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MEChA members, others urge action to end racism

By Frale de Guzman
Emerald Associate Editor

A hastily organized Chicano/Latino Student Union (MEChA) "Rally Against Racism" attracted more than 100 spectators to the EMU Courtyard on Wednesday.

Eddie Beanes, MEChA director, said the rally was meant to "remind people that discrimination and racism are still happening."

He cited recent racial incidents in Portland and Eugene as examples of discriminatory practices that "no one wants to face until it happens to them or to someone in the family."

"Otherwise, it's just ignored," said Beanes, who said his brother, Greg, was attacked by skinheads in Portland last week.

Beanes' statement was echoed by former ASUO presidential candidate Tim Hughes.

"We need to say no to oppression," Hughes

said and added that in the process, the community must also acknowledge the overlapping circles that have taken place in the "struggle for equal rights."

This is a struggle that encompasses the struggle of women, students of color, gays and lesbians and other disenfranchised groups, Hughes said.

For this reason, these groups need to work together to address the problem of discrimination, Hughes said.

"For us, silence equals death," he said.

Hughes further stated that the responsibility of ending discrimination also falls on the administration, not just students.

"It's important that we hold people responsible for their actions," he said.

Hughes said that the harassment and attacks he and his campaign workers experienced this

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Photo by Bill Haines

Sociology graduate student Sharon Elise challenges the EMU Courtyard audience to actively fight racism during Wednesday's rally.



Barb Ryan

Ryan reassignment heats up Women's Center

What normally would have been a regular staff meeting of the ASUO Women's Center instead turned into a heated debate Wednesday over the recent reassignment of Barb Ryan, the center's coordinator.

Because of an apparent disagreement with co-directors of the center's various component groups, Ryan was notified Friday that she would be moved from the center's coordination office to working on homophobia and racism workshops.

Susan Sowards, ASUO Executive Coordinator, chaired the meeting, which was crowded with group co-directors and Ryan supporters.

The reason given for Ryan's reassignment

was differences between Ryan and the codirectors of Women in Transition, Project Saferide and the Women's Referral and Resource Center, which comprise the Women's Center.

People in the audience, many of whom served as directors of the women's groups last year, expressed concern that Ryan had been fired.

Sowards insisted Ryan was not fired, but had been reassigned to work on her "specialties," homophobia and racism workshops.

"Communications ... for lots of complex reasons, between (Ryan) and (the co-directors) have broken down to the point where

the atmosphere in the center was no longer conducive to getting work completed," Sowards said.

Ryan is no longer the center's coordinator, but is being paid and will retain the title until her contract expires June 30.

Ryan did not attend the meeting. "I didn't want to get in the middle of it just yet," Ryan said.

"There was a recent breaking of trust between us. It's clear they don't want me to represent the center anymore. This seemed like the best solution for all involved."

During the meeting, Sowards said Ryan would be welcome to reapply for next year's coordinator spot. Ryan said she would.



Final respite

Ford Case, a student in the University's Community Education Program, basks in the sun Wednesday by the Autzen Stadium footbridge. Case, as well as the rest of the student body, will have to put leisure aside and concentrate on final exams next week.

Photo by Mark Ylen

Minimum wage bill approved by House

By Don Peters
Emerald Associate Editor

For the first time since the current federal level was set in 1981, Oregon minimum wage workers could be getting a raise.

After deadlocking and defeating a minority report, the House approved Wednesday an



Legislative Update

amended version of Senate Bill 335, which would eventually raise the minimum wage level to \$4.75 an hour.

While the House approved the Labor Committee's amended version of the bill, a final vote on SB335 will not take place until today's floor session.

SB335, sponsored by Sen. Larry Hill (D-Springfield), passed the Senate on March 6 by a 21-9 vote. There have been several minor changes to the original bill, but the main part of SB335 is still intact. The minimum wage would be increased to \$3.85 July 1, to \$4.25 next January 1, and reach



Sen. Larry Hill

its final level of \$4.75 in 1991.

The minority report, which was defeated on an almost straight party-line 30-30 tie vote, would have allowed businesses to include tip credits in wage computations.

Rep. John Schoon (R-Rickreall), the only Republican to vote against the minority report, said it was "inappropriate" to include tips in wages.

"I used to work as a waiter, so I know how important those

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