

Jewish committee gives Frohnmayer excellence award

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

University President Dave Frohnmayer's work is drawing recognition beyond the campus community. Frohnmayer, a former Oregon Attorney General, received the Judge Learned Hand Award for lifetime achievement from the American Jewish Committee Oregon chapter in November.

The award, only the fourth of its kind to be granted by the Oregon chapter, is meant to honor individuals in the legal field for "professional excellence and contributions to the legal community," according to a press release. The award is not faith-based.

"(Frohnmayer) has been a beacon to the community in the kind of attorney a person can aspire to be and the kind of community member a person can aspire to be," AJC Area Executive Director Emily Georges Gottfried said.

Prior to his role as University president, Frohnmayer was a member of the state House of Representatives. As attorney general, he won six of seven cases before the US Supreme Court, "the most cases and best record of any contemporary state attorney general," according to his Web site.

Frohnmayer's "long list of community service" and years of public service were primary motivations behind the AJC selection committee's decision to honor him, Gottfried said.

"I was very surprised and privileged to get it," Frohnmayer said in a tele-

phone interview. "It's a long-standing award for the American Jewish Committee and it's a very warm and wonderful experience."

"I'm happy to say that Dave has been one of Oregon's leading community citizens for some 30 years," University law professor Jim Mooney said. Mooney and Frohnmayer have been colleagues since they were on the law school faculty in the 1970s.

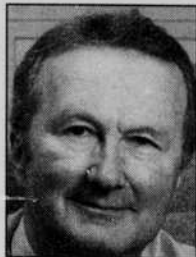
The award luncheon was held at the Governor Hotel in Portland where Frohnmayer made his acceptance remarks on situational ethics, social deception and lessons of Machiavelli, topics which he said have a bearing on current events including abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

"Very often we are blind to the temptations and threats in our immediate social environment," Frohnmayer said.

"This ethical life is hard work," he said in his remarks at the luncheon, according to a transcript. "Knowing right from wrong requires diligence, self-scrutiny and looking into a very well-lit and refractive mirror."

The American Jewish Committee is an international think-tank and advocacy organization, according to its Web site. Its mission includes strengthening the basic principles of pluralism and safeguarding the welfare and security of Jews worldwide.

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DAVE
FROHNMAYER
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Arena site: Community members voice concerns

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were "an example of how not to do things."

Williams spoke at the Public Relations Society of America monthly luncheon at the Downtown Athletic Club on Thursday about issues concerning University development and community relations.

Williams said it is important to include the community in the University's development process but also said it is crucial not to forget "the importance of retaining authority on the land."

Dealing with surrounding neighborhoods and allowing neighbors to have a say in what goes on at the University can be difficult, Williams said, because of how impassioned people become when something like the siting of a sports arena hits so close to home.

The University must expand to meet the growing needs of the institution and "all of this activity must be done in a way that protects and embraces the reputation" of the school, Williams said.

Many people concerned about University development "don't lend themselves to rational thinking," and it can be difficult to try to match such irrationality with rationality, Williams said.

Because the University is an academic institution, debate is encouraged and crucial to the learning process, but it can be problematic

when it reaches the outside community, Williams said.

"I've taken some comfort at the thought that the public's memory is short," Williams said with a laugh, emphasizing that a handful of winning sports seasons or other forms of good publicity can make up for past problems.

Often when community members raise concerns the only thing University officials can do is say they understand the concerns and promise to mitigate them, Williams said, but "that doesn't get you anywhere unless there's already a level of trust there."

There have been quiet rumblings throughout the community over the possibility that a new basketball arena built on the site could bring with it other projects that could intrude on the surrounding community — rumblings that Frohnmayer called "just invention."

Eugene is an "unusually vocal community," and the concerns neighbors raise are understood but do not have much relevance to the construction of a new basketball arena, Frohnmayer said.

No houses will be moved from the East Campus neighborhood if an arena is built, Frohnmayer said, and there will be a "buffered zone" of at least two blocks between the arena and the surrounding neighborhood.

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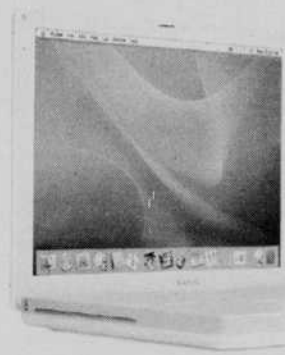
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