

with the consent of the union," Taylor wrote.

Taylor claims his system would be fair and he would appoint a "diverse" board, perhaps allowing the council to recommend candidates for his consideration or rejection. Taylor opposes amending the city charter to allow the council to appoint a board/auditor to avoid unnecessary "expenses and bureaucratic layers."

The powerful city manager joins the powerful police union in opposing external, independent review of complaints against police. The police chief also balked last month at key reforms recommended by an external management review. The city council plans to take up the issue next month. —Alan Pittman

WHISTLING COPS

Eugene isn't the only city with cop problems. A federal jury in Eugene awarded \$1.4 million to an Albany police officer who blew the whistle on police misconduct and sex discrimination, the *Albany Democrat-Herald* reported May 21. Officer Michael Hudgins filed a complaint with the FBI and district attorney saying that a police sergeant used excessive force against a teen and was not disciplined. Hudgins also spoke up for two female officers forced to do push ups, the *Democrat-Herald* reported. Albany police officials retaliated by denying Hudgins a promotion, transferring him and prosecuting him. Eugene attorney Martha Walters represented Hudgins.

Eugene hasn't had whistle blowers like Hudgins. Not blowing the whistle on wrongdoing is official policy with the EPD. The department's operations manual states: "While on duty or off duty and identifying yourself as a department employee, you may not publicly criticize or ridicule the department, its policies, or other employees by any expression, where what you say or write produces intolerable disharmony, inefficiency, dissension, chaos, or is without a factual basis."

—Alan Pittman



LAW SCHOOL PEACE DEGREE

The UO law school is now offering an interdisciplinary master's degree in conflict and dispute resolution (CDR). Although more than 80 U.S. colleges and universities — including PSU — offer graduate degrees in conflict resolution studies, the UO is the second institution in the nation to house the program in a law school. The first was Pepperdine University in California.

"It's a big development for our community to have this," says Jane Gordon, Knight Law School associate dean of student and program affairs.

The CDR program evolved from the law school's Appropriate Dispute Resolution Program, founded in 2000. *U.S. News and World Report* ranked the UO ADR program as the nation's fourth best public conflict resolution program for 2006.

Gordon says that the CDR interdisciplinary master's program is unique because it will emphasize both theoretical and practical skills, including hands-on practice and classes in mediation and negotiation. "Though the world seems always to be full of conflict, there seems to be less focus on resolutions," Gordon says. "We recognize the need for people to learn what different disciplines can teach about it."

A master's degree in conflict and dispute resolution can lead to careers in education, government, health services and human resources, among others, Gordon says.

The first group of students will enter the CDR program in fall 2005, and the law school is still accepting applicants. For more information, visit www.law.uoregon.edu/org/adr —Kera Abraham

LRAPA STILL SHAKY

In recent months, internal fractures at the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) have provoked both public and industry watchdogs to examine the agency more closely (see "Up in the Air," EW 4/21/05).

Lack of confidence could mean death for the agency. Both the Springfield City Council and

the Board of County Commissioners have threatened to pull their annual LRAPA contributions, which could prompt the EPA to rescind an annual grant contingent on local funding. Those losses could fold the agency.

It's a tough scenario to present to any potential director. The agency has been working for months to recruit a replacement for former director Brian Jennison, who was asked to resign in January. At a special public meeting on June 7, the board voted 7-1 to negotiate a job offer with a selected candidate, without publicly revealing the candidate's name.

Board member Gary Rayer later said of the candidate, "He's a guy from industry. But he said he's committed to protecting the environment."

Another volatile issue at LRAPA is the appointment of additional board members. The city of Eugene recently added a fourth board member due to a population increase. The board then created a second at-large position to maintain an odd number of members. LRAPA advertised the position and received

two applications from Springfield residents who expressed interest in public health. On May 10, the board narrowly voted not to extend the application deadline.

On May 31, Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken sent a letter to LRAPA Interim Director Jim Johnson requesting that the board consider appointing Springfield Councilor John Woodrow to the at-large position.

On June 7, Johnson said that the board has the discretion to consider the late application. Board member Betty Taylor objected. "The mayor of Springfield was out of line in trying to influence the actions of the board," she said. "People are losing the respect of the agency every time we do something whimsical."

A motion to re-open the application window — which would allow the board to consider Woodrow for the position — narrowly failed. The board will interview the two original applicants at the next public meeting at 12:15 pm on June 14 at the LRAPA office, 1010 Main Street in Springfield.

—Kera Abraham

JEWEL HAIRSTON BELL AWARDS



The 2004-05 Jewel Hairston Bell Award winners are (from left to right): Maceo Persson, Solana Sawyer, Andrea Griggs, Jeffrey Boyce, and Natalie Ball. The Jewel Bell Award was established to honor outstanding students of color whose presence and performance have furthered the cause of cultural and ethnic diversity at the University of Oregon. This award was established as a memorial to

Jewel Bell, who was the Director of the Council of Minority Education, now known as the Office of Multicultural Academic Support, in the mid-1980s. She was instrumental in establishing student support programs that are still carried out by the program staff today.

Bell, who died from breast cancer, was married to Derrick Bell, former dean of the UO Law School.

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