

NAACP president rises to challenge

By Mandy Baucum
Oregon Daily Emerald

Since African-Americans were taken from their native homeland, they have risen to the challenges of American society, said Florence Rupert Richardson to a crowd of about one hundred on Friday.

Richardson, national president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, began her address with a poem titled "I Will Rise," by Maya Angelou.

"We continually gave to America when it seemed America did not want to take our gifts," she said.

"We are the Denzel Washington, Gladys Knight, Oprah Winfrey..." she said.

Richardson went on to mention more black entertainers, athletes and civil rights activists, pointing out that each one "rose" to the challenges around them.

"We are the children of mother Africa," she said. "We are the last hired and the first fired."

"We are woven into every inch of (America's) fabric," she said.

Richardson began with a mini chronology of African-American history.

She began in 1619 when the Africans were taken from their homeland to the Americas. She spoke of how in 1778, African-Americans continued to be faithful to this country when 400 slaves defeated 1500 British soldiers in the battle of Rhode Island.

"A little black goes a long way," she said.

Richardson later went to the time period of 1909 (the year the NAACP was founded) to the present.

She said during the NAACP's existence, the organization has seen other minority groups, such as the gay community, use the strategies similar to that of the NAACP.

Richardson also addressed the issue of derogatory lyrics toward women in "gangster" rap music.

"We deplore that kind of stuff in any form," she said.

However, she said if the NAACP voted to censor rap albums "I may put on my ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) hat."

ASUO tries to pull a fast one?

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

Members of the ASUO hashed out a new student fee committee plan last weekend after the ASUO Constitution Court rejected part of it in a decision Thursday.

The court's chief justice said that if the ballot measure passed as is, the scales of power would tip toward the ASUO executive — including more stringent impeachment requirements — and the students wouldn't even know it.

"This would clearly give the executive a larger hand over previous governments," Keith Kramer, ASUO Constitution Court chief justice, said Sunday. "With the ballot measure as it is, there is no way for students to know what their changing. Students need to know so they can make an informed choice."

The court is requiring that the proposed changes be divided into 10 separate ballot measures.

The special election, which will determine the fate of the fee committee plan, was moved to March 9 and 10, changed from Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

The ASUO also changed the date for candidates wishing to be considered for the ASUO presidential primary. The new deadline for that is now April 6, from March 31.

In the decision, delivered by

Kramer and three other justices, the court labeled the proposed amendment as unconstitutional because more than one part of the constitution was being changed.

Oregon law requires each change to be presented as one ballot measure to avoid voter confusion.

Rules making it more difficult to impeach the student president was one of the points not spelled out in ASUO's current ballot measure but part of the proposed amendment.

The Student Senate would have to come up with a three-quarter majority instead of the current two-thirds to impeach the student body president, according to the changes proposed by the ASUO.

Though ASUO President Eric Bowen wasn't available over the weekend, Thomas Huckaba, University affairs coordinator and one of the chief promoters of the plan, said he doesn't know why the change was made and referred questions on the issue to Bowen.

Huckaba said the change would require a Senate majority of 13 votes instead of 12.

New wording would also allow the student president to be more vague when reporting fiscal matters to the student fee body, according to the court's decision.

Under that section, the president would not even be required to report the current year's finances. The changes would

allow the ASUO to report last year's instead.

Huckaba said ASUO officers worked through the weekend to change some of the wording found questionable by the court.

Huckaba also said that he felt confident the ASUO could make the new March 9 special election date, but said the executive is not interested in breaking the current proposed ballot measure down into 10 separate measures.

Kramer said that if the ASUO could return the proposed constitution with the court's required changes, the court could approve the proposal within 24 hours.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Coordinator for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Concerns will sponsor a gay, bisexual men's drop-in group today from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Koinonia Center. For more information, call 346-1142.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Planning and Placement Service will sponsor a group presentation by KMart today from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room D.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, Suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon and is requested to be published earlier.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style. Et Als run strictly on a space-available basis.

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