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City employee to file lawsuit over alleged racial profiling

The claim comes from an incident last September in which officers searched Cortez Jordan for weapons

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A city employee intends to sue Eugene and Lane County over an incident with Eugene police that he alleges occurred because he is black.

Cortez Jordan's lawyer, Kevin Lafky, filed notices of the lawsuits Friday, which stem from an incident last September when a Eugene police officer and an off-duty Lane County sheriff's deputy stopped Jordan while he was walking along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard with four friends.

Officer Wayne Dorman searched Jordan, while his four friends, who are white, were not searched. Dorman later said he suspected Jordan was carrying a weapon because of his physical demeanor.

The Lane County District Attorney's office launched a two-month investigation that upheld the legality of the search and concluded Jordan's complaint of racial profiling was unjustified.

Jordan's aunt, Marilyn Mays,

president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, left her position as the city's diversity coordinator in January and announced her plans to move out of town, citing the city's handling of her nephew's complaint and the difficulties combating racism in the city as reasons for leaving.

The notices allege police violated Jordan's civil rights and caused him emotional distress. Lafky told The Register-Guard he will begin negotiations with the city about the complaints in the coming weeks.

"It will be up to the city to decide if it wants to proceed with meaningful negotiations," Lafky said. "If negotiations are not successful, the next step is a lawsuit."

Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly, a member of the Eugene Human Rights Commission, said the HRC has not been formally involved with Jordan's case but is following the situation closely.

"A great many of the HRC

commissioners, myself included, were concerned and indeed devastated about the treatment that Mr. Jordan received, but the commission has not taken any specific position," Kelly said.

The Eugene Police Commission is currently examining complaint process models and different methods for citizen oversight and is expected to have recommendations for policy and procedural changes by September, according to the commission's Main Tasks and Tentative Timeline. They are examining these models in the hope of enabling the city to deal more effectively with complaints made about police.

In 1998, Eugene voted against a ballot measure that would have established an independent external police review board. The idea has since gained more support as Mayor Kitty Piercy touted the formation of such a board during her Jan. 3 State of the City address.

Kelly said the HRC is closely following the work of various community groups like Communities United for Better Policing, which was formed in late 2004 to work with the Eugene Police Department to examine concerns and create action items to address any

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Access to campus services subject of fee dispute

A number of out-of-town and part-time students have questioned the mandatory enrollment fees

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

Numerous questions from out-of-town and part-time University students concerned they are not receiving the full benefit of their enrollment fees have prompted University administrators to form a committee to determine whether some students are paying an unfair amount.

Full-time students pay \$471 per term in "mandatory enrollment fees,"

about \$180 of which is designated as the "incidental fee" the student government uses to fund student programs. Yet many part-time students and students at satellite campuses in Portland and Charleston are not receiving the services for which they pay full price.

The students have approached ASUO officials and department-level administrators to try to remedy their problems. Those officials and students involved are looking to University administrators to address the issue, but a group of administrators who are analyzing the fees aren't sure they will recommend any changes to system for next year.

PSAC problems

One of the most vocal off-campus groups, the Portland Student Action Council, was formed by graduate architecture students studying at the University's Portland Center to advocate for equal distribution of fees. Students started the group because of concerns that students in Portland have paid full fees for several years, but have not had the same access to recreation facilities and transportation provided to students in Eugene.

Although PSAC students receive health care through Portland State University, they have struggled to gain free access to public transportation and PSU's recreation center. Incidental fees pay for those services at the University's main campus.

ASUO Vice President Mena Ravassipour previously told the Emerald that ASUO officials were not aware that about 80 students were not receiving the same amenities as students in Eugene until earlier this year when PSAC began to form, but said the ASUO would work to address concerns.

"It's kind of early to say what's going to happen, but

right now we're doing a lot of research to see if there's a way to partner with (Portland State University) to work with partner services they could use up there," she said.

After struggling to remedy their problems since the group was formed in October, PSAC leaders said they are perplexed by the varying layers of red tape they have encountered with the ASUO and elsewhere in the administration.

PART 1 OF 2

Today: Administrators form committee to analyze fee equity

Wednesday: Out-of-town students continue to struggle with fee equality

"We want to make change and we want to do it positively ... but there are so many hoops that it

doesn't seem worth it," PSAC Vice President Britt Nelson said. "It's really frustrating."

PSAC President Gary Blackwell said although the group has held meetings, he has had trouble getting students involved because group members have questioned why changes aren't taking place despite their efforts.

Nelson said the group "hasn't been moving forward at all" on getting equal funding, and group leaders haven't heard back from ASUO officials.

"Initially, it seemed pretty positive with working with the ASUO. But to be honest with you, we're frustrated up here," she said. "We haven't heard back from the ASUO about how we're moving forward. For 10 years we've been having to deal with this."

