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Students paid below minimum wage

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

Increase scheduled for April

University officials have decided not to comply with the federal minimum wage rate for some students even though the move goes against a previous University ruling stating the minimum wage should be paid.

The policy, issued in August by the University Personnel Office, states "The University will continue to comply with the federal minimum wage, and rates below that wage will not be used. As soon as the rates and effective dates are known, student rates paid, which are below the federal minimum wage, will be adjusted to the minimum wage."

Jack Steward, University personnel director, says although minimum wages will not be com-

plied with for some students, the office is not breaking the law.

According to the Fair Labor Standard Act, state universities are required only to pay 85 percent of the minimum wage to student workers. The University will be paying more than the 85 percent, but still won't be in compliance with their previous policy.

Steward says it's not financially possible for personnel to pay students the minimum wage. "As we increase the rate structure, there are still only so many dollars available," he says.

ASUO Pres. Gary Feldman, however, thinks "students deserve the same wages as other employees. There's no reason they should be paid any differ-

ently."

Feldman and Emerald Editor Wally Benson met with Steward earlier this month to discuss the policy. "We were the last people he talked to, and he was just trying to change our minds rather than discuss the issue," Feldman says.

"No official policy change has taken place. Therefore, the University is still obliged to pay the minimum wage. Students have a legitimate gripe," says Feldman. He's now considering having the Office of Student Advocacy handle student complaints.

Right now there are nine student positions paying less than \$2.65, including officer worker, key punch operator trainee, computer operator trainee, ticket sel-

ler, laboratory aide, teaching assistant, utility worker and craft center and print shop assistant.

Steward says even though minimum wages won't be paid for these jobs, wages will be fairly close. "We're trying to relate student wages to the civil service counterparts," he says.

The wages will lag behind the minimum until April, when a four percent increase will take effect. A five percent increase, scheduled for Dec. 1, will bring the rate even closer, Steward says. However, the federal minimum wage will rise again next January and will make the student rate again lower than the minimum until the following April.

The decision not to comply with

the federal rate was jointly made by University Pres. William Boyd and Ray Hawk, vice-president for administration and finance.

Boyd says, "Right now we just do not have the money to comply. We look at money for student jobs as a part of the financial aid resources the University has. There is a balance needed to provide funds for a number of students and still pay them a desirable rate."

On one hand are the federal guidelines and on the other is the amount of money the state gives the University for student jobs, and "the two don't reconcile," says Hawk.

Hawk mentioned that at a meeting of state institutions with the State Board of Higher Education Chancellor, most schools agreed to the same action.

Leisure, health, careers faire well

Three display days take place in EMU

By LORI FLAGG
Of the Emerald

If you want to increase your leisure awareness, learn the essentials of health or weigh the facts about jobs, be in the EMU today through Thursday for a three-day series of fairs.

The Leisure faire begins from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Health Faire will be Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday will feature a Career Faire from noon to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the Orientation Office, the three faires are to orient students to services available on campus and in the community in these areas.

"Our focus is on orientation for the new student but orientation is an on-going experience," explains Joanie Layton, assistant director of orientation and coordinator of the faires. "There are things that happen on campus that students don't know about."

Today's faire on leisure alternatives is coordinated by Bonnie Bec-Hawkins. The activities will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 167 EMU.

The leisure faire features different ways to use leisure time for more enjoyment.

Bec-Hawkins says most students don't use their full potential in their free time. "People are really searching for new avenues for their leisure time," she explains. "I think we can provide some new ideas to try."

The leisure faire will include tables on new games, stained glass and watercolor demonstrations, arts and crafts, hangliding and dancing.

In addition to the tables, the

faire will include a belly dancing demonstration at 11:30 a.m., folk singers at 1 p.m. Polynesian dancers at 2 p.m. and a senior citizens kitchen band at 3 p.m.

At noon a film on recreation called "Life — Be in It," will be shown in the Forum Room.

The Health Faire will run Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 167 EMU.

Coordinating the faire is Cheryl Fauerso. She says the purpose of the faire is to provide access to community agencies in health areas.

Throughout the day demonstrations and tables will provide information on alcoholism, birth control, dental health, mental health and counseling, consumer information and nutrition.

Free testing will be provided in vision, body fat levels, lung capacity and blood pressure.

At 10:30 a.m. a slide show on accident prevention and outdoor safety will be presented by Mel Jackson of the Eugene Parks and Recreation department. At 11:30 a.m. the Golden Agers, a senior citizens singing group, will perform.

At 1 p.m. John Simpson of the Eugene Parks and Recreation department will lecture on hypothermia. Then at 2 p.m. Captain Richard Allison of the Eugene Fire Department will light his hand on fire in a demonstration of fire safety. Bike safety will be the topic at 3 p.m. for Mark Bondumt.

Throughout the day health-related films will be shown in the Forum Room in the EMU.

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Photo by Fred Christensen

One person's mud is another's pleasure. Bonnie Hawkins, coordinator of the Leisure Faire, demonstrates an alternate form of leisure in front of the EMU. The leisure faire will continue all day today in the EMU.