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State Board says no to minimum wage

By RICHARD SEVEN
Of the Emerald

Student workers at Oregon colleges and universities, hoping to be paid the federal minimum wage of \$2.65 were dealt a temporary setback at the last State Board of Higher Education meeting, Friday in Portland.

However, according to Jack Steward, University personnel director, the University is "moving ahead" on the student wage schedules.

The board refused to require the state colleges and universities to pay the federal minimum wage as requested by the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL).

The board did agree to help students seek additional student employment funds from the Legislature for the 1979-81 biennium.

The board said it will "continue to permit each institution to establish student pay rates, giving appropriate weight to institu-

tional and student needs, local competitive conditions and institutional resources."

Steward says the University has been waiting for the board's decision before issuing the current student pay schedule.

"Faced with the April 1 pay schedule and the lack of stronger guidelines by the state board we will go ahead with the adjusted pay schedule of four percent," says Steward. "We also plan to open up student dialogue to aid in the discussion of student rates."

University President William Boyd says he plans to discuss the minimum wage question with ASUO leaders, the Faculty Advisory Council and labor leaders in the area to determine minimum wage feasibility.

"I assume that there will be fewer people working for higher pay if we institute minimum wage," says Boyd. "This may re-

strict student opportunities. Also services such as library hours may have to be reduced or tuition may be affected. I want to know how much."

Student employees are now paid at least the state minimum wage of \$2.30 an hour. However, this University along with Portland State University, are the only state universities who pay more than half their students \$2.65 or more. Of the 2148 student workers at the University, 1,500 receive at least the \$2.65 wage, according to W.T. Lemman, vice-chancellor for personnel administration.

Lemman says both Congress and the Oregon Legislature have indicated students are not subject to the federal minimum wage laws. The federal legislation requires students to be employed at no less than 85 percent of minimum wage, which currently would be about \$2.25.

However, Steward feels the University will be offering a "reasonable package" for

the new wage schedule.

"We relate the student worker's position as best we can with its civil service counterpart," says Steward. The student is then paid 80 percent of its related classified employee's position at the "inexperienced level," 85 percent at the intermediate level and 90 percent at the advanced level.

As of Saturday, four classes of beginning student workers will be paid at least \$2.63 an hour, one class will receive \$2.50 an hour and the last position will pay \$2.54.

The four percent wage increase for student workers does not pertain to the food service workers. Their pay rate will be determined through collective bargaining, Steward says.

Steward says he hopes that with improved communication channels between students and the central administration, the next pay raise scheduled for Dec. 1 will satisfy as many people as possible.



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

Spring New born enjoys day of warmth

Warm spring temperatures brought a day-old colt and its mother out for a stroll on the Ed Kenyon farm west of Eugene last weekend. More of the rainless weather is predicted to continue through today but the sunshine may be clouded at times during the day.

Bookstore cleared in false arrest suit

By RICHARD SEVEN
Of the Emerald

The University Bookstore was cleared Wednesday in a \$136,000 false arrest and malicious prosecution suit filed against it by a University doctoral student.

The jury voted 9-3 in favor of the bookstore, saying the store detectives had probable cause to arrest Flora Banuett in November of 1975 on suspicion of theft.

The jury deliberated only about an hour and a half before issuing its verdict in the five-day trial.

Banuett was arrested by bookstore detectives and accused of deliberately shortchanging the bookstore on a package of 24 file folders costing \$1.65. Bookstore detectives said Banuett removed the package's wrapper and held it crumpled in her hand while she paid the cashier only \$1.20.

She was charged with second-degree theft, but the case was dismissed before it went to trial.

However, Banuett claimed the arrest caused her to suffer financial, emotional and professional damages. She argued

that even though the charges were dropped she was given a permanent criminal record, which would hamper her teaching future.

She also claimed that the arrest caused her to postpone her preliminary doctoral exam and drop the research project she was working on at the time.

Banuett testified that she removed the cellophane wrapper containing the \$1.65 price tag from the package of file folders to make sure the package contained 20 folders. She also said she didn't realize the folders cost more in the package than if bought individually.

William Wheatley, the bookstore's attorney said Banuett was trying to "exaggerate the lawsuit." He said she did not take advantage of the opportunities the bookstore gave her to exonerate herself by either forfeiting her bail or by paying the bookstore the extra 45 cents.

Wheatley also told the jury that the bookstore loses about \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year because of petty thefts. Most of these thefts involved items of one dollar or less, he added.

Banuett's attorney Ken Morrow says she hasn't decided if she will appeal the verdict.