

Students accuse 'Emerald' of bigotry, insensitivity

Members of the Black Student Union demand changes to editorial policy

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

Members of the Black Student Union accused the *Oregon Daily Emerald* of "latent bigotry and prejudice" at a Monday press conference and demanded changes in the paper's editorial policy.

The press conference was sparked by the *Emerald's* use of several mug shots portraying three black University of Washington students accused of sex abuse and burglary. The photos were supplied by the Eugene Police Department.

The photos' placement on page one of the Nov. 2 edition represents the *Emerald's* insensitivity to minority issues, said Nichole Muhammad, director of the BSU.

"By releasing an article dealing with issues of a sexual nature concurrent with photographs of young black men, the *Emerald* exacerbates the racial tension prevalent in Eugene, which mirrors the situation throughout the nation," she said in her speech. The city's three major TV stations and the *Eugene Register-Guard*, along with several campus publications, attended the press conference.

"This has really taken me by surprise," said *Emerald* Editor-



Stephanie Peters (left) and Nichole Muhammed join other members of the Black Student Union in presenting the *Emerald* with a list of demands outside the newspaper's offices on Monday.

in-Chief Jake Berg about the opposition to the use of the photos. "Before this, I only saw two letters to the editor and then a flyer about two weeks ago."

Minority students also voiced opposition to past stories in a private meeting with the editor about two weeks ago, said Berg, but the three photos featured on

the Nov. 2 edition didn't seem as great a concern at the time as student of color issues.

Muhammad featured several past *Emerald* stories in her speech, which she said represent the paper's insensitivity to minorities on campus.

A Jan. 26 *Emerald* story focused on Otis Scarborough, a

black OPS officer cited with sexual harassment. Another article that concerned BSU members was a story that ran in the fall of 1990, which reported on sexual assault charges against a black athlete formerly with the Oregon Ducks.

Both stories were accompanied by photos.

But Muhammad points to other stories not on blacks or other minorities this fall that didn't have photos, including one that featured a white professor cited by the University for sexual harassment and another about a Korean student accused of rape.

"Journalists have a social responsibility to service their communities by presenting the facts of a newsworthy story and not interpreting them," she said.

After the press conference, BSU members protested in front of the *Emerald* office and presented Berg with a list of suggested changes to the *Emerald's* editorial policy and a Dec. 3 deadline for a response.

Included were requests for a higher percentage of minority staff members, better training on minority issues, a weekly column about minority activities and an apology for the Nov. 2 photos.

If Berg doesn't meet the Dec. 3 response deadline, Muhammad said BSU members would decide on a response at that time.

Berg was not sure if he could discuss all the options with staff and the *Emerald* board of directors and offer a reply by the deadline, but said he would do his best.

Yosief Embaye, an undergraduate student majoring in international relations, said he agrees with the BSU that the *Emerald* needs a more consistent photo policy.

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Citizens debate bridge solutions

More than 150 residents turn out to discuss expansion of Ferry Street Bridge

By Rebecca Merritt
Oregon Daily Emerald

Plans to decrease traffic congestion on the Ferry Street Bridge crept one step further Monday as more than 150 concerned residents attended a Eugene City Council hearing to discuss possible solutions.

Although the debate over which solution would best meet Eugene's needs hasn't disappeared, most of the people speaking at the hearing agreed that it's time for the Council to reach a decision and utilize the federal money that has been earmarked for the project.

"It is time we act upon a plan to improve the Ferry Street Bridge," said Eugene resident Bruce Bergby. "Build a bridge that will see us through the next century."

The majority of last night's discussion focused on the three solutions recommended to the Council more than two weeks ago by the planning commission and the Citizen's Advisory Committee, which was organized in 1988

to work on remedies for congestion on the Ferry Street Bridge. The planning commission favors a six-lane bridge with room for a bike and pedestrian lane on each side. The bridge could be expanded to eight lanes if needed.

The citizens' committee recommended an eight-lane bridge, and both committees support a six-lane "Franklin Boulevard Option." This option would connect 6th and 7th Avenues with Broadway and relocate main access to Highway 99 through Agripac facilities. Two proposed options that would build bridges through Alton Baker Park were eliminated by both committees, as well as the no-build option.

Several people at last night's hearing said they support a six-lane or an eight-lane bridge because it is needed to accommodate the needs of the city's growing population. The city already fails to meet emergency and safety needs because of traffic problems around the bridge, said Michael Roberts. An expanded bridge would allow ambulances to reach Sacred Heart Hospital faster and would speed up police and fire responses.

Others said an expanded bridge would improve access to downtown and would help stop businesses from relocating out-

side of downtown.

"We need to do everything we can to support downtown and facilitate access," said Gene Pritchard.

Still, several people aren't satisfied with the city's effort and believe more emphasis should be placed on alternative transportation modes. One group of citizens have proposed a "Mill Street Alternative Mode" bridge that would build a mass transit and emergency vehicle bridge west of the Ferry Street Bridge.

Others say that none of the city's proposals are acceptable and planners need to consider the impact of the bridge project on the entire city.

"We haven't proceeded this planning process with a vision," said Jerry Rust, Lane County Commissioner.

The City Council will accept public written comment about the bridge project until Dec. 2, said Pam Berrian, City Council coordinator. The council will then work toward a feasible solution that will probably be referred to a vote of Eugene residents.

Once a decision is approved by the Council and the voters, the city will undergo an extensive design process for a new bridge.

Conduct Program reports cheating to be on the rise

Campus dishonesty has generated concern among faculty, administrators

By Julie Swensen
Oregon Daily Emerald

The number of University students who have been caught cheating has steadily increased over the past four years, according to the Student Conduct Program's annual report.

During the 1992-93 academic year, 44 cases of academic dishonesty were referred to the Student Conduct program. That's an increase from 35 cases in 1991-92, 30 cases in 1990-91 and 27 cases in 1989-90.

But whether that means there is an increase in cheating, or just wider reporting, is difficult to interpret.

"I don't have any data to say that it (cheating) has increased, but I think the numbers go up when the faculty reports it more," said Elaine Green, student conduct coordinator, who also said the increase could be attributed to a growing concern about values and ethics.

But some faculty and administrators say the 44 cases are not representative of the problem.

"With a student body of close to 17,000, I think most reasonable people would assume there are more cases than that," said Norm Wessells, University provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The number of students who admit to cheating has varied widely in different surveys. A recent Oregon State University study found that 25 percent of the 500 university students surveyed admitted to cheating on an exam. But in a 1992 survey by Donald McCabe — a study that is regarded as the most

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