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News brief

Students can meet 3rd vice provost candidate

Administrators are inviting students to come and meet the final candidate for the vice provost for institutional equity and diversity.

Brenda Greene is the third of three finalists for the vice provost position. Students and student groups can meet her on Tuesday in the EMU Umpqua River Room between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Greene is currently an education and diversity consultant. Most recently, she was special assistant to the chancellor for diversity and multicultural affairs at the University of North Carolina at Asheville from 2000 to 2002. Previously she worked in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Ball State University from 1987 to 2000. Greene received a bachelor of arts from Spelman College in Atlanta and worked as a school teacher before receiving her masters in counseling and guidance from Xavier University of Lousiana, New Orleans, and a doctorate in higher education administration in 1987 from Iowa State University.

Students who can't attend Tuesday's session can comment on any of the three applicants by e-mailing selection committee co-chairwoman Deborah Carver at dcarver@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Contact the news editor at brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com.

Campus buzz

Tuesday

Ring Theory (math seminar by Heather Coughlin) 1 p.m., 210 Deady, free. "The crossed product by the noncommutative Fourier transform" (math analysis seminar by N. Christopher Phillips) 2 p.m., 210 Deady, free.

"First order vs. second order quantum

phase transitions in itinerants ferromagnets" (seminar by Dietrich Belitz) 4 p.m., 427 Willamette, free.

"Seeking Environmental Justice in Chile" (presentation cosponsored by the U.S office of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide and the University Environmental and Natural Resources program,) 7 p.m., 175 Knight Law Center, free.

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sells the exact same merchandise that got Higher Source busted. While the Emerald was unable to reach Mohtadi or Harris for comment, Greg Veralrud, who is Mohtadi's lawyer, said what probably attracted federal interest in his client was the outstanding success of the outfit.

"These guys have always considered themselves legitimate business people," Veralrud said, and as such the two quickly became national distributors for tobacco-related materials.

If people were just buying the items for tobacco use, business could have continued. But selling wares on Web sites such as Ghettoweb.com opened the doors for a federal sting operation.

According to a Department of Justice press release from the Western District of Pennsylvania, where the indictments were served, the government set up a phony business called Thompson Novelties in Beaver Falls, Penn., and ordered items from Ghettoweb and Jerome Baker in September and December 2002.

It isn't clear whether federal agents told Ghettoweb or Jerome Baker how they would use the products, and a Pittsburgh DOJ spokesman did not respond to repeated Emerald interview requests.

"We felt, first of all, that the government had a good chance of prevailing in their case," Veralrud said. "There's no question that Harris and Mohtadi were involved in a business that sold, among other things, pipes that could be used to smoke marijuana."

But so do Midtown Pipe and Tobacco and numerous other stores. Despite the dozens of "tobacco use only" signs posted around the new shop, there's no question that a customer could buy a pipe and use it for marijuana.

Salkind said the store makes it very clear that products are for to-bacco use only and employs a tactic of "selling local glass to local people—no non-locals, no Internet."

"This (sort of bust) happens every 10 years or so, it seems, in this industry," he said, adding that the busts took all the large distributors out of the picture.

Veralrud agreed.

"What (federal agents) did is chased it right on up the food chain, so to speak," he said.

Because none of the Headhunter cases have actually gone through trial in court yet, it's unclear whether a jury would find any glass distributor or retailer guilty of selling, transporting, importing or exporting "drug paraphernalia."

Thomas O'Brien, Drug Enforcement Administration Seattle field division spokesman, said in a February interview with the Emerald that the way the DEA currently interprets federal law, anyone who sells water pipes or similar products could be held accountable.

"If these bongs are being used to inhale controlled substances, they're illegal," O'Brien said.

Veralrud said he didn't know if the DEA interpretation was a change from previous procedure.

Mohtadi and Harris are scheduled for sentencing Aug. 7. Although the law provides a total sentence of up to three years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, Veralrud said he thought his client would probably be sentenced to about six months, time that could possibly be served under house arrest.

Contact the news editor at brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com.

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to minors when police broke up a toga party at Buzbee's residence in January.

Buzbee pled guilty to the violation at his hearing on April 23 and is currently completing a 10-hour diversion class on the consequences of underage drinking. He also had to pay a \$60 court fee and a \$40 class fee, but Buzbee said he's relieved to finally be at the point where he can put this episode behind him. He added that as long as he avoids any more alcohol-related offenses, by the end of the summer the slate will be wiped clean and his deeds will be completely removed from his record.

Contact the senior news reporter at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.

