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Gender discrimination suit settled

Sally Harmon, a former assistant track and field coach, was awarded \$375,000 in the settlement of a lawsuit she filed last year

BY GABE BRADLEY
NEWS EDITOR

Last week, Sally Harmon and the University reached a \$375,000 settlement on the \$1.1 million gender discrimination lawsuit Harmon filed late last year. The settlement contains no admission of wrongdoing by the University.

In 2003, the University consolidated the men's and women's track teams. Olympic

hammer thrower Lance Deal, who had been a volunteer men's throws events coach for about a year, was selected to coach the combined throws events.

In the suit, Harmon alleged that selecting Deal to coach though he had "no paid Division I coaching experience," and little volunteer coaching experience was a part of a pattern of gender discrimination in the University's athletics department.



SALLY HARMON
FORMER ASSISTANT
TRACK AND FIELD COACH

The University denied that the decision to terminate Harmon was made based on gender.

"I think it's a really fair settlement," University General Counsel Melinda Grier said. "It was time for everyone to move on."

Grier said that although the settlement amount was less than a

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Harassment grievance filed against professor

Mary Thomson issued a grievance of sexual harassment against Professor Weston spring term

BY GABE BRADLEY
NEWS EDITOR

A student who filed a formal grievance against a biology professor spring term for sexual harassment says it's unclear what, if anything, will be done to hold the professor accountable.

Psychology major Mary Thomson was in professor Jim Weston's Reproduction and Development class when Weston allegedly leered at her and made an inappropriate comment during week four of spring term.

Thomson referred to the experience as a "visual rape."

"It invaded my whole perspective on how this University is," Thomson said.

The next class session, Thomson's then-fiancé took her to class where she decided to sit in the back row.

"I was scared to sit in front," Thomson said. "He yelled at me to sit in front."

After that, Thomson dropped the class and filed a formal grievance.

Thomson said she was told that the professor would be reprimanded and a note of the incident would be made in his personnel file. She was also told that no further action would be taken against the professor because the conduct was not found to be pervasive and ongoing.

It is the policy of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity not to discuss grievance proceedings.

"I think what we find once again is that the University has found someone culpable but not accountable," said ASUO Women's Center interim director Erin O'Brien.

O'Brien said complaints of sexual harassment are often not taken seriously.

"This is not the first time that they have said, 'Well, yes he said something wrong, but he didn't do it every day,'" O'Brien said. "I think that's unfortunate."

