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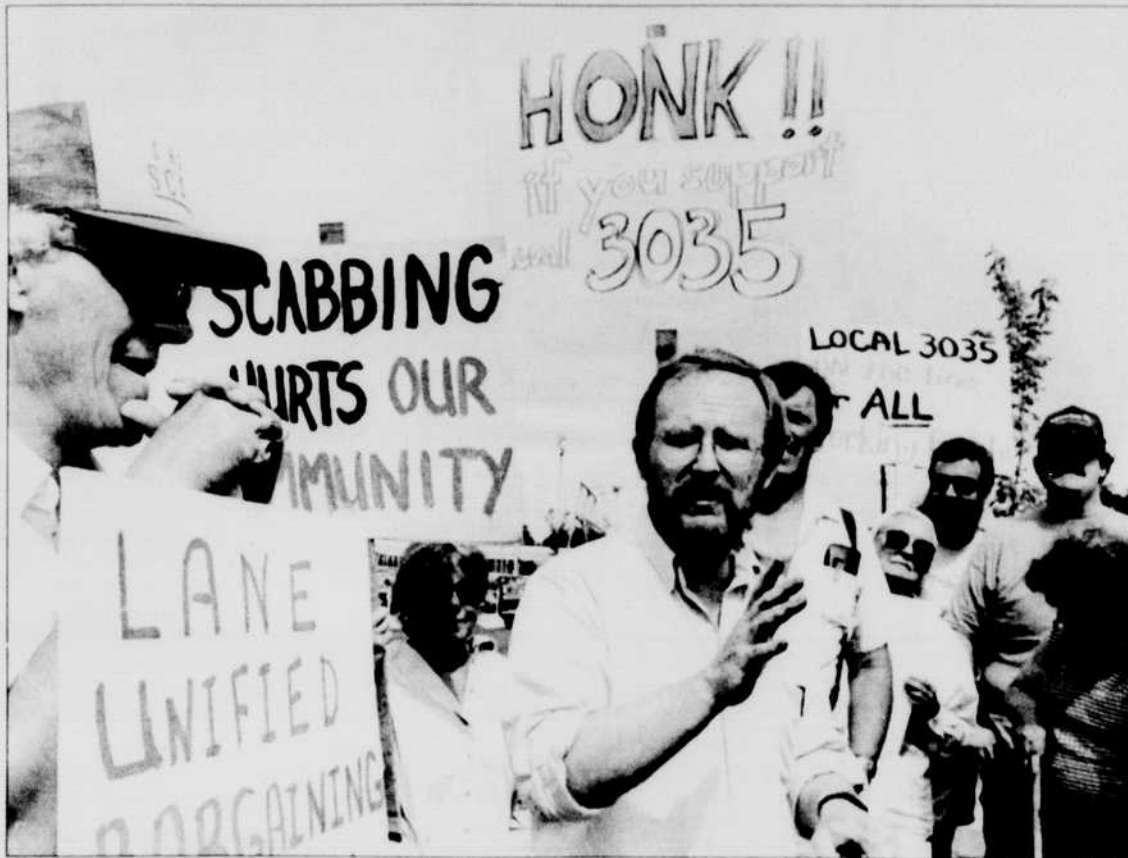


Photo by Sean Poston

**Dennis Gilbert, a University physics professor, was found guilty Tuesday of criminal trespass and criminal mischief for organizing a protest on the lawn of Morgan-Nicolai plant manager LeeRoy Pasquini last July.**

## Professor found guilty for role in July protest

By Brian Bloch  
Emerald Reporter

A Lane County jury convicted University physics Professor Dennis Gilbert of third degree criminal mischief and second degree criminal trespass Tuesday, stemming from a labor protest last summer.

Ironically, Gilbert is scheduled to be sentenced on his birthday, March 4. Both crimes are Class C misdemeanors, each carrying a maximum sentence of 30 days in jail or a \$500 fine.

Gilbert spent two days in a Lane County District Court last week after being charged for his July 11 strike demonstration on the property of Morgan-Nicolai plant manager LeeRoy Pasquini.

As part of a protest marking the second anniversary of the Nicolai strike, Gilbert led a group of demonstrators onto Pasquini's front yard, where they placed 157 small crosses symbolizing lost family wages.

