

# UNIVERSITY

## Ombud offers 'sympathetic ear'

By Dennis Fitzgerald  
Emerald Reporter

After seeing the treatment given Anita Hill on national television, the University ombud officer said she fears that those who have been harmed may be more likely to keep silent or leave the University.

"The good that's coming out of this is that people are going to be much more aware of their behavior and more respectful about how they treat other people," Janet Wentworth said.

Wentworth is the person students, faculty and staff at the University can go to with a problem to find an answer and a sympathetic ear.

Wentworth, who has been ombud officer since the job was created last March, said people generally respond to sexual harassment in two ways: fight or flight.

At the University, people are more likely to quit their jobs, transfer to another school or drop out of school entirely, than to fight abuse from a boss, co-worker or professor, Wentworth said.

Some are afraid to take their problems to department heads, deans or supervisors because they fear being perceived as troublemakers or because they think the person in charge won't care, Wentworth said.

"Most people assume that the person at the top doesn't care and doesn't want to be in-



Janet Wentworth, University ombud officer, works one-on-one with people to solve sexual harassment and other problems.

involved," she said. "They're perceived as being too busy, or mean or not caring."

Wentworth said she hopes to change that image.

Before the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings, Wentworth had a steady flow of students, faculty and staff through her office looking for ways to resolve disputes without filing official charges or leaving the

campus. Business is still brisk, she said.

Wentworth said she prides herself on her ability to bring people together and solve problems. That was her job for 13 years working for Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley.

In her office in a downtown skyscraper, Wentworth took

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## ACTION

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Action will concentrate solely on minority faculty recruitment and promoting a campus tolerant of diversity.

Responsibility for hearing and investigating grievances will be directed to Vice Provost Lorraine Davis, the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Human Resources.

The changes are expected to go into effect within the next few weeks.

Brand has said the restructuring will allow people who are "knowledgeable and capable to take more responsibility for affirmative action."

Lee said he believes the proposed changes are an effort to take some heat off the much-criticized Office of Affirmative Action, which, he said, is caught in the crossfire and is essentially set up to lose.

"They're set up to be the victims of all the political cannonballs that go left and right," Lee said. "And this bill will resolve all the problems that this University and the affirmative action office have been facing."

The bill was drawn up and previously submitted to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1989 by Rep. Carl Hosticka (D-Eugene), however, and it quickly died in a committee.

The reason for the lack of support and interest from the House was the lack of student input at the hearings, said Matt Cox, ASUO state affairs coordinator.

That's a mistake the ASUO plans not to repeat, he said.

"One of the main reasons the bill died was because there weren't enough personal cases, students or citizens who felt a need for the enactment of this bill," Cox said. "Not enough students

made it to Salem, not enough community members made it to Salem."

The only way this bill can work this time around is if students become involved by giving personal testimony, Cox said.

The ASUO has several months to prepare that testimony and find a sponsor for the bill, because the House is not scheduled to reconvene until January 1993 or unless a special session is called in 1992, which is a very likely possibility, Cox said.

"It's going to take a lot of student voice in Salem and it's going to take a lot of community voice too," he said. "I think it could have gone a lot further if it had had that. At these committee meetings, that's a lot of what they're looking for — personal experiences."

"If a student can go up there and say, 'I was harassed ... but I didn't take it to the University because I felt it would just be a mess for me and nothing would happen,' that might carry a lot of weight and that's what was missing last time," Cox said.

Students who want to be involved in the proceedings should contact Lee at the ASUO in EMU Suite 4.

The ASUO also plans to enlist the aid of the Oregon Student Lobby.

"What's going to have to happen is that we'll have to get the OSU behind us again, and hopefully we can do that because (harassment) is kind of a hot topic right now ... and we have to work hard to get students to go to Salem with us."

"If we don't get this bill passed, then the affirmative action warfare will continue until someone totally restructures the University and the affirmative action process," Lee said. "This is going to be an ongoing, longterm battle."

at various Native American organizations, came from Salem and Medford. Local drummers also performed.

The colorful outfits the Native Americans wore made the evening even more native. Baker said she doesn't like to refer to the outfits as "costumes."

"I call them outfits because costumes implies that we are trying to be something we are not," Baker said.

Baker said that the women

usually make the outfits for their husbands and the husbands put together the feather and bead work.

Outside the ballroom, Native Americans sold tribal jewelry, blankets and other native items that represent their tribes.

NASU has already begun planning the spring powwow and is looking for volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact the NASU office in the EMU basement.

## POWWOW

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"The inter-tribal dances focus on the individual's style and meaning, whereas the social dances are for fun and anyone can join in," Baker said.

The social dances, with names like "the owl dance," and "the two-step dance," were very popular among the more than 300 people in the audience, many of whom joined in.

The drummers, who perform

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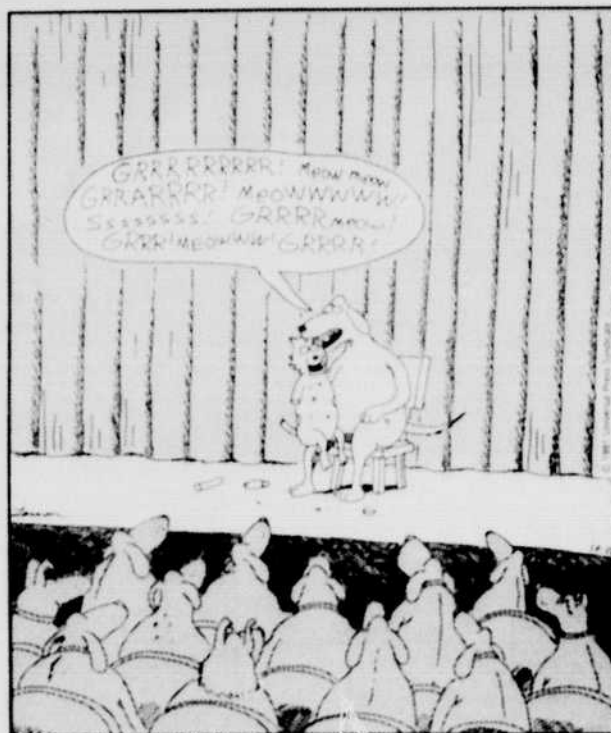
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By GARY LARSON



Dog ventriloquists