

UNIVERSITY

Law school ranked second in Northwest

Survey: U.S. News & World Report gives high ranking seen as valuable, subjective

By Heatherle Himes

Oregon Daily Emerald

The annual U.S. News & World Report survey of law schools, which recently ranked the University's School of Law second best in the Northwest, worries and delights legal educators and law students.

A high ranking may add more prestige to a degree and attract students to that school. A low ranking may mean that a school's dean is forced by administrators to make changes at the school in an attempt to improve the rankings for the next year.

No matter how important they think the survey is, legal educators nationwide and at the University have accepted that it has become a permanent and noticeable part of law school.

At the University, the survey is viewed as a somewhat valuable, although subjective, report card.

The survey started in 1987 with a listing of 25 schools ranked by a subjective poll of judges, lawyers and professors. By 1992 it listed all American Bar Association-approved schools.

The current ranking is determined by a formula that mixes subjective reputation polls and statistics provided by the schools. Statistical factors include the school's budget, average scores on entrance exams, average grade point averages and the percent of graduates with jobs six months after graduation.

Professors at the University law school understand that the rankings are important, said constitutional law Professor David Schuman, but they use it only as a mild measure of what goals for improvement the school should set.

But the survey should not be used as a guide for shaping a school's entire educational mission and curriculum, Schuman said.

"There's the potential for it to be harmful. For example, if you used in the criteria the number of students that passed the bar," Schuman said. "Then if a school focused its classes just on passing the bar that would be detrimental."

"It provides law schools with information that they can use to help themselves focus on what they think is

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Dealing with racism



Jan Harada discusses incidences of racism with other students and faculty during a public hearing sponsored by the Race Task Force Thursday.

Hearing focuses on racial incidents

Solutions: Students at the Race Task Force forum also came up with ways to combat problems

By Stephanie Sisson

Oregon Daily Emerald

Asian-American students at the University often are assumed to be

international students because of the way they look, participants at a public hearing said Thursday.

The hearing, which was sponsored by the University Race Task Force, was organized for victims of racism to share their stories and to discuss ways to deal with racism.

Several Asian-Americans at the hearing said they have had

strangers speak slowly to them or ask them what country they are from, even after they explain that they were born in America.

Linda Liu, a member of the Race Task Force, gave an example of a professor in a Writing 122 class who tried to be sensitive to multi-

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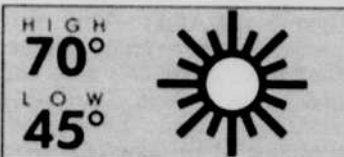
GOOD MORNING

► Journalism Professor Al Stavitsky's booming voice bounces off the walls of Room 221 Allen Hall three days a week as he lectures to his 160 "Mass Media in Society" students.

Monday his voice will be bouncing from a radio tower as well when he welcomes KUGN-AM on-air personalities Ralph Stedman, Dan Carlin and Dan Spice to a 9 a.m. session of the class.

Stavitsky will moderate a live, one-hour broadcast of a question-and-answer session about the media between the students and the broadcasters.

"This will provide students not only with an up-close look at a live broadcast but also exposure to real-world issues — such as how one defines and follows the fine line separating the journalistic from the entertainment role of



talk show hosts," Stavitsky said.

► WASHINGTON (AP) — Colleges and universities must provide students and staff with annual reports on the number of murders, rapes, robberies and other crimes that occur on campus, under new federal regulations being published Friday in the Federal Register.

"Encouraging students to pursue high quality post-secondary education is an important element of the national education goals," the regulations say. "A safe campus environment facilitates such education."

The regulations, which imple-

ment provisions of the Campus Security Act, also provide for the timely reporting of crimes that campus security officials believe pose a threat to other students and employees.

Rakow, director of the security at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., said gathering crime statistics is useful for institutions to "gauge what's going on at their campus."

In 1991, he said, 3 percent of all crimes reported on college campuses were violent.

The crime reporting regulations are among a half-dozen sets of higher-education rules slated for inclusion in Friday's Federal Register. Among the others are rules on accreditation that are intended to tighten the process by which schools become and stay eligible for federal student financial aid and other programs.

Homophobia still affects campus gays, official says

Discrimination:

Jokes, graffiti, flyers are aimed at homosexuals

By Tasha Eichenseher

Oregon Daily Emerald

Although homophobia has become less of a problem at the University, one gay rights official says the problem still exists.

"It's the subtle homophobia that we hear a lot about on campus," said Jackie Balzer, coordinator of educational and support services. "The stuff I hear about is mostly not overt but is stuff that affects gays."

Examples she gave included gay jokes, defaced flyers, graffiti, hearing anti-gay talk and being in a classroom or dorm

where you are assumed to be heterosexual.

Balzer, who was hired in 1990, has one of only 12 jobs in the United States dealing specifically with gay, lesbian and bisexual concerns.

A special task force investigating discrimination of sexual orientation advocated for Balzer's position after anti-gay incidents reached a climax during the 1989 ASUO spring elections.

One of the presidential candidates that year was gay and received death threats because of her sexual preference.

The task force's final report gave suggestions to University

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