

# Committee envisions a center for diversity

■ A plan for the Center for the Study of Social Change will be released early next year

By Kristy Hessman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Although no blueprint or mission statement has been drafted yet, plans for a University research center focused on diversity has begun and is being fueled by the vision and energy of University members.

Increasing campus diversity has been the motivation behind a number of University programs, staff positions and scholarships in the past few years. But the idea to create a center to provide facilitation services, training on diversity issues and a research component is new not only to the University, but to the nation.

President Frohnmayer announced the creation of the Center for the Study of Social Change, the Center's tentative name, in his State of the University Address Oct. 18. Since that time, an 18-member committee has been

formed to create the vision for the Center.

The committee will release a detailed plan for the Center by the end of winter term.

"The basic concept [of the Center] is a strong research and service component," Frohnmayer said.

According to Mia Tuane, a University sociology professor and the Center's committee chair, the push for the Center came after students concerned with intolerance and racism participated in a sit-in at Johnson Hall in the spring of 1999. The sit-in was sparked by a sexist comment in a class e-mail discussion group.

She said the Center will take steps to train students in facilitating the many aspects of the Center's work.

"I am very excited," said David Frank, the committee assistant chair. "This is the first attempt to try to examine the issues of diversity from multiple perspectives, while at the same time healing wounds from racism and other 'isms' that were expressive on

campus."

While the committee is still discussing what the objectives of the Center are going to be, the hope for its future is already known.

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committee chair,  
Center for the Study  
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In the past few years, universities across the state have increased their efforts to address diversity.

“We have a number of departments, offices and people that respond to diversity issues,” said Phyllis Lee, Oregon State University's director of multicultural affairs. “But we don't have one place we call a research center.”

Portland State University is also making strides to address diversity, according to David Martinez, student advisor to the multicultural Center at PSU. He said the university has organized a Diversity Action Council, whose members seek to improve diversity in the areas of student life, curriculum and the retention and recruitment of minorities.

How the Center will affect University of Oregon diversity issues remains uncertain.

“I don't know if [the Center] will

increase the physical number of minorities on campus,” said Mark Tracy, the assistant dean for diversity programs and a Center committee member. “But I do think it will do an excellent job educating all members of the campus community, and provide increased awareness.”

Much of the Center's prospects depend on how well the committee, which met for the first time earlier this month, can work together.

During the committee's six-hour retreat, members discussed their ambitions and goals.

“We talked about how we might achieve the goal and tried to achieve a sense of sharing the same vision, one that invites different interpretations,” Frank said.

While plans for the Center are still in the early stages, two research associates have been hired to look into how various universities across the country have successfully handled diversity issues.

## Wyden holds up Senate tax bill again for suicide proposal

By John Hughes  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Ron Wyden on Sunday prevented the Senate from moving forward with a \$240 billion tax bill that also would make Oregon's assisted suicide law difficult — if not impossible — to use.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., sought unanimous consent on the Senate floor to have 10 hours of debate on the tax bill — including

two hours for Wyden to speak — followed by a vote on the proposal.

Wyden refused to agree to the time limit.

The move marked the second time in three days the Oregon Democrat thwarted Lott's plans to move forward with the bill. Wyden began a filibuster Friday and refused then to agree to a debate time limit.

“The only thing certain in life is that Congress will find a way to foul

up both death and taxes,” Wyden said in a statement.

Wyden is making good on a threat to filibuster any bill that could hurt Oregon's law allowing physician-assisted suicide. This state is the only one with such a law.

The House last week approved the tax bill that includes barring doctors from using federally controlled substances, such as barbiturates, to deliberately cause a patient's death.

All 43 people who died under Oregon's Death With Dignity Act since the law took effect in late 1997 used controlled substances to end their lives.

Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., the author of the anti-assisted suicide proposal, had the measure inserted in the tax bill with the hope of avoiding a Wyden roadblock.

Clinton has threatened to veto the tax bill for reasons unrelated to as-

sisted suicide. The president has not said whether he would sign or veto a suicide measure sent to his desk on its own.

Meanwhile, GOP leaders are continuing to negotiate with the White House on the tax bill and several other issues both sides are trying to resolve before the Nov. 7 election. The fate of the suicide proposal could be tied to the success or failure of those talks.

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