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Friends, associates gather in tribute to Olum

Event overwhelms president

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Reporter

The era of University President Paul Olum was ushered out in the grandest of styles when 500 of his friends and associates from around the state gathered Wednesday night at the Eugene Hilton Hotel to pay tribute to the retiring president.

Olum will be replaced July 1 by Myles Brand, the Ohio State University provost selected in April by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education to assume the president's post.

However, all eyes were on Olum this night as no mention was made of the impending transition of power.

"I'm probably going to make the understatement of the evening — Paul we're going to miss you a lot," said University Foundation President Ron Blind, one of 13 speakers expressing gratitude to Olum.

"I'm overwhelmed and embarrassed by this and almost speechless," Olum said as the evening came to a close. "It's important to tell you how much

it has meant to me to see all of you here tonight."

In attendance were some of the biggest names in Oregon politics, including Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield, a longtime friend of Olum's.

Moreover, Oregon Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer, state Legislators Carl Hosticka and Larry Hill, State Supreme Court Justice Ed Fadeley, and members of the Eugene and Springfield city councils were in attendance.

Most of the tributes voiced centered around Olum's commitment to the University and his success in bringing the University and community closer together.

The evening's speakers also praised Olum's personal integrity and honesty in his battle to improve education and fight for world peace.

"You have certainly made a difference at the University of Oregon and in this community," said John Lively, Springfield's former mayor.

During his address, Hatfield said he chose to celebrate Paul



Photo by James Marks

John Moseley, University vice president for research, looks on as wife Susan offers President Paul Olum a kiss at the dinner celebrating his years of dedication to the University.

Olum the man, instead of Olum the president.

"We can all sit here tonight listening to Paul's accomplishments," Hatfield said. "As much as I admire that record, I want to celebrate Paul Olum.

"The end is excellence and education, and to speak of them is to speak of Paul," he said.

The evening began with a social hour in the lobby to the accompaniment of the Oregon

Brass Quintet. A trumpet fanfare signaled guests to the dining room where they were serenaded by the sounds of a string quartet.

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Gaffney, Hoyt leave ASUO office today

Ambitious goals included lighting, affirmative action

By Polly Campbell
Emerald Reporter

On Thursday, ASUO President Karen Gaffney and Vice President Steve Hoyt will walk through the doors of EMU Suite 4 leaving behind the memories of a year full of challenges, failures, and victories.

As candidates vying for the ASUO executive positions last year, Gaffney and Hoyt had an ambitious eight-page platform of goals that included combatting racism, student empowerment and control over student fees, and affirmative action legislation.

"It was an incredibly productive year," Gaffney said. "We accomplished more than we thought we would."

When looking in retrospect at her year as ASUO President, Gaffney said the development of the Women's Center and the search for a new University president to replace Paul Olum are two important things that were done this year.

The fight against racism and homophobia was an issue Gaffney and Hoyt worked on constantly while in office, beginning by declaring the ASUO executive office a "Racism Free Zone."

"From the beginning we made a commitment to combat racism," Hoyt said. "We invited speakers, held staff workshops on racism, and sponsored a winter symposium on racism. I also called to order the first meeting of Students Against Apartheid, an organization that is now flourishing," he said.

But Gaffney and Hoyt also faced problems in their attempt to fight racism. During the winter symposium on racism a lot of publicity and attention was given to Angela Davis, who spoke on the



Photo by James Marks

Karen Gaffney (left) and Steve Hoyt leave their ASUO Executive positions with feelings of accomplishment.

successes and continued challenges in the fight against racism, Hoyt said.

Because of the attention given to promoting her speech, the Native American Student Union felt their organization did not receive equal publicity for the forum discussion they sponsored during the symposium, Hoyt said.

"Racism is a very sensitive issue and even well-intentioned people make mistakes," Hoyt said.

"The people who end up never being accused are the ones who don't try to fight racism, because when you do try you make mistakes but we have made improvements from our mistakes," Gaffney said.

The Gaffney/Hoyt administration also

worked to revamp the current affirmative action system for higher education legislation. One effect of a bill they introduced in the Legislature would have been to create an affirmative action advocacy process, Hoyt said. However, the bill was never passed in the state legislature.

Although both Gaffney and Hoyt expressed disappointment that the bill never passed the lobbying stage, it brought attention to the affirmative action issue on a statewide level.

"The legislature wasn't ready to act on the bill, but two years from now they will have more time to think about it

Turn to ASUO, Page 7

Burn ban could kill family farms

By Cynthia Dettman
Emerald Contributor

The air smells sweet and clean. Green fields stretch in all directions, glowing in the soft light as the sun drops behind purple hills.

Sheep dot the fields, and the only sound is the distant hum of a pickup truck heading to town.

It is a typical quiet spring evening on Mike Campbell's grass seed farm near Junction City.

Sitting at his dining room table, Campbell talks proudly of his family's love of farming, and says he wouldn't want to do anything else.

But Campbell's mind is in Salem where a political storm is brewing over grass-seed field burning. His family farm may be doomed if burning is banned, he said, and he doesn't think it's fair.

Willamette Valley grass seed farms are primarily family operated, according to Dave Nelson, executive director of a grower's lobbying group. The majority of growers cultivate only 400 to 500 acres of grass seed a year, and have only a "moderate income," he said.

Would a field-burning ban be yet another nail in the coffin of the American family farm?

The answer depends on who is asked.

Campbell, 30, has been working in grass seed since he left high school. His wife, Judy, has been bailing straw since she was in junior high, and their three children are learning

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