

Law students push for diversity

By Peter Cogswell
Emerald Reporter

The Diversity Coalition, a group of students at the University calling for improved diversity in the University Law School, has organized activities for Thursday to promote greater representation of traditionally underrepresented groups.

The activities are part of a national protest calling for increased hiring of minorities and women at law schools across the country. The University is one of more than 50 colleges expected to participate, said Mary Lou Boelcke, organizer of the activities.

"This is a nationwide problem at all law schools and the profession as a whole," Boelcke said. "It's not just unique to the University."

The Coalition was organized after students from the University of California at Berkeley, where a similar protest was organized last year, contacted students at the law school, Boelcke said.

This is the second year of the national protest, Boelcke said.

The activities will be more subdued at the University than they were at Berkeley, where students practiced civil disobedience and arrests were made.

"We are not going to use these extreme methods," Boelcke said. "We are trying to educate people on why diversity is such a good thing. More diversity would better prepare us for being better lawyers."

The activities are scheduled to take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the law school and include a speakers' forum, a signature drive and dissemination of educational materials.

The coalition is also asking students to boycott classes Thursday to show support for a diverse faculty and student body.

Maurice Holland, dean of the law school, is expected to speak at the forum. Collected signatures will be sent to various people and groups including University President Myles Brand, Affirmative Action Director Diane Wong, gubernatorial candidates Dave Frohnmayer and Barbara Roberts and the American Bar Association.

Holland said he supports what the coalition is doing, especially because the activities are intended to be peaceful in nature.

He added that he shares students' frustrations at the lack of funds that has prevented the University from hiring a minority faculty member in the last four years.

Today's events precede Minority Law Day, scheduled Saturday April 7 at the law school. Minority Law Day, sponsored by the Minority Law Students Association is designed to show students the many opportunities available in the legal profession.

"I see the two events being compatible in supporting a greater effort to hire minorities," Boelcke said. "Raising the awareness in this school is going to make this place better for minorities to come."

Boelcke said the problem is not just recruiting minority faculty, but also making minority faculty comfortable once they are at the University.

"It is a mixture of not just getting minorities here, but making this a better place for minorities," she said.

Head of child care serves state

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Contributor

University Child Care Coordinator Dennis Reynolds has been appointed by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt to represent child care providers on the Oregon Commission on Child Care.

Reynolds, who administers the University's Child Care and Development Centers, said his work for the University will help him represent the child care needs of students and state employees, he said.

Because he also serves as co-chair of the Child Care Service Area Committee of the Lane County Youth Development Commission, Reynolds said he can provide the perspective of Lane County in general.

The Commission was created during the administration of Governor Vic Atiyeh and was originally formed to issue reports on the status of child care in Oregon, Reynolds said.

It has since evolved into an ongoing body which advises the governor, the state legislature, the Department of Education, Children's Services Division and the Oregon Scholarship Commission on Child Care.

Reynolds said he requested the appointment

partly because of his work with the ASUO Child Care Task Force.

"I worked with the ASUO on student child care issues, especially the piece of legislation that became the State Scholarship Commission on Child Care, which provides grants," Reynolds said.

He will be one of 21 members, each appointed for three-year terms. Because he is completing someone else's term, Reynolds will be on the Commission until October 1992.

Each of the members has a different area of expertise in child care.

"It's a diverse group," Reynolds said. "There are parent, consumer representatives, tax and legal experts, a pediatrician, different people who have been appointed from around the state."

"I want to represent what's going on here," he said.

Reynolds added that, as a parent, he is directly concerned with the needs of children in day care settings.

The Commission is a voluntary organization which meets monthly. Reynolds will continue to work at the University and does not anticipate any time conflicts.

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