

Sit-in

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campus on all of these issues."

The controversy started last week with a racial comment in a community development class within the Planning, Public Policy and Management Department.

Scott Bones was part of a group giving a presentation on the Oregon Hispanic community when he reportedly said Latino culture had provided Hispanics with a poor work ethic.

Bones, an economics major, started a heated e-mail discussion with his class presentation, according to students in the class and e-mails collected by the Multicultural Center.

Bones apologized in class as well as on e-mail.

An e-mail discussion on racism continued among class members for the next few days. The discussion became progressively argumentative, according to students in the class.

At one point, a student sent a series of threatening e-mails to at least three female students in the class. The author's identity was disguised but was reportedly later discovered to be a student in the class.

One of the professors in the class found out about the threatening e-mail and contacted the dean of the school of Architecture and Allied Arts, of which PPPM is a part. The dean, Robert Melnick, notified the Office of Public Safety and the Eugene Police Department.

After the PPPM class discussed the incidents in a closed room Tuesday morning, the students held an anti-racist rally in the EMU Amphitheater at 12:30 p.m.

Carla Gary, director of multicultural affairs, told the crowd at the rally that the campus attitude toward race and gender was frightening.

"This is not about being offended when someone is talking, it's about being violent," she said. "It

is your problem, and it's coming to a theater near you."

Elliott Dale, a political science major and former student senator, said he wanted students to question their assumptions.

"The more you challenge your assumptions, the more you realize the information we base our actions and our values on don't make sense," he said.

In an interview, Sandra Spoor, one of the three women who received the threatening e-mail, said she worried about her safety.

"What's the University gonna do?" she said. She called for the student who wrote the threatening e-mail to be expelled.

Sarita Amaya, a member of the Multicultural Center, led about 75 protesters from the rally to the sit-in at Johnson Hall at 1 p.m.

Protesters pounded on the doors of Johnson Hall and chanted, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, racism has got to go."

"We are not leaving until something is done. We are looking at an overnight stay," said Huy Ong, a student with Multicultural Affairs.

When students first approached Johnson Hall, Frohnmayer was in a meeting, and protesters instead met with Dave Hubin, executive assistant president.

"While we want to respond and respond quickly, we need to make sure we have the facts lined up," Hubin said.

Hubin said Frohnmayer would not be available until 4:30 p.m. Protesters used the intervening time to prepare a list of short- and long-term demands to present to Frohnmayer.

Frohnmayer arrived at 4:30 p.m., and protesters presented their issues with one stipulation: If Frohnmayer did not meet their needs before he left, the protesters would stage a sit-in.

Frohnmayer checked all short-term demands, but it was unclear

if he agreed to meet the demands. He proposed to set up a Web site for the campus community that would follow the progress the protesters' demands.

Protesters were skeptical. "Bureaucracy as a whole is unresponsive. Demands and needs get diluted through the process," said Matt Swanson, ASUO state affairs coordinator.

Protesters said they wanted the threatened students protected by a change in the Student Conduct Code. They also questioned how the Student Conduct Code addresses aggressive language.

The code prohibits students from harassing other students, and racial or gender harassment is included.

Frohnmayer told protesters he would meet with them in a meeting today. For many protesters, that wasn't good enough.

"I don't think we can leave until we have some concrete solutions," said Student Senator Spencer Hamlin.

Administrators said protesters who did not leave would be arrested for trespassing.

Police escorted the remaining 31 protesters one-by-one to the Johnson Hall basement where they were booked, fined \$255 and assigned a June 2 court date. The protesters were released from a side door of Johnson Hall.

The last protester to be released was Troy Franklin, assistant dean of student life.

"It would just be hard, morally, for me to sleep at night when I represent these students," he said.

Domingo Chavarria, one of those arrested, said protesters would be back today and probably be arrested again. He said he felt the arrests were unnecessary.

"For the University to treat civil students the way they did is unacceptable," he said.



People outside Johnson Hall show their support for the protesters inside.

Nick Medley/Emerald

Student Demands

Short-term goals:

- Have President Frohnmayer produce a written statement to the University and the City of Eugene stating the University's intolerance of racism, sexism and homophobia
- Adoption of a "pledge of respect" supporting diversity
- Provide cell phones, mace and self-defense classes for victims of the threatening e-mails from a public policy, planning and management class

This short-term list may not be complete.

Long-term goals:

- Have the administration give at least \$1 million to University diversity and safety causes

- Financially support Sexual Assault Support Services, Saferide, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Multicultural Center

- Institute a formal policy dealing with the victims and perpetrators of threats and hate crimes

- Have the Office of Public Safety undergo sensitivity training, create a student advisory board to OPS and facilitate a grievance process for victims of hate crimes

- Require faculty and staff to undergo sensitivity training and follow the student policy relating to threats and hate crimes

- Require incoming students to sign a statement of zero tolerance of racism, sexism and homophobia

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