

Oregon DAILY EMERALD

Friday, February 22, 1991

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 92, Issue 106

Forum questions University commitment to minorities

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Reporter

Many students and faculty say the Brand administration brings the greatest opportunity for affirmative action and diversity that this University has seen — if it lives up to its commitment.

"Many people are starting to ask, is (Brand) really committed to what he said last year about diversity?" said Brian Hoop, ASUO affirmative action coordinator, at a Thursday night forum on affirmative action issues.

Titled "A Commitment Toward Sensitivity of Diversity," the discussion focused on the accountability of the University's commitment to minority recruitment and retention, especially in the wake of Measure 5.

"One of my biggest concerns is that privilege is not something that women, gays and lesbians, and people of color have on this campus," said Bobby Lee, ASUO affirmative action coordinator.

"We are not anywhere near where we should be," said Marshal Saucedo, acting director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. "I have, however, seen some improvement."

Saucedo said he has seen more recruitment of minorities in faculty hiring than ever before.

Myntha Hynes, assistant director of admissions, said recruitment of minority students is also up. She said the University has a multicultural recruitment plan, does joint activities with OMA, and has sent minority high school students a pamphlet called "Visualize Success," which was written with the help of all the student unions.

Hynes said minority students now

make up 10 percent of the student body, compared to 5 percent in 1981.

However, minority recruitment means little without retention, Saucedo said.

"It's not just about bringing more bodies to campus. We need to create an environment that retains them."

Hynes said it is the responsibility of the entire student body, as well as the administration, to create a supportive environment, and eliminate the fallacies and discriminatory attitudes that color reactions toward minorities.

Lee said the decisions the administration made in the program-cutting process did further damage to a supportive climate. "There was obviously no affirmative action in the decision-making process," Lee said.

Hoop said it is important to keep in mind that students are empowered by the fact that there is still money before program cuts and tuition hike proposals are approved by the state Legislature.

While students have been fighting attitudes and decisions that adversely affect them, some students find it hard to keep fighting.

"I didn't come to this school to advocate my rights. When I pay my tuition, I don't get money back for being a student of color. I came here to study," Lee said.

Concern over the University's commitment to diversity has intensified in light of recent hate crimes directed at women, people of color, and gays and lesbians.

Dianna Kale of the Office of Student Development said these hate crimes, in conjunction with failure to retain minority students, are significant.

"All of those things indicate that there are major problems," she said.



Celebrating tradition

Gemma Alviar and Jay Rivera brush up on a traditional Filipino dance that they will present as part of Filipino cultural night, which runs from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday in the EMU Ballroom.

Photo by Sean Poston

Proposal targets housing crisis

By Rene DeCair
Emerald Reporter

The passage of a recently introduced House bill would require the University to form a new committee to determine



whether the University's housing plans adequately address students' needs.

The bill would require each institution in the state system

to submit an annual report to the State Board of Higher Education, comparing their provisions for student housing with those of the other institutions in the Pacific-10 Conference.

Rep. Bill Dwyer, D-Springfield, sponsored the bill to get the University to prove that it is working to build more student housing, said Dwyer's legislative assistant, Scott Bartlett.

"The University of Oregon has been less than forthright in the housing crisis that is

partially caused by students," Bartlett said.

With few places for students to live in Eugene, they often go to Springfield and take up the available low-income housing there, Bartlett said. This "unfairly imposes hardships" on Springfield residents, he said, and was one reason why Dwyer proposed the bill.

In addition, the bill is an attempt to get the University to support its claim that stu-

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Iraq, Soviets agree on plan, U.S. rejects peace proposal

MOSCOW and DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Iraq accepted a Soviet peace plan that calls for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and an end to the Persian Gulf War, a Kremlin spokesman said early Friday.

But on the desert front, allied forces opened fire on targets deep in Iraqi-held territory in one of the heaviest barrages of the war.

A senior Bush administration official said early Friday that the peace proposal is "unacceptable to the United States." The U.S. official spoke on condition of anonymity following a late-night White House meeting.

British Prime Minister John Major also rejected the plan Friday, calling it "not good enough."

A key drawback in the U.S. view was believed to be the lack of any apparent Iraqi commitment to pay reparations for war damage.

Significantly, the agreement contained no mention of the Palestinian problem or the Arab-Israeli conflict — the issues that Iraq

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Entertainment

The new movie release *Sleeping with the Enemy* revolves around Laura Burney's (Julia Roberts) plans to escape from her husband (Patrick Bergin) and his crazy paranoia.

The film currently is playing at MovieLand and the Springfield Quad.

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Julia Roberts

The rollicking blues of Little Charlie and the Nightcats will take over Good Times Cafe and Bar, 375 E. Seventh Ave., at 9:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday night.

The band is touted as one of the premier nightclub touring bands on the West Coast

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Sports

Oregon's basketball team was pounded 100-83 at UCLA Thursday night. Despite the loss, the Ducks remain tied at second place in the Pacific-10 Conference.

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Almanac

Today is the last day to withdraw from courses with a recorded W. It is also the final day to change grade options and change the number of credits in courses with variable credit. A \$10 fee per change will be assessed.