

# 'Top priority' program underway

## Neuroscience research director selected

By MICHAEL BRAND  
Of the Emerald

After more than a year of preparation, the Interdisciplinary Research Program in the Neurosciences, one of University Pres. William Boyd's top priorities, is becoming a reality.

Michael Meneker, presently teaching at the University of Texas, has been selected as the program's new director, says Russell Fernald, associate professor of biology.

"He's a gifted experimentalist, a committed and innovative teacher, and an extremely personable fellow," Fernald says.

Meneker will be at the University this week to work out details of the position.

"It's really a leap of faith to get a director with a clear perception for the potential development," Fernald adds.

Fernald, who heads the program director search committee, has been working since the spring of 1977 with other biology, chemistry and psychology faculty members in organizing the program.

"It was during this time that we achieved a fundamental

philosophical agreement on the goals of the program," Fernald says.

"The philosophy of the neurosciences program is to integrate and coordinate neuroscience research and teach across disciplinary lines," he adds.

"It's rare among academic departments that they open themselves up to interdisciplinary efforts. We anticipate that by fully utilizing the talents that exist in those three departments, we will produce something of more value to the university community than by simply appointing people in biology," Fernald says.

Fernald cites the University's nationally acclaimed Molecular Biology Institute, which is also an interdisciplinary effort, as a model of what the neurosciences program may someday become.

Besides the overwhelming support of the faculty, Fernald says that University Pres. William Boyd and Provost Paul Olum have been "extremely supportive and encouraging toward the program."

"It's really an act of courage on the president's part in his willingness to support it," Fernald says.

In his University Assembly address earlier this month, Boyd used the neurosciences program as an example of how the University will push ahead towards excellence in spite of budget reductions.

Boyd adds, "There's a number of our science faculty who are convinced that the area of neuroscience is an area that needs investigation now; the time is right."

Boyd says that the University already has faculty doing research in this area, and the University plans to build on this strength, moving from "quality to national distinction."

"It (the neurosciences program) is such a top priority that even though we do not have external funding, we will reassign internal resources," Boyd says.

Fernald says he understands that the University is not in the financial position to offer the program any substantial funding at this time.

"We are counting on doing the whole program on independent and federal grants," he adds.

The neurosciences program, which deals with all aspects of the

nervous system, will open next fall to both undergraduate and graduate students. While students will still major in one of the three cooperating departments, they will be encouraged to participate in neuroscience classes and research projects.

Fernald says that the program hasn't increased the number of faculty available, so it will train the same number of students, but will do so more effectively and will involve more undergraduates in the process.

The neurosciences program got its start during the spring of 1977 when the biology department's Future Faculty Appointments Committee made a long-range plan for filling upcoming vacancies.

The committee recognized a core group of present faculty who were already interested in neuroscience and contributed one chemistry and three biology positions to enhance the program's development, Fernald adds.

## Renters get rebate funds

Being a renter has its disadvantages. There always seems to be someone who's playing Aerosmith at volume 10 next door. Doors slam in the wee hours and carpet stains conjure up visions of never seeing a cleaning deposit again.

There are also advantages to renting — and one of them is the rental rebate which most renters should be receiving in the mail today.

The Oregon Department of Revenue issued rebate checks totaling \$92,027,760 to Oregonians this year. The average amount received per person was \$205.

In 1977 the Legislature changed the annual check-mailing date to October to provide property tax payers with extra cash before the November tax deadline. The Legislature also increased the maximum refund amount for homeowners to \$655 and for renters to \$328.

Persons qualified to receive a rent refund — anyone who rented an apartment, house or room last year — but neglected to file may still apply for a refund.

# OSL bides time waiting on campus pay decision

By JIM ALLEN  
Of the Emerald

The Oregon Student Lobby has taken an active part in the minimum wage battle on the college campuses this year, but now it has to wait.

The Office of Education in Washington, D.C., is still considering a request by the Oregon State System on Higher Education to pay some students less than the minimum wage of \$2.65 an hour, but OSL Executive Coordinator Dan Garner expects a decision soon.

"They should decide sometime soon, but you never know for sure," says Garner. "The Office of Education has promised to re-evaluate the waiver."

The OSSHE requested the waiver earlier this year in the face of rising costs, due to both inflation and a sharp increase in the federal minimum wage. The minimum wage, which stood at \$2.30 less than a year ago, is scheduled to advance to \$2.90 on Jan. 1, 1979.

Garner is upset with the office of education's handling of the matter.

"After the state system's request for a waiver," says Garner, "the Office of Education simply granted the waiver and then began to look into evaluating the request. They asked Lemman (OSSHE vice chancellor) to provide his justification after giving him the waiver."

"If justice were served, the waiver would have been granted only after the reasons for the waiver had been evaluated," says Garner.

"The Office of Education is putting the burden of proof on us," continues Garner. "The burden of proof should be on the OSSHE to Oregon Daily Emerald

show why they deserve a waiver. They should be able to demonstrate some exceptional circumstances, but there aren't any."

Garner says the state system is questioning the legal authority of the education office to set a minimum wage, but he feels the most important factor here is the "prevailing rate criterion."

The prevailing rate criterion is a non-binding standard, which requests a university to pay its work-study students a rate competitive with that paid by compet-

ing private businesses.

"The Office of Education should revoke their waiver," says Garner, "but most likely they will be too gutless to buck the state system. Students have never been paid less than the minimum wage before, they've always been paid at least the minimum."

If the Office of Education sides with the state system, the OSL will adopt a two-pronged attack, working both with the state Legislature and the education office.

Until then, the wait continues.



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### BEAT THE EXPERT FOOTBALL CONTEST

This week's guest guessers are Larry Simpson and Clark Mienert, owners of Sugar Pine Ridge sporting goods store.

#### RULES OF THE GAME

All you need to do is check the winners box and pick more correct winners than the expert guesser (as indicated by the asterisks)! Entry forms must be dropped off at the campus Steven J's store by Friday prior to these games. Winners will be posted at Steven J's and Duffy's the following week. Winners will receive a 25% discount on the featured items of the week and a chance at the end of season grand prize! The more times you win the more chances you get at the grand prize, so play every week!

#### THIS WEEK'S GAMES

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#### THIS WEEK'S FEATURED ITEM

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