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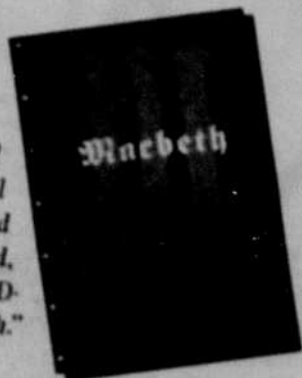
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Awareness: Investigation is ongoing

attacked students of Asian descent.

The next racial incident occurred just after spring break. Letters were sent to nine highly visible students of color that said affirmative-action scholarships would be cut. The letters were printed on stolen Office of Admissions stationery and carried the forged signatures of two officials.

The letters were false and were probably an insensitive April Fool's joke, officials said. Several other incidents have been discussed, although many of these were not reported or could not be investigated, said Stan Reeves, director of the Office of Public Safety.

"We spent a lot of time tracking down complaints," he said. "It would have been much more smooth if the people with the information came forward."

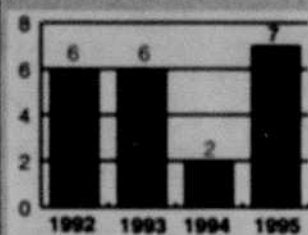
Nonetheless, OPS and the Student Conduct Program have been investigating the reported incidents and have made some progress.

OPS immediately began investigating the letters shortly after they were sent out, Reeves said. They consulted with the Postal Inspector and the FBI, although both departments said there had been no federal violations.

OPS then sent one of the letters for fingerprint and handwriting analysis. The fingerprint analysis came back negative,

HATE CRIMES

During the 1995 calendar year, seven crimes involving bias or hate occurred on campus and were reported to OPS or Eugene Police.



SOURCE: Office of Public Safety

EMERALD

and OPS has not received the results of the handwriting analysis, Reeves said.

However, OPS plans to continue the investigation under an obscure section of Oregon statutes, Reeves said.

"The department of public safety has a hard-working staff," he said in response to allegations that OPS has not satisfactorily investigated the incidents. "I take these charges seriously. In reality, things are getting done."

The Student Conduct Program has identified two suspects in connection with the racial slurs, Green said. They have been charged under the Student Conduct Code, but Green was not sure whether they would be dealt with formally or informally. A formal prosecution would

require a hearing before "an external hearings officer," her memo said.

However, Green said she did not think they had found all the people involved in the incident. Because it occurred at night and the slurs came "from dark windows," the investigation has been difficult, she said.

"I know they're out there, but so far I'm coming up dry on any evidence," she said. "I've heard about other incidents but so far they're pretty vague."

These incidents continue a trend that has plagued the University for years, many students of color said.

"Ever since I've been at this university, either I or one of my friends have experienced it," Sugiyama said. "It shows an underlying theme of ignorance."

The administration has met with a Race Task Force for about three years, said Race Task Force member Donna Wong. There is also a President's Advisory Council.

Many of the results of these two committees have been printed and posted on the walls of the Multicultural Center. There are also copies of informal complaint forms and other information about these issues.

And, next to the complaint forms and meeting notices, there is the sign that Mario Garza held at the rally:

"Racism: University of Oregon's dirty little secret."

Recent events increase OSU's racial tensions

■ **HATE:** A demonstration was staged recently in reaction to the events

By Marcelene Edwards
Managing Editor

Racial tension has increased recently at Oregon State University, leading to a series of racially motivated incidents on the campus.

The most publicized event occurred in February, in which two Oregon State students taunted a 19-year-old black student with racial epithets and tried to urinate and spit on him.

In reaction, more than 1,500 students staged a march and day-long boycott of classes in an effort to defuse campus tension.

At about the same time, posters for a candidate for student government, who was African-American, were defaced with racial slurs, Isaac said. A fraternity ceremony, which was held in public, was considered by some to resemble a Ku Klux Klan rally. Additionally, during fall term, an incident occurred in which a Latino student was beaten at a party.

Jon Isaac, president of the Associated Students of Oregon State University, says the number of incidents is not going up; they are just receiving more publicity.

He said that the reaction of the campus as a community has made the events seem more isolated than they really are. Certain groups of students have always been aware of the problems, but the media attention has made more students take notice, Isaac said.

The Oregon State campus security office, which collects data on racial incidents, could not be reached for comment.

Eric Hutchinson, 21, and Christopher John Curry, 20, the two students involved in the February incident, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of first-degree attempted intimidation.

Hutchinson was sentenced to serve 14 days in jail.

The two were ordered to read a book on racism and write a report for the court. In addition, each must pay court costs and \$450 in fines, perform 80 hours of community service and serve two years' probation.

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