

'Miraculous' recovery took hard work

Student battles odds after logging accident

By JEFF ENGLAND
Of the Emerald

Paul Zosel had a dream three years ago.

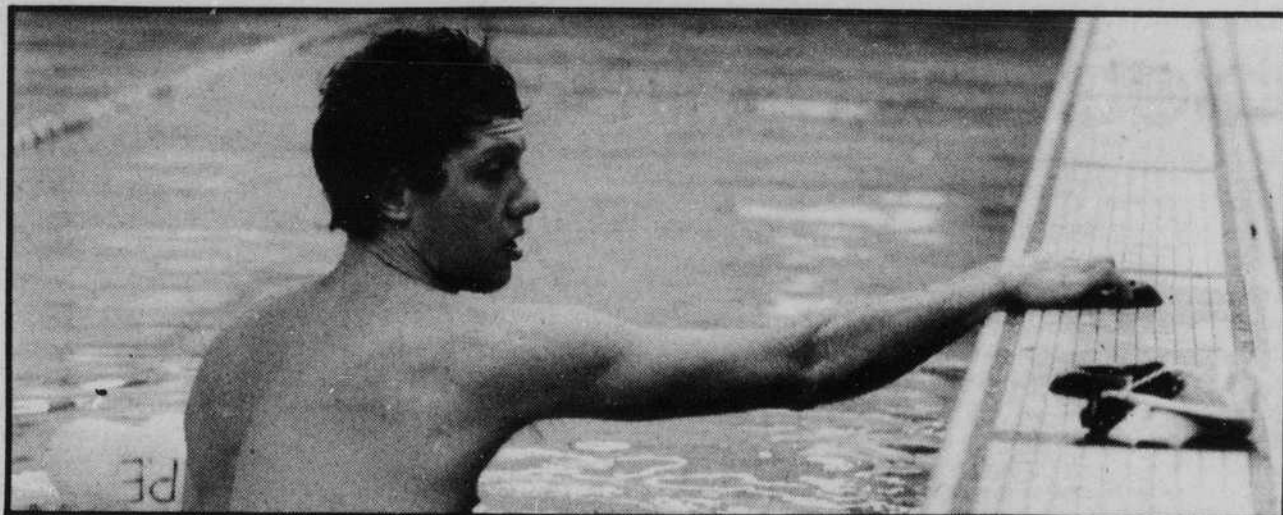
"I was a German soldier in World War II. We were by water, and there was a lot of greenery. There were people around me I didn't know, but I knew we were in a great battle. There were bombers, the water was flying in the air, people were getting killed, and I felt I was barely squirming through and making it.

"Then, somehow . . . I was an American soldier, and I knew that we'd won the war," says the 21-year-old University student.

When he awoke, he found himself in a Corvallis hospital facing a battle as serious and uncertain as in his dream.

Thirty days earlier, Zosel had entered the intensive care unit of Good Samaritan Hospital in a coma, his skull fractured, and his chest crushed in a logging accident.

Zosel's head injuries were so severe doctors warned his family that even if he recovered he would be a mindless invalid.



Emerald photo

University student Paul Zosel suffered a bone-crushing logging accident nearly three years ago; doctors call his recovery miraculous. "If my condition had deteriorated," he said, "my parents were advised to cut off the life-support machines." Here he practices specially designed swimming exercises in a University PE class.

"If my condition had deteriorated, my parents were advised to cut off the life-support machines," Zosel says.

Damage to the right side of Zosel's brain had caused balance and coordination problems that confined him to a wheelchair for four months after he regained consciousness.

Zosel's speech and memory were also impaired.

"In the afternoon I wouldn't be able to remember anything that I'd done that morning," Zosel recalls.

"When I was in the hospital, I kept the curtains closed because of the hills and blue sky outside," says Zosel, who still suffers from

double vision caused by the accident. "It can be depressing to look on a beautiful world from a white room."

But Zosel developed a fighting spirit that has enabled him to make a recovery his doctor calls miraculous.

"Virtually everything I've done from the time I woke up has been a surprise to them," says the health education major. "The doctors have never put any limits

on me as far as my recovery because they don't know how far I can go in regaining my physical abilities."

Hours of balancing on one foot and trying to walk a straight line now enable Zosel to run, jump rope and snow ski.

"I'm going to be able to play basketball again," Zosel says with quiet determination.

Currently he participates in a University physical therapy program designed to get physically handicapped students exercising. Exercises are tailored to each student's skill.

Zosel's scars have all healed, but he still fights to regain the self-confidence he lost in the accident.

A sports star at his high school in the small southern Oregon town of Elkton, Zosel can now talk about his ordeal in a steady voice.

"When it was easy for people to see my disability it hurt to know that I was different. Now, trying to compare myself to other, non-handicapped people is a major problem.

"I want to be able to do everything I used to do. I know no matter what goals I reach, I'll have to strive for more. I'm on a road that will never end."

Advocacy office will move to Suite 4

By MARK MATASSA
Of the Emerald

In a surprise move Saturday, ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett said he is going to move the Office of Student Advocacy into the ASUO offices in Suite 4 EMU within the next two weeks.

Bassett's announcement came at an Incidental Fee Committee hearing on the OSA and ASUO Executive budget.

Fee committee member Jerry Bernau had presented a proposal to the committee that would move OSA and its budget under the ASUO president's control next year. Bassett spoke in favor of Bernau's proposal, then suddenly announced OSA director Don Chalmers would be moved into the ASUO offices. The student advocacy program, along with Legal Services Division, has offices in 334 EMU.

"We need Don's position to be run out of the ASUO in Suite 4," Bassett said. "There will be a smooth transition period, and within two weeks Don will be operating out of Suite 4."

Bassett said he was "thankful for the IFC's discussion" on the pros and cons of moving the program, but he added "it's my decision." He said Chalmers will work in the ASUO offices for the remainder of Bassett's administration, and the IFC can decide how to fund the program for the 1980-81 fiscal year.

Bassett said he is making the move in an effort to couple the secretarial and receptionist services of the ASUO and the OSA. "My intent is when a student

comes in and wants advocacy work, they think of Suite 4 and student government."

Bernau said he proposed the physical and budgeting move for next year because he feared a University administration takeover of EMU service-oriented programs like OSA.

"If we don't bring OSA under the ASUO, we're going to lose control over the program," he said.

The physical move is necessary because it will save money, according to Bernau. He said the secretarial staffs of the ASUO and OSA are underworked.

After a short break in the meeting, IFC chairer Adam Cohen said the committee would begin budget hearings for "Scott's (the ASUO Executive) budget, the part called Office of Student Advocacy." The OSA budget has never been part of the ASUO Executive budget, and Chalmers has submitted the budget request independently from the ASUO request.

The IFC voted to pay the OSA director \$16,852, with a budget note saying if the program gets a new director the ASUO president will determine a salary between \$12,500 and \$16,852 depending on the new director's qualifications.

Before voting on the funding level for OSA administrative assistants and work-study employees, the IFC voted to fund the program as if it would be housed in Suite 4 next year. But before any further action was taken, committee members asked to adjourn the meeting, saying they

needed more time and information before they could vote on an OSA budget.

Budget hearings continue today at 3:30 p.m. in the EMU, room to be announced.

Corrections, amplifications

Greg Harris, a candidate for ASUO president, says he is not a Mike Lee-supported "gadfly candidate." Harris was listed as being affiliated with Lee in Friday's Emerald.

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