riverfront Research Park.

Commentary by
Dan Stotter

The research park is an important public lands issue. We often forget that our environment begins at home, and that the quality of our urban environment has a direct and significant impact on our daily lives. Many residents of Eugene place high value on the Willamette Greenway, particularly the area near the Autzen footbridge, because of its diverse aesthetic and recreational resources.

Although the Greenway is used by a cross-section of Eugene residents, the most affected user-group for this area are younger members of our community, particularly high school and University students. I have been struck by their concern for the future of this area.

The research park is also an economic issue. Large public subsidies from both state and local tax bases are supporting the planning and infrastructure of this project. However, little economic feasibility analysis has been done to ensure that this development will not be a repeat performance of the Van Duyn Chocolate fiasco.

This project seems designed to enrich out-of-state interests like the Carley Capital Group, but will provide few benefits to our local economy. Considering the heavy local subsidies and the high risks of economic failure, I believe the costs of this project outweigh its benefits.

Lastly, I am concerned about the health and environmental risks posed by research along

the Willamette River. The Willamette is used for swimming and contact water sports and offers important habitats for a diversity of aquatic species. I fear that return flows of toxic chemicals and run-off from drains, sewers, roads and parking areas will cause adverse effects to the Willamette riparian system.

I urge you to contact the City of Eugene and the University before they commit further resources toward this project. Your support in protecting our greenway could go a long way toward maintaining the quality of life in our community.

Dan Stotter is a Eugene resident.

Letters

Bad bicycling

I know how the City of Eugene, through the Police Department, can make some money.

Two weeks ago I was waiting to turn left at the intersection of 15th Avenue and University Street, when this oncoming woman on a bike ran the stop sign and gave the impression she didn't care about anyone else except herself. I yelled at her, "That's a good way to get killed!" She just went on riding her bike like nothing had happened.

I hope in the future, the City of Eugene can improve its

patrols in the University intersections to crack down on those bike riders who enjoy breaking the law.

Allan Smith
Eugene

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words.

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