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Students, law experts respond to OMAS rule

The policy reserving class seats for minority students has caused debate throughout campus

BY JARED PABEN
NEWS EDITOR

Some say it's reverse racism. Others say it's necessary and effective.

To press their cases, students debating a University policy that reserves class seats for minority students have held or planned rallies and filed complaints. The policy has even divided law experts with years of experience in affirmative action debates.

The University's Office of Multicultural Academic Support administers seven lower-division math and English classes in which the first 10 slots of the 18-student classes are reserved for minority students. Other students must meet with an OMAS counselor on the morning of the first day of class to enroll in the remaining slots.

Linda Liu, advising coordinator and academic adviser for OMAS, told the Emerald that in the seven years she's admitted students to the classes, which are smaller than other sections of the

OMAS, page 6

5-year plan for diversity draws critics, supporters

24 faculty members wrote a letter to President Dave Frohnmayer asking that the plan be withdrawn

BY ADAM CHERRY & AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS REPORTER & NEWS EDITOR

The University's Five-Year Diversity Plan draft has come under increased scrutiny in recent weeks, with the plan's drafters defending it and critics voicing dissent on its feasibility and purpose.

In a recent open letter to University President Dave Frohnmayer, 24 faculty members called the text of the 21-page draft "frightening and offensive," adding that if the plan is implemented even partially, "this program will do immeasurable damage to our University." They went on to demand the plan's withdrawal.

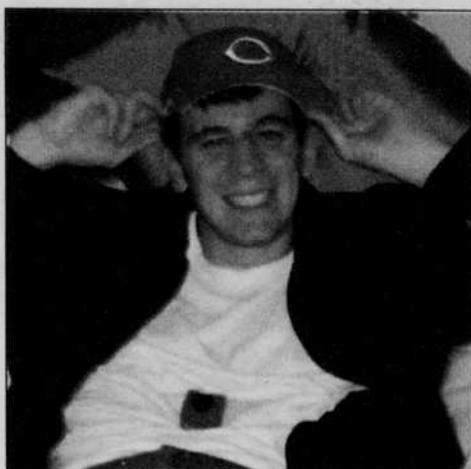
Greg Vincent, vice provost for institutional equity and diversity, said most of the debate has centered on the many recommendations within the plan's six broad strategic directives.

"We have over 25 recommendations in there, so it may be that some of those ... need to be revised and refined," Vincent said.

Vincent has been spearheading the University's efforts to improve diversity on campus, and he helped present the diversity plan draft, which has also been referred to as the "Diversity Action Plan," on May 2. The plan's six

DIVERSITY, page 5

Community grieves student's death



COURTESY

Friends recall University student Joel Nathan Meyer's "goofy ass smile" when reflecting on his life.

Joel Meyer, who drowned Sunday at Lake Shasta, is remembered by friends and family as being "kind, intelligent, and funny as hell"

BY BRITTNI MCCLANAHAN
NEWS REPORTER

"Every man dies, not every man really lives."

Joel Nathan Meyer quoted the movie "Braveheart" on his Internet profile on Thefacebook.com, summing up the philosophy of a man who often seized the moment and found fun at every opportunity, his friends, family and professors said.

Meyer's sudden death has resonated within the community as family, friends, students and faculty members remember how he enriched the lives of everyone he encountered. The 21-year-old journalism student from Sisters drowned Sunday at Lake

Shasta after hitting his head on the side of a boat moored near Slaughterhouse Island. He was taken by helicopter to Shasta Regional Medical Center in Redding, Calif., where he was pronounced dead.

Friends who were with Meyer at the time called it "a freak accident."

"He was just having a great time, we were all having fun," University student Mark Griffin said.

"He was a lifeguard, so he was constantly looking out for everybody else and making sure that everyone was having a good time," University student Katrina Eisenbarth said. "It was a tragic accident."

MEYER, page 3

Bike thefts on upswing in campus area

Public Safety and the Eugene police say thieves are stealing bikes with less monetary value

BY EMILY SMITH
NEWS REPORTER

Nearly half of all bike thefts in Eugene take place in the University area, and in recent weeks Eugene police and University public safety officers have noticed a significant increase in the number of bikes being stolen in the area and a decrease in the monetary value of the bikes thieves are taking.

"It seems to me that (bike theft) is higher this term and the last half of last term than it's ever been," Eugene police officer Randy Ellis said.

According to a Eugene Police Department special report, 422 bikes with values totaling \$196,702 were reported to the EPD as stolen from the West University neighborhood during the last fiscal year. Only 35 of them were recovered. During the previous year, 345 bikes had been reported stolen, valued at \$176,205, with 39 recovered.

The average bike value in the 2004-05 EPD

THEFT, page 12



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

The owner of this bike, located near Lawrence Hall, used two locks to ensure its safety. Department of Public Safety officer Chris Fosnight suggests using both a cable lock and a U-lock.

DPS 'desperate' for new headquarters

Concern over how the office would function in the event of a disaster reopened talks for relocation

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

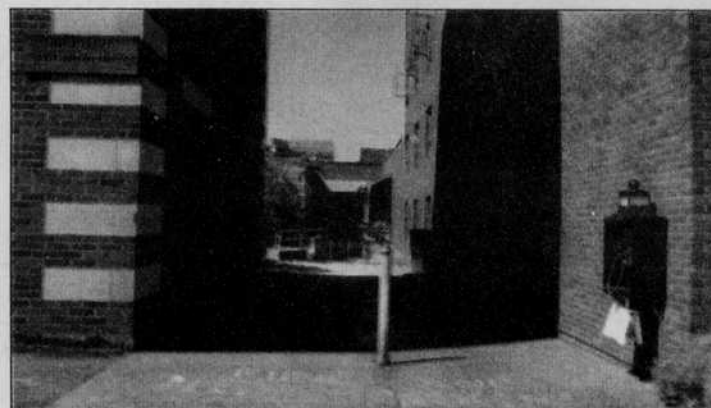
Located down an alley in an office carved from residence hall rooms, the Department of Public Safety headquarters may not seem like a focal point of campus activity. But if a disaster ever struck the University campus, that's exactly what it would have to become.

A group of University representatives and government officials toured the campus in February after the University received a grant to help the campus prepare for natural disasters and noted the inadequate size of the DPS office, which is supposed to serve as campus headquarters in case of an emergency.

"Just one walk through and the

group got a pretty good idea that that would be pretty hard to do," DPS Interim Director Tom Hicks said. The current office is approximately 3,300 square feet, with about 2,300 usable feet, Hicks said. A planning office assessment in 2003 estimated DPS's needed space to be about 9,000 square feet, with 6,400 feet of it usable.

The University added a new DPS facility to its list of needed capital construction projects two years ago, but a variety of factors such as financing and land space have prevented anything from starting. Perhaps the biggest obstacle in the quest for new office space is questions the University has about the future of public safety on campus, University Vice



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

The Department of Public Safety office, located in what was once a residence hall, is on the University's list of capital building projects, but University officials do not have a timeline for the project.

President for Administration Dan Williams said.

"The choice is to continue the way we are or entertain the possibility of having our own

police force, but we haven't, obviously, made that decision," Williams said.

DPS, page 8