Although Gilbert maintained the protest was a symbolic act of free speech, the six-member jury found him guilty of causing Pasquini "substantial inconvenience" while remaining on his property without permission.

"We wanted it to be legal and dramatic," Gilbert said after the verdict. "And sometimes to be dramatic you have to take risks, and we did."

Gilbert said the trial has convinced him that demonstrations like the one he orchestrated are powerful tools for creating public concern over labor issues.

"We will do things like that more in the future, but in ways that will minimize our chances of getting back into court," Gilbert said.

Looking back, he emphasized the issues surrounding the strike rather than his own trial.

"The issue is the strike and what the community is going to

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## New group to fight discrimination with RAGE

Members say organization formed at appropriate time

By Daralyn Trappe  
Emerald Reporter

The organizers of a new student group that will focus attention on racial discrimination at the University say it is coming together at an appropriate time.

RAGE — Racial Advocacy Group for Equality — started last year in response to an incident faced by an Asian student, who said she had been discriminated against by the School of Education, said Theresa Chin, a group founder.

"We decided that we should branch out and not only emphasize her case, but all the various issues that are on campus," Chin said. "The group is composed of students of color and it's designed to give students of color a voice in their own affairs."

RAGE also plans to focus attention on discrimination against women, gays and lesbians, Chin said.

Bobby Lee, ASUO affirmative action coordinator, said recent events on campus have made a group such as RAGE a necessity.

"This year has been a year of redefining a lot of fundamental issues, such as academic freedom — with the Law School, and sexual harassment — with the Mark Shinn case," Lee said.

Last fall, law school professor Greg Johnson was asked by his supervisors to apologize publicly after he discussed his homosexuality in class.

More recently, University President Myles Brand announced that no action would be taken against Shinn, a professor who was alleged to have made a sexual comment to a student.

"People have had to redefine First Amendment freedom of speech rights vs. sexual harassment," Lee said. "People are still confused."

In addition, the Persian Gulf

War has raised concern about the harassment of students of color at the University, he said.

Chin and Lee said the group will attempt to find solutions to problems rather than simply react to them.

"The role of RAGE is to receive and address the racial issues and complaints at the (University) campus and act as a watchdog and advocacy, student-focused group," Lee said.

"We intend to go out and attack the institutionalized racism as well as individual discrimination cases with the goal of trying to make the University a more tolerant structure," Chin said.

With that goal in mind, RAGE is co-sponsoring two forums, titled "Commitment Toward Sensitivity of Diversity."

The first will be held Thursday night at 7:30 in Room 110 Willamette and will focus on recruitment and retention of minority faculty, staff and stu-



Photo by Sean Poston

**Bobby Lee and Theresa Chin say the new student group RAGE will attempt to discuss and find solutions for racial and sexual discrimination at the University.**

dents.

The second forum, scheduled for the following Thursday, Feb. 28, will discuss affirmative action and the University's grievance procedure. It is scheduled for the same time and place.

Forum organizers say they hope to draw attention to inci-

dents of discrimination and harassment directed at gays and lesbians and students of color. Members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance and MEChA, the Chicano/Latino student group, recently received flyers with

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### Briefly

The University's School of Architecture has received a grant from the Bonneville Power Administration. The grant will enable the school to continue to work on developing a new computer program regulating energy efficiency in buildings.

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### Sports



Lee Kirner

The Oregon men's tennis team showed Tuesday how much better it can perform when it doesn't have any problems getting to a match.

Just five days after having to forfeit a match in the Nevada Bob's Invitational in Las Vegas due to airplane problems, the Ducks (5-7) returned home.

They soundly defeated Westmont College 6½-2½ Tuesday afternoon.

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### Arts

The band the Crazy 8s have become a favorite in Eugene, performing frequently at many local establishments, concert halls and fraternity functions.

This weekend they're coming back to celebrate in the spirit of their ninth anniversary

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Anton Chekov's classic drama about the hopes and

yearnings of a Russian provincial family at the turn of the century comes to modern theater as familiar and moving as when it first opened 90 years ago in 1901.

This Friday, University Theatre presents *Three Sisters*, the tragi-comedy masterpiece exploring Chekov's favorite subject — the universal human experience of frailties, longings, thwarted dreams, laughter and tears.

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