

Olum's inaugural comes at tough time

Paul Olum will be formally inaugurated as the thirteenth president of the University Sunday. The ceremony — weather permitting — is scheduled to be held in the Old Campus Quadrangle near Deady and Villard halls.

The inaugural and pre-inaugural activities Saturday are open to the public. That means every student can — and should — attend.

Olum takes charge of the University at a time when the future of higher education is uncertain. All over the state system colleges and universities are on the verge of what is called "financial exigency".

In layman's terms that's bankruptcy.

Survival of quality education at the University is the main concern of Olum and his administration. It will be the toughest test of his tenure in office.

Olum, in reference to Portland State University declaring financial exigency, has come out with statements stridently resisting this for the University.

"It's a pretty strong action — a public announcement to the academic world that you've broken faith. I would like to resist doing that," Olum said.

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Fair share choice

There have been several editorials written lately concerning the pros and cons of fair share in the University Classified Contract. As president of the OPEU Local 085 I, too, support fair share. Aside from my personal views, I support it because of what went into negotiating it into the collective bargaining agreement.

When I went around campus last spring to discuss negotiations with OPEU members, their biggest complaint was that they were stuck footing the bill for everyone. Fair share wasn't put into this contract by accident, it was put there by membership involvement. When I hear non-members say they want a choice, I answer them in the following way: You had a choice during negotiations and you chose to sit on the other side of the table. If those of you who are fighting to deauthorize fair share had put your energy into negotiations, every classified employee would have benefited.

If you disagree with the law, change the law. Don't attack those who must adhere to it.

Beckie Bragg
President, OPEU Local 085

Reefer haplessness

On the subject of legalization of marijuana, I'd like to relate an incident that occurred a couple of weeks ago. The story is true, but in fairness to those involved, all names have been omitted.

Once there was a young man with a master's degree in music and a secondary teaching certificate, who loved nothing in the world better than leading marching bands. He had a nice job in a nice city and was doing very well. Unfortunately, the band leader was seen one evening at a party where some of his students were using the demon weed. Since there was no evidence that he had partaken, the records were closed and he was asked to seek a new position.

Being an excellent teacher, he found employment very quickly; in a very small town, also in the Northwest. Unbeknownst to him, however, the police department decided they needed to know why he had left his former position. Since the records had been closed, they were forced to search deeper and soon very cleverly came up with newspaper clippings about the case. Written before the hearing, the clippings were not quite accurate; they alleged more than was true.

Meanwhile, in a secluded area of his backyard, where no one could see them without a careful search, the bandleader grew four scrawny plants for his own consumption. After leading a ragtag, small town, no account band to victory at the state competition, using his own arrangements and often composing the music himself, the bandleader was rewarded with a search warrant and a court date. Plea bargaining brought him the opportunity to plead guilty to a felony and hopefully be assigned two years probation, the records sealed thereafter.

The fateful court appearance began. The small town police gleefully presented the fruits of their endeavor:

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Olum, by this position, illustrates he is the leader this University needs to survive the budget onslaught of the Legislature. He seems knowledgeable concerning what programs can be trimmed, and what others need to be augmented. Olum, while he was the acting president, has demonstrated that his administration is responsive to the views of faculty and students alike.

The possibility of financial exigency remains remote at the University. Olum continues to reject the idea of letting go tenured faculty and eliminating academic programs.

Olum has had a distinguished career in higher education. He spent 25 years on the mathematics faculty at Cornell University. He later became dean of the natural science college at the University of Texas at Austin. He was appointed provost and academic vice president at the University in 1976, becoming the acting president when William

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the clippings and the four plants (they had cut the plants up to increase the volume). Each side presented its case, and when they were through, the judge pronounced sentence. "I don't feel that probation is warranted in this case," he began. The bandleader's heart sunk.

"I wish you could contribute this money to legalization. I see more and more of you middle-class professionals getting into trouble for the social use of marijuana. I wish you would contribute more to getting it legalized. The people selling it aren't going to."

The bandleader suppressed a smile. The judge drew a large "X" over the clippings. "Small town police departments are always making the mistake of trying to do investigative work. These have no bearing on the case. I'm going to fine you \$1,000. As soon as it's paid, the records will be closed."

Asked to resign, the bandleader is seeking employment in a larger city far away from that small town. The town, incidentally, has a new bandleader. A clean-cut, God-fearing, non-recovering alcoholic.

At least he doesn't smoke pot.

Merri Horine
Senior, political science/psychology

Survivability

Intense debate is, at this very moment, taking place in the chambers of the senate armed services committee. The debate is centered around the subject of survivability. To be more specific, survivability in the event of a nuclear attack by the Soviet Union.

General David Jones, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff at the Pentagon, does not agree with President Reagan's plan to base the MX nuclear missile in stationary silos. Jones claims that placing the MX in that manner will decrease survivability as opposed to former President Carter's plan for placing the nuclear missile

Boyd resigned in 1980. In April Olum was selected to be Boyd's permanent replacement.

Some people have questioned if this is the proper time to stage the pomp and circumstance of an inaugural ceremony. Olum himself was less than keen on the idea. It was the urging of some faculty and administrators that convinced him to go ahead with the ceremony.

This is the proper time for an inaugural ceremony. The ceremony shows that behind the doom and gloom of the legislative cuts and the specter of bare-bones education, the spirit of higher education continues to be vital. That, despite the indiscernible future of higher education in Oregon, the University goes on.

The inaugural is not to be thought of as a gala at the Palace of Versailles while the peasants are marching, although these can be thought of as the best of times and the worst for the University.

Olum deserves this inaugural to show him the University community is behind him. The Emerald wishes him nothing but the best of luck with his tenure in office.

system in a complex series of underground bunkers connected by tunnels. Senator Henry Jackson of Washington concurs: "Placing the MX missile in stationary silos greatly enhances the likelihood that these locations will become primary nuclear targets."

The debate, of course, is about which MX basing system is more likely to "survive" a nuclear attack. It is not a debate over which system will assure human "survival."

I ask you: Doesn't it seem at all strange to you that these people (and here I use the term "people" loosely) who are supposed to be defending and representing you are more concerned about protecting their damned tools of destruction than about protecting you.

What kind of morality is it that says we must kill just as many millions of their people as they kill millions of ours? Is it our moral responsibility to incinerate untold millions of human beings for the sake of a political ideal? Don't you think the debate should be about humankind's survival rather than weapons systems survival?

Bradley Passenger
Junior, psychology

letters policy

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