

# An independent newspaper Oregon Daily Emerald



**In their hearts**

Oregon hockey prepares to play for the first time since the death of Russ Atteridge **PAGE 7A**

**'Let Ralph Debate'**

Supporters held a rally in Eugene for the third-party candidate as Bush and Gore faced-off **PAGE 3A**

**WEATHER TODAY**



**PARTLY SUNNY**  
high 60, low 50

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

## Minority hirings are a step in the right direction

By adding seven new faculty of color to the campus community this year, the University is making strides toward true diversity

By **Kristy Hessman**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Increasing the climate of diversity on the University campus has been an important goal in the past few years.

But increasing diversity does not just involve students; faculty are also an important component. This year, the University welcomed almost 50 new tenure-related instructional teaching faculty. Among them, seven are of color or minority status.

The issue of diversity gained momentum when a group of students concerned with intoler-

ance and racism participated in a sit-in at Johnson Hall in the spring of 1999.

The sit-in, which was sparked by a sexist comment in a class e-mail discussion group, resulted in the creation of a number of diversity committees and internship positions.

Almost a year and a half later, the seven new minority faculty hirings are viewed by some as among the positive results of those efforts.

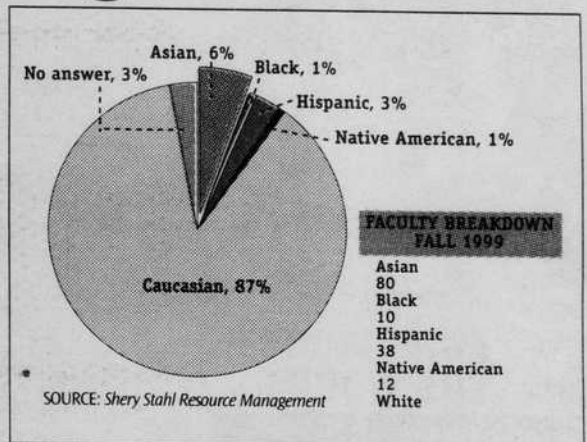
"Seven out of 49 is not a great number, but it's not horrible," said Mark Tracy, who serves as assistant dean for diversity pro-

grams. "I think Oregon has a variety of issues surrounding its recruiting of minorities, like salary, atmosphere and location."

Tracy said when applicants are choosing between different schools, the University's location puts it at a disadvantage.

"Professors will pick Washington with comparable salary over Oregon, because it's near Seattle as opposed to Eugene, which doesn't have a visible, vibrant African-American community that big cities offer," he said.

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Katie Miller Emerald

## Coming Out Day brings support, acceptance to fore



David Sanchez speaks in the EMU Amphitheater Wednesday during a celebration for National Coming Out Day.

■ Sharing personal histories and tales of hope, LGBT students help bring about awareness as they create an atmosphere of comfort

By **Beata Mostafavi**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Booming techno music blasted through the EMU Amphitheater Wednesday as students danced during the celebration for National Coming Out Day, a day that offers lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals an opportunity to share their personal experiences with the community.

Six speakers told their stories, describing the negative reactions of employers, family and friends as well as the challenging process of finally becoming comfortable with who they are.

Chicora Martin, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Educational and Support Services said this day is a chance for the LGBT community to be more visible to campus.

"This is a chance for students to see the queer community come together," she said. "It's a wonderful event because LGBT students have allies they can come out to ... It's such a positive experience for them to feel valued at the University."

Participants and listeners said the event is another step in spreading positive messages about the LGBT community to society and helps eliminate generalizations.

"If more people were out, there'd be less homophobia in the world," said Juleah Willson, a special education graduate student. "I've had the experi-

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“If more people were out, there'd be less homophobia in the world.”

Juleah Willson  
special education graduate student

## Area education funding in midst of ballot battles

Local school funding is at the core of ballot measure controversy for 2000 election

By **Rebecca Newell**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Area opponents of Ballot Measures 8 and 91 warn that the measures could threaten the financial stability of Eugene schools and city programs, but supporters say the measures would constitute a minimal reduction of funding and boost the economy by cutting taxes.

Measure 91 would make federal income taxes fully deductible on both personal and corporate income tax returns in Oregon. If the measure goes into effect during the 2000 tax year, state revenues would be reduced by approximately \$870 million during the current fiscal year. After 2001, state revenues would be reduced by about \$1 billion a year, depending upon growth in personal income and tax liability.

Lane County Commissioner Peter Sorenson said the measure is regressive, and would actually raise combined federal and state income taxes for most Lane County residents because the decrease

would eliminate the state surplus, called a "kicker," which would likely be returned to taxpayers.

Only those who make more than \$81,000 a year, and write off federal taxes on state returns, would gain a deduction sufficient to offset the lost kicker refund, according to the Oregon Legislative Revenue Office.

Furthermore, Sorenson said the measure would cause a "drastic reduction" in public school funding.

Kelly McIver, a spokesman for the 4J School District, said that the measure could reduce funding for the district, which encompasses all of Eugene, by about \$4.3 million during the 2000-2001 year, or about four percent of their annual budget. In future years, that amount would jump to a \$13 million cut, or about 11 percent of the district's budget.

Like Measure 91, Measure 8 hinders the capabilities of Oregon schools, McIver said.

The measure, which limits state spending to no more than 15 per-

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## University Senate debates deal with WRC inspection

■ A committee concludes that the WRC and FLA "are both potentially viable agencies worthy of our allegiance"

By **Andrew Adams**  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was the school year's first University Senate meeting, and incoming president James Earl was somewhat relieved afterward to call it "quick and easy."

Following the heated, and sometimes contentious, debates over the Worker Rights Consortium last year, the release of the senate's three-member WRC review committee's report caused little comment during Wednesday's meeting in Grayson Hall.

The recommendations of the report were the most pressing business of the meeting, which also involved a provost report on the Central Oregon branch campus, the election of the senate vice president and a vote on minor adjustments to the student conduct code.

After a brief speech by Greg McLaughlan of the sociology department about

state measures 91, 93, 8 and 7, and their possible impacts on state funding for higher education, the senate's attention turned to the report by the WRC review committee.

David Frank, the review committee chair and associate professor of the Clark Honors College, said the committee spent the summer writing the report in a "process as extensive and inclusive as possible."

He said the committee spoke with students, faculty, Nike representatives and read hundreds of books and articles on the issue. Frank said the group came to the conclusion that "both the WRC and the Fair Labor Association are both potentially viable monitoring agencies worthy of our allegiance."

Despite its conclusion, however, members of the committee also admitted that they could not give a report as detailed as

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