

# Civil Service Commission Studies Wage Earnings Of University Employees As Living Costs Soar

By LAURA OLSON

Question: Are the men who work in the physical plant of the University underpaid, and if so, why?

Living costs have skyrocketed in the past months, and such conditions would seem to call for a raise in pay for these men. J. O. Lindstrom, business manager of the University, has this to say about the question.

"I think the University of Oregon should be in a financial position so it could pay its employees wages that are comparable with those in the community. It's unfair to the University and unfair to the employees if we don't," he stated. At present the entire matter of wage rates for the physical plant staff, dormitory workers and office help is being studied by the state civil service. "The University will, of course, as an agency of the state, be governed by the commission's rulings," Lindstrom added.

He cited the fact that the University was a state school, and its budget was pretty well fixed each two-year period by the legislature. Both Oregon and Oregon State are run on allotted budgets. Additional fee money from students is available over and above the allotted sum, but this, for the most part, has to be used for additional teachers and class supplies which are allotted to the various school departments.

Pay for physical plant employees of the University ranges from \$150 to \$312 a month for a 44-hour week, depending upon the skills of the employees. In industry, custodial workers, according to the state civil service commission, are paid from

\$140 to \$175 a month, and as Lindstrom pointed out, "the University is right in the middle since it pays this class of employees \$155 per month.

He stated that when civil service comes into effect at Oregon, wages will not be raised a great deal, although some classes of employment will be increased considerably.

Lindstrom emphasized that regular University employees now receive a vacation with pay, and have sick leave privileges.

"We don't pay union wages for skilled workers," the business manager said, "but our rate is within 20 cents of the union rate." As an example, plumbers downtown are paid \$1.75 an hour while University plumbers are paid \$1.55. "This decrease in pay is compensated for by the fact that the plumbers working here have the benefit of vacation and sick leave with pay, year round employment and a state retirement benefit," he added. Since cost accounting is made for each separate job at the University, all physical plant help is on an hourly basis.

At present the physical plant is under the supervision of D. L. Lewis, but November 1, Kenneth Weidner will assume duties as the new superintendent. Weidner was previously assistant superintendent of the physical plant at the University of Washington. He served in World War II as a captain in the seabee engineering division.

Due to the increased amount of building there are more than the usual number of employees employed in the physical plant. The staff now numbers 118 men and women, but in prewar times the number was 50. They maintain the 100 acres of campus which includes the main campus, athletic fields, the chancellor's residence and the president's home. They also take care of the upkeep of Trailorville, the housing project behind Skinner's butte, the pre-fab houses which are located just east of Hayward field and the veteran's dormitories west of the music building.

No state tax money or student fee money is used to run the dormitories. All expenses for them are paid out of the student room and board bills. The physical plant employees, under the direction of Mrs. Genevieve Turnipseed, director of

dormitories, make needed repairs to th dormitories.

"It is hard to get help now," Lindstrom concluded, "but the physical plant and its employees are doing as much as possible to see that all repairs are taken care of properly."

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Administration answer: Physical plant employees are paid as much as prevailing conditions allow.

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## SIDE PATTTER BOB WHITELY

By overwhelming consent, Monday was designated as Lane County Bromo Seltzer Day. Last weekend can't be classified as "lost," but it was quite apparent that it was misplaced somewhere. A well known advertiser would have sent their representatives out to photograph "men of distinction . . . or should that read extinction." By far the best sedate social tea and dansant was the "by invitation only" party located between the second and eighth stories of the Eugene hotel. The boys from the Phi Delt barn retired to the inner sanctum of the Del Rey where they communicated with the muses . . . or tried to. Other clandestine gatherings were held by the Betas, Theta Chis, ad infinitum. The gentlemen from the law school stuck thru to form and retired to Marcus Winkler's wine cellar where they poured over an old case.

Bruce Stephenson's ungodly contraption in the noise parade was without a doubt the noisiest thing that ever steamed up 13th street, with he possible exception of Frank Bosch's automobile. We think that "Booger The Cougar" should have won something in the sign contest. There are pians afoot to leave it up all year . . . there's always basketball and baseball. It was early Monday morning at "The Side" . . . a sweet young thing who had spent Homecoming with her parents remarked, "well, two heads are better than one" . . . at which 13 undergraduates collapsed in their tomato juice. See yuh Thursday.—Pd. Adv.

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BY BARBARA GOULD

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