

RANKING

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important," Schuman said.

The pressure of being ranked can encourage schools to constantly improve the education that they provide, said the law school's chief admissions officer, Chuck O'Kelley.

"It does keep your mind on why you exist, which is to attract outstanding students and graduate outstanding attorneys," he said.

O'Kelley is pleased that the University's rankings have been climbing steadily for the past two years because media coverage of the improvement gets the school's name out to the public. He then uses clips of print media stories and mention of the ranking for recruitment.

"You can't help but use them if they're to your advantage and you can't avoid the fact that students are going to be aware of it and why the rankings are where they are," he said.

O'Kelley said he believed potential students read the survey to see how prestigious the school is and how smart the students there are.

But some students currently attending the University's law school say he may be overestimating the survey's importance.

First-year law student Doug Nichols said that he read the survey in the course he took to prepare for the LSAT.

"A lot of people made a big deal out of it," he said. "I applied to about a dozen schools, and got

into some that are higher ranked than this one, but there are things that are more important than ranking."

One thing that was crucial to Nichols was what part of the nation the school was located in. That sort of personal judgment call can't be included in a survey published by a newsmagazine.

Shannon Bertrand, another first year student, also said that she did not give the survey ranking a lot of weight when she made her final decision to come to the University Law School.

She said that she thought people put value on the rankings without putting much thought into how the rankings are arrived at.

"I think everybody places a lot of trust in the rankings, but I don't think those kind of things are real objective."

Law School Dean Dave Frohnmayer agrees that too much importance is placed on the data.

"A lot of law school applicants read this survey carefully, in some cases too carefully," Frohnmayer said. "All it really measures is reputation, GPA and test scores."

O'Kelley conceded that the survey may not be flawless, but insisted that it does have value.

"I'm sure there are people who could poke holes in their methodology, but I'm sure they are reflecting reality to some extent," he said. When they say Harvard, Yale and Stanford are highest ranked, who can say if they got the order right, but everybody would say they got the top three schools on the list."

RACE

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cultural issues but went too far.

Liu said she was the only person of color in the class. The professor continually used Liu as an example of an international student, often asking her about Japanese culture, which Liu said she doesn't know very much about. The professor also assumed Liu was a Buddhist.

"She went about it the wrong way," Liu said.

In addition to sharing personal testimonies, the 19 participants brainstormed for solutions to problems including poor service in restaurants and face-to-face attacks because of race.

Kevin Washington, a member of the Task Force, said he received sloppy service at a KFC restaurant but was not sure if it was because he is African-American. He therefore was reluctant to report it.

A woman at the hearing who declined to give her name relat-

ed a situation in which an African-American friend was "rammed into" and called a "nigger" in front of the University Bookstore. In both instances, the victims didn't know how to react.

"Some things happen so fast," the woman said.

Other racist incidents discussed at the hearing included one about a child telling a four-year-old girl, "I hate you because you're black" and a sociology professor who informed his class that a class member "wasn't a typical Asian woman."

Solutions brought up included immediately reporting racist incidents, providing sensitivity training, insisting on filing formal complaints rather than using mediation or filing informal complaints and openly discussing racist incidents.

"I really want everyone to feel they aren't the only one," said Sho Shigeoka, a member of the Race Task Force.

'I think that's an important first step to go and say, 'This didn't feel good,'

— Gwen Tistadt, manager, University Counseling Center

Above all, participants seemed to agree that people who are insensitive need to be confronted.

"I think that's an important first step to go and say, 'This didn't feel good,'" said Gwen Tistadt, office manager at the University Counseling Center.

The Race Task Force was formed last spring to deal specifically with issues of race. It strives to respond to these issues, provide support and advocacy, educate and increase opportunities to report hate crimes. The group meets every Friday at 8:45 a.m. in Room 360 Oregon Hall.

CORRECTION

Several figures for Wednesday's ASUO general election were incorrect in the Emerald's front page graphic. Amy Bilyeu and Kris Cornwell both won ASPAC seats. Also, Ballot Measure 12, the USSA funding measure, was voted down 808 votes to 624.

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