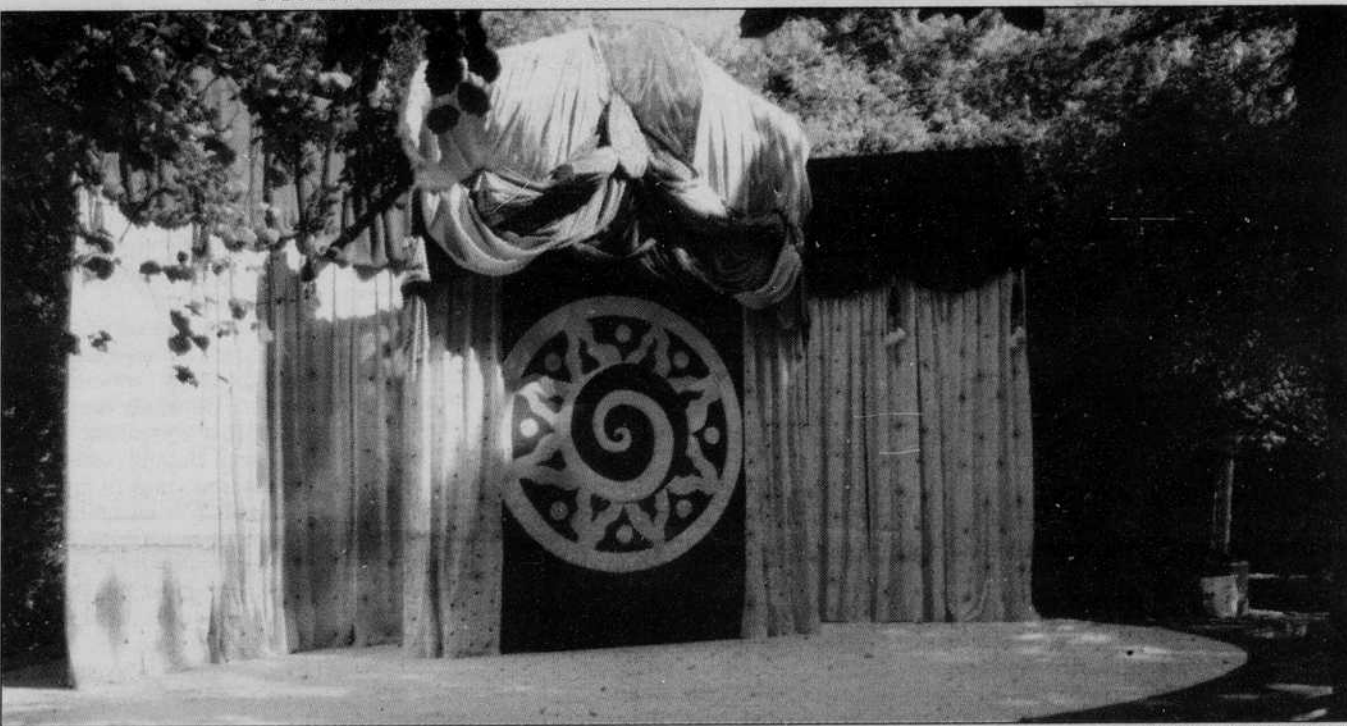
O'Brien said the reprimand was a necessary but inadequate response to sexual harassment.

"Just a note on your record doesn't do too much if you're in a tenure track position or if you're not looking for

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PREPARING THE FAIR FOR ITS 36TH YEAR

The curtains are ready to be opened at Stage Left for the Oregon Country Fair. Cast members and friends spent the week leading up to the fair preparing the vaudeville-style production, "The Red Ukulele," for shows over the weekend. See the full story on page 7.



TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

Scientists develop telemedicine service

This new technology provides a non-invasive way to analyze the brain activity of patients

BY YEONG DOO MOON
FREELANCE REPORTER

Within six months, scientists at the University's Neuroinformatics Center (NIC) will offer a telemedicine service that provides information on the brain activity of remote patients with epilepsy and other brain disorders through the Internet. The remotely analyzed brain information is as accurate as information obtained through more invasive measures, but requires no direct physical contact to a patient. The development creates new opportunities for both clinical treatment of brain disorders and basic research on brain function.

The University and two professors recently established a private company, Cerebral Data Systems, said psychology professor Don Tucker, who is in charge of the project. He is also the CEO of Electrical Geodesics, Inc., a spin-off private entity located at the University's Riverfront Research Park.

"If clinics and research labs sent us CT and MRI images of a patient getting prepared for neurosurgery, we would analyze the data, build an accurate computing head model and report it back," Tucker said.

The new project is the product of a recent discovery by Tucker and other scientists at NIC. Using the ICONIC Grid — the Integrated Cognitive Neuroscience, Informatics and Computation Grid, which is the University's



Don Tucker, CEO of Electrical Geodesics, Inc., wears a Geodesic Sensor Net to demonstrate the camera system used to map the electrodes that measure brain conductivity.

TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

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IN BRIEF

Memorial service for Phillip Gillins to be held in Portland

The memorial service for Phillip Gillins will be held Sunday, July 10 in Portland.

Gillins, a University advertising major, died last month from brain injuries sustained when he was assaulted on 13th Avenue the morning before he was to walk in graduation ceremonies.

The service will take place at 2 p.m. in the Montgomery Park building atrium at 2701 NW Vaughn St.

The family has asked that memorial contributions be given to the Humane Society.

— Gabe Bradley