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standing some of the race issues people of color have to deal with," she said. "Right now the level of education that deals with race issues is really low."

And administrators from Ohio State University, where Brand was academic provost until 1989, say the University should be secure in trusting its fledgling president.

Joyce Vaughan, acting director of Ohio State's Black Students Program, said Brand committed himself to improving the affirmative action program at their university.

"His input was good and strong from the ground level all the way on up to the program's finishing touches," Vaughan said. "He has a rich background here, so you should rest assured."

Former Ohio State women's center director Cheryl Hanson also praised Brand's contribution to the affirmative action program. "When you

more — that we would have a programming office for GALA by this term, so we would have equal clout with university officials and with other student groups," he said. "Here it is, winter quarter, and we still don't have the office or the funding we were promised, and there's no sign we'll ever get it."

"I wouldn't put too much faith in task forces if I were you," he added. "You'll just get your hopes up for something that will never happen."

Although people with disabilities and gays, lesbians and bisexuals at the University lately have seen some encouraging steps taken by Brand and the affirmative action office, some of them still wonder if they'll be remembered in Brand's

Overlooked issues

Brand has shown enthusiasm and support for disability issues, but he must be open to suggestions from disabled individuals to ensure the af-

firmative action program serves all interests, said Julie Huber, who co-coordinates Students for Equal Access, a group of disabled students who confront those issues.

"I'm not negative because the steps he's taken are very positive, and what he's done so far really encourages me," she said. "I just feel (the issues) are something important that have been overlooked sometimes."

Huber suggested a separate task force dealing with disability issues could address and solve some problems individuals with disabilities face.

"It's a sticky subject for people to talk about and to deal with," she said. "But it's important, particularly for the faculty, instructors (and) graduate students, to know how to deal with a dis-

abled student."

A class dealing with disability issues — similar to the upcoming required class on race and

'When you have that kind of top-level commitment from a president, you can know things will get done.'

— Cheryl Hanson

have that kind of top-level commitment from a provost — or in your case, president — you can know things will get done," she said. "I'm sure the affirmative action program will improve for women and minorities at your school."

Failing record

But affirmative action in the '90s involves more than just women and people of color. Today, affirmative action programs apply to people with disabilities and gays, lesbians and bisexuals as well, and Brand's track record with these groups at Ohio State is not as illustrious.

"Brand was never an obstructionist to the development of disabilities services under the affirmative action plan," said Warren King, director of the disabilities services office at Ohio State. "But I don't believe any of the plan involved him or even any of his initiative."

And gays, lesbians and bisexuals of Ohio State were promised funding and programs that never materialized, according to an Ohio State Gay and Lesbian Alliance secretary named James. (He refused to give his last name).

"We were promised back when they were planning everything out — maybe a year ago or

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