



NCC Dean questions reason for dismissal

Northwest Christian College's firing of Betsy Clewett has raised controversy over the school's treatment of minority students

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

Northwest Christian College remains divided by controversy over the recent dismissal of a dean, a firing that some students and former faculty believe was triggered by her efforts to hold the college accountable for alleged mistreatment of minority students.

Betsy Clewett, associate dean of education and school counseling, was fired in December, shortly after sending a letter of reproach to the administration.

The letter discussed an incident in which the college's basketball coach allegedly shoved one of the team's black players. Outraged at Clewett's dismissal, the remaining three professors of education resigned in protest, including Cloe Veney, the only black faculty member in the history of the college's 107-year existence.

Clewett contends she was fired because of her vocal support of minority rights. She claims there is a constant atmosphere of racial inequality at the college and cited numerous instances where minority students were treated unfairly because of the color of their skin. Clewett said black students on campus have greater difficulty receiving financial aid checks, getting apartment applications turned in and receiving diplomas after graduation. She added that the mistreatment of black basketball players at NCC has been the most alarming pattern of racism she has observed.

NCC denies all charges. Four black basketball players who attended NCC, Kiambu Fisher, Tyus Tillman, Delvin Glymph and Eric Webb, have

Turn to **Dismissal**, page 6

Oregon alumnus dies at age 27

Johnathan Gibbs, a commercial pilot and former University student, lost his life Wednesday after an unsuccessful takeoff

Caron Alarab
Crime/Safety/Transportation Reporter

To his friends, he was J.J. To his teachers, he was a pleasure. To the University, he was an active student and a success-bound graduate.

But after the fatally unsuccessful takeoff of

US Airways Flight 5481, first officer Jonathan Gibbs was simply a high-flying duck cut down in his prime. He was 27.

Just as his plane began to climb into the sky above Charlotte/Douglas International Airport on Wednesday morning, the twin-engine Beech 1900D veered upward. The fully loaded propeller plane then twisted left, crashed into a hangar and exploded in a fireball, killing both pilots and all 19 passengers.

Gibbs, who lived in North Carolina, had been

a commercial pilot for about two years and had more than 700 hours in the cockpit of twin-engine turboprops like the one that crashed Wednesday.

The youngest of the two children, Gibbs grew up in the Lakeport and Ukiah areas of California. He began taking flying lessons at the Ukiah airport when he was 16 and obtained his pilot's license at 19.

After graduating from Ukiah High School, he Turn to **Alumnus**, page 4

Peaceful Resolution



Brook Reinhard Emerald

OSA board member Bridget Burns (left) dropped her efforts to recall OSA board chairwoman Rachel Pilliod (right) from her leadership position at the group's monthly meeting at Southern Oregon University on Saturday.

Resolving differences

ASUO President Rachel Pilliod will continue as OSA board chairwoman, following a resolution with board member Bridget Burns and an apology to the OSA board

Brook Reinhard
News Editor

Rachel Pilliod will continue to serve as board chairwoman of the Oregon Student Association, as no official complaint was entered against her at an OSA board meeting Saturday.

OSA board member Bridget Burns was expected to bring allegations of partisanship and rule-breaking against Pilliod at the meeting, but

after a two-hour executive session in which the possible charges were discussed, Pilliod apologized to Burns and the OSA board, and the discussion ended peaceably.

Pilliod, a prominent student leader who is also the ASUO president, has been fighting this week to keep hold of her OSA leadership position in the wake of a possible recall. Burns, the Oregon State University student body president, had initially announced Wednesday she would present a recall motion in writing at the board's monthly meeting at Southern Oregon University. But after the private portion of the meeting, Burns said she would not bring forward any charges, and

Turn to **OSA**, page 5

University football stars opt for NFL

Onterio Smith and George Wrihster leave the Oregon football team, and Samie Parker may join them this week

Football

Adam Jude
Senior Sports Reporter

As if he didn't have enough problems already, Mike Bellotti now has to replace two of his best players on the Oregon football roster.

Tailback Onterio Smith and tight end George Wrihster announced they will forgo their senior seasons and enter the NFL draft, leaving the Ducks after a dismal 7-6 season that ended with a Seattle Bowl loss to Wake Forest.

"It's a little daunting right now," Bellotti, the head football coach, said at a press conference Friday. "The toughest part is the lateness in terms of recruiting, not that I didn't have some foreshadowing that there was interest (in them leaving for the NFL). But you can't really recruit to a spot unless you have a spot."

The rebuilding task could get even worse for Bellotti if junior wide receiver Samie Parker opts for the NFL. After a meeting Friday morning, Bellotti said Parker is "50/50" and could make a decision by today. The deadline for underclassmen to declare for the NFL draft is Wednesday, and there is a 72-hour period after that for players to withdraw their names.

The good news for the Ducks is that Turn to **Football**, page 12

Measure may increase tuition surcharges

If passed in the January 28 election, Measure 28 may help the Oregon University System's budget shortfall, with students paying a higher price

Oregon votes 2003

Jan Montry
City/State Politics Reporter

University students, as well as students throughout the Oregon University System, can expect to pay more in tuition if Measure 28 fails later this month.

Administration officials plan to institute a 13 percent tuition increase at the University for winter and spring terms to fill a \$6.5 million

shortfall left by inadequate state funding. In order to offset the budget gap while maintaining comparable class options, the University will charge an extra \$10 per credit hour and \$15 per credit hour for law classes.

The University has already trimmed \$7 million from its budget this year.

"We don't want to reduce opportunities for students, and we don't want to dilute the quality of education we provide," Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services Jim Buch said. "We've done just about as much trimming and cutting as we can."

Measure 28

A 10-part series examining the budget implications of the Jan. 28 special election.

Overall, higher education in Oregon will see a total cut of \$26.9 million if Measure 28 fails. Funding from the surcharge would generate \$4 million for the University, leaving about a \$2 million discrepancy, which mostly stems from legislative cuts made in December.

Student leaders have had a say in the decision making process, recommending the surcharge over class cuts at a meeting with administration officials in September.

"Nobody is happy about the choices, but the clear voice of students was not to reduce course offerings," Buch said.

But Oregon Student Association Executive Director Alisa Simmons said cutting classes and increasing tuition are both travesties, and when coupled with reductions in the Oregon Opportu-

Turn to **Tuition**, page 6

WEATHER

Today: High 48, Low 38,
Rain increasing in afternoon

Tuesday: High 48, Low 32,
Chance of showers, clearing

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday Eugene City Council to decide whether to increase fines for possession of marijuana

Wednesday Many Oregonians may lose their Oregon Health Plan coverage if Measure 28 fails