Although the group received \$300 for next year, the maximum a new group can receive, the money will go to enhance the Portland Architecture Program and pay for an alumni roundtable discussion, an event to display student work and a publication of student work.

Blackwell said ASUO officials have been "apologetic" while the group doesn't know the status of its push for fee equality.

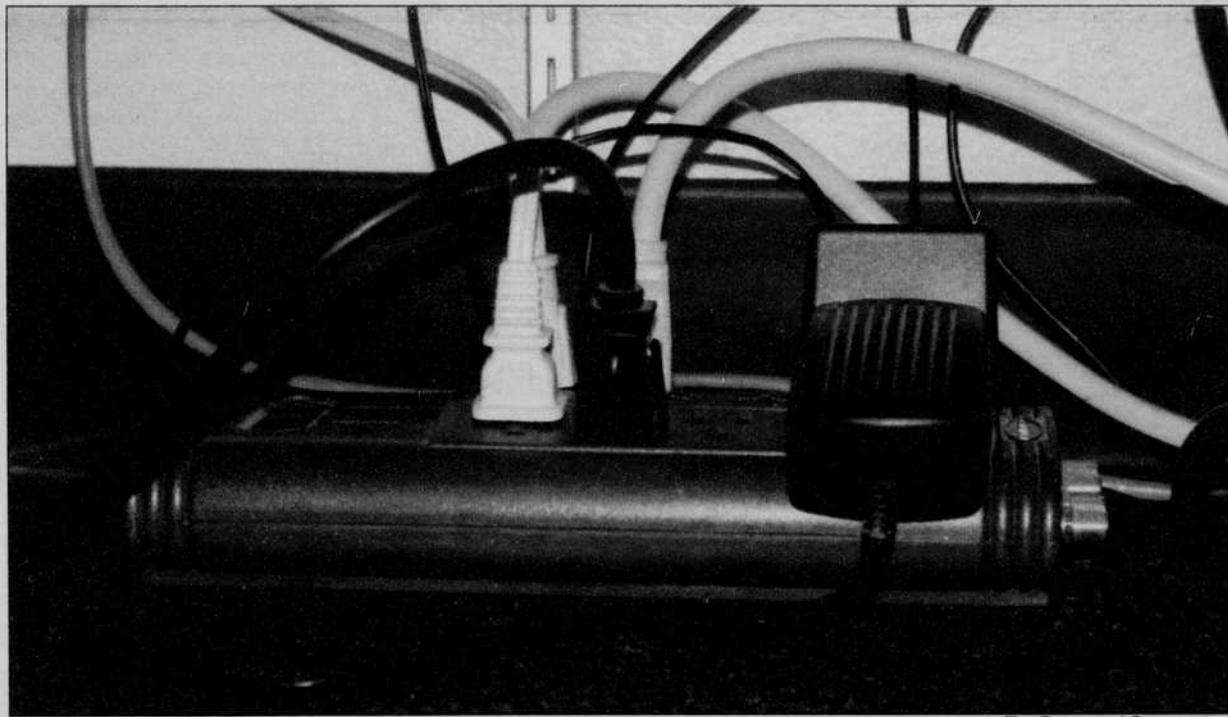
"It's a lot of ambiguous language, usually never really clear what the goals are," he said. "That's really translated into a lot of frustration."

If the group's concerns aren't remedied, Blackwell said he would encourage everyone in the council to file grievances with the ASUO early next term.

"I'm not going to be discouraged," he said, adding that students are being "taken advantage of."

Blackwell said students are "just tired of dealing with these sorts of trivial issues" and want

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TIM BOBOSKI | PHOTOGRAPHER

Economics GTF Mike Visser showed off the motion-sensing power strip in his office on the fifth floor of PLC on Monday.

ASUO energy-saving efforts target problems with 'inefficient' PLC

The installation of 150 motion-sensing power strips into PLC offices may save the University \$10,000 per year

BY EVA SYLWESTER
NEWS REPORTER

Prince Lucien Campbell Hall is the target of ASUO Outreach Committee efforts to decrease energy use on campus. During Energy Week, which ran Feb. 14-18, the committee distributed energy-saving light bulbs and motion-sensing power strips to

graduate teaching fellow and faculty offices in the building.

"PLC's really energy inefficient," ASUO Outreach Director Taylour Johnson said. "If you've ever been up there in the middle of the day, it gets really hot and uncomfortable."

The PLC project was a long time in the making. ASUO Outreach

Committee intern Ben Hart said that a few years ago, student government and the facilities department acquired numerous energy-saving fluorescent light bulbs and motion-sensing power strips to distribute in PLC.

Economics GTF Mike Visser said he received a motion-sensing power strip from the first equipment distribution a year or two ago. He has two computer monitors, speakers, a printer, and some personal digital

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