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## Econ professor takes issue with criticism

*Editor's note: Last week, the Emerald published an article featuring three women economists' perspectives of the University economics department based on their experiences as faculty members. Today's story is a response to their claims by Gerry Bierwag, economics personnel committee chairer. Dept. head Henry Goldstein was out of town and unavailable for comment.*

By MELODY WARD  
Of the Emerald

Jan Newton, former economics professor, and current faculty members Julia Freedman and Margaret Simeral, have criticized a departmental policy against hiring its own PhD graduates, training those graduates in research methodology, hiring Tom Weins in a tenure-track position and departmental emphasizing of publication in "refereed journals."

Bierwag takes issue with Newman's remark that the department is looking for researchers to lift it out of "third-rate" status.

"This department is far from third rate," he says. "Many economists I've talked to from outside the state regard it as about the sixth or seventh best department on the West Coast. I recall some ratings of it as about forty-fifth nationally. We are a small department. To get a better rating requires a much larger size so as to provide a greater menu of benefits and services to students."

Bierwag challenges the women on every point of criticism.

• Hiring. Bierwag says the pol-

icy against hiring department doctorates is "generally one of those rules that goes unstated." He explains it exists so the department will not become "inbred" and so University graduates may be hired after they have proven themselves at another institution.

He says the department's hiring procedure is to conduct a national search, solicit applications and "choose the best available." Finding good women professors is "damned rough," and Bierwag estimates probably less than 10 percent of the applicants are female.

"That's what makes it hard. There were some fine women that we interviewed and couldn't get," he adds.

Bierwag says Newton was not the only University graduate to be hired on visiting or instructor status. He says it is a rather common procedure, intended to temporarily provide new graduates with a position until they can land one in the job market.

• Research training. "Our graduates receive excellent training," Bierwag claims. "Our first-year PhD program is among the best of any school on the West Coast."

"We have had for over 10 years an excellent course in econometrics. Newton refused to take it when she was a graduate student. The department cannot be responsible for her own negligence... If Newton felt she was inadequately trained, it was her own fault."

He explains because the department conducts "highly individualized" research and is not associated with large centers or research institutes, it is difficult to

(Continued on Page 3)



Photo by Patrick Sullivan

## Flyin' higher

Charles Reynolds took advantage of clear skies Sunday to fly his \$25 airfoil kite at Autzen Stadium. About 50 kite-flyers joined in the fun but due to weather problems no one got their kite past 500 feet until 2 p.m.

## State Board okays tuition increase

By RICHARD SEVEN  
Of the Emerald

PORTLAND — To no one's surprise, a tuition increase was approved by the State Board of Higher Education, Friday in Portland. However, the increases were greater than the board's finance committee had originally suggested.

Resident undergraduates will pay \$13 more per term starting this fall instead of the committee's recommendation of \$9 extra per term, making the total cost \$190 per term.

Non-resident undergraduates will pay \$810 a term (a \$46 increase); resident graduates will pay \$329 a term (a \$6 in-

crease) and non-resident graduates will pay \$441 per term (a \$69 increase).

The fee schedule change resulted from a change in the way the extra money from this year's tuition rates would be spent. The "over-realized tuition" resulted when the number of graduate and non-resident students attending state colleges was higher than expected.

The finance committee agreed in April to use that money to offset tuition increases for next year. Since then, however, the State Emergency Board suggested that higher education retain the surplus in its reserve.

This year's increase is expected to provide higher education with an additional \$500,000. Freeman Holmer,

vice-chancellor of higher education, said the increase is necessary because there can be no assurance the number of graduates and non-resident students will be as high next year.

The board's approval was given despite arguments against the increase by the Oregon Student Lobby (OSL). OSL spokesman John Becker said the increase is like saying, "Since we're going to kick the students in the teeth in 1979-81, we had better prepare them for it now by kicking them in the shins in 1978-79 even though we don't need the money."

The board discussed the matter for only about ten minutes before voting 5-4 in favor of the increase.

Board member Jane Carpenter said

charging students less would be a disservice to them because the additional money derived from their tuition money could be used to maintain and upgrade the quality of their education.

Board members said the higher tuition rate would be a way of putting the board's "money where its mouth is," referring to its attempts to get additional funding from the state legislature.

"We might as well protest next time, then maybe they'll listen to us," Becker said.

In other action, the board appropriated \$44.36 million for the University's education and general services budget. It also appropriated \$1.16 million for a library addition for the University.