

Reported salary demand corners board

The State Board of Higher Education may have painted themselves into a very tight corner with their selection of George Weathersby as a candidate to succeed out-going Chancellor Roy Lieuallen. And as with almost all things in the state of Oregon, that tight corner the board is painted in is surrounded by green — as in money.

The specific obstacle in the Weathersby appointment appears to be his reported \$90,000 salary request. That reported salary demand was blasted by Eugene Democrat Sen. Edward Fadeley, who called it "grossly insensitive." Weathersby, in Portland over the weekend for discussions with the board, was "reluctant to comment" on the \$90,000 salary and neither confirmed nor denied the figure.

If the reported \$90,000 salary demand is true — and there is no evidence to doubt that it isn't — Weathersby would become Oregon's highest paid state official. Dr. Leonard Laster, president of the Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) is presently the highest paid, earning about \$80,000 annually. But compare Weathersby's reported asking salary and Gov. Vic Atiyeh's salary: Atiyeh earns only slightly more than \$55,000 in his role as governor. Compare also the average faculty salary at state institutions which ranges from a bottom of \$10,000 to a top (at OHSU) of \$65,000 — with the mean being about \$25,000.

The present salary of the chancellor is \$69,516, which will be increased 5.3 percent along with statewide academic staff as of July 1. The salary will again be increased another 4 percent in May of 1983. By then the chancellor's salary will be almost \$76,000. Along with this the chancellor is given use of a furnished house and \$18,000 a year for the upkeep. The chancellor is also provided with an expense allowance incidental to the position. This expense allowance is nearly \$5,000 a year.

There's little doubt that the Harvard- and Berkeley-educated Weathersby, presently Indiana's commissioner for higher education, is going to

shake things up in the state system. His ideas on making the educational institution more financially productive are radical. Board members are concerned with securing a quality chancellor, and they have the notion you get what you pay for.

But is Weathersby worth that much? And if the board opts to meet his reported salary demands will Weathersby become more of a liability than an asset?

The reported salary demand betrays an inadequate understanding of the present economic situation in Oregon, and its effect on the state's system of higher education. At a time when faculty

are being asked to accept a six-month postponement of a deserved salary increase, how can the board in good conscience pay Weathersby what he reportedly demands? This \$90,000 figure, if actual, sets a relationship between Weathersby and the board that may be characterized as other than cooperative.

If Weathersby has indeed demanded a salary of \$90,000, the board should not shy away from offering Weathersby the chancellor's post at the present salary level. And if Weathersby won't accept anything under his reported demand, then the search for Lieuallen's replacement should be reopened.



THE SENATE VOTES ON SENATOR WILLIAMS

letters

Rudeness

The National Security Conference was an ambitious project of regional significance. ASUO co-planners should be congratulated for bringing a timely program of this stature to our campus.

I have concerns, however, about the reported rudeness of our audiences. More importantly, the attitudes expressed by some student leaders merit examination.

From one student leader, we learn that "in order to understand both points of view, you have to listen," and "... if we persist in this kind of behavior, the only people (that) will come to Eugene are people we already agree with." Contrast that with comments by that same student in the same article: "The speakers may have deserved the comments they got. Experienced speakers should know when they come to a col-

lege campus that this is what they are going to get."

One of the national speakers here as our guest said, "This is the rudest college audience I've spoken to in the last five years." That is a strong statement not to be taken lightly. No one is complaining about what may have been said, but there is comment needed on how we go about communicating. Adjectives describing rude include primitive, uncivilized, and uncouth, none qualities that accurately describe almost all of our students. Yet, that is the label given the University because of a very few, (some probably not students).

We should not overlook the statement of a qualified national speaker who stated unequivocally the conduct at the University is the worst he's seen. That is not the same message we hear from our student leader when he rationalizes that student audiences are this way everywhere. I don't believe that

and I don't believe the University community needs to be embarrassed nationally by the uncivilized department by a few.

Vincent J. Bilotta
Susan Campbell Hall

KZEL radio

Concerning the Emerald's story on KZEL-FM: How can anyone patronize a radio station, whose once progressive character has been totally epoxied over with a format — abstractly arranged to endorse certain predictable economic patterns — and influenced by the corporate media executives of a mysterious and unaccountable "programming service" in Atlanta, Georgia? (No wonder we never hear black music on KZEL.) Sure their ratings are high, but to call KZEL *nonpareil* is a joke; as if the airwaves of Eugene were crammed with competitive all-day mega-watt hard-rock stations.

But, hey kids, how about that "local hit" morning show "Breakfast with the Beatles" with featured "artist" Van Halen — again. Tomorrow, they'll feature Led Zeppelin — again. And those DJs — funnnnnny! Who cares that they got their start in little red-neck towns like Charlottesville, N.C. and Spokane, Wash.; after my first joint in the morning, I'll laugh at their *amour propre* humor anytime. These guys really know where it's at.

DJ Dan Clark, who admits he's "pretty weird sometimes" (yeah, AC/DC is great creative input), really summed up KZEL Atlanta's attitude that KZEL's old free-form style was too unstructured and not homogenous enough. Homogeneity is obviously KZEL Atlanta's answer to creativity and structure a control of unwanted forms of behavior (i.e., New Wave).

KZEL Atlanta is exactly the kind of situation that Elvis Costello warns us about in his song

"Radio, Radio":

"Radio is in the hands of such a lot of fools trying to anesthetize the way that you feel."

Ralph McDaniel
Senior, architecture

letters policy

The Emerald will accept and attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on issues, ideas and topics of interest to the University community.

The letters **must** be limited to 250 words, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to The Emerald offices, EMU 300.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style, or content. Publication is dependent upon space available.

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The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during finals week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co.

News 686-5511
Advertising/Business 686-3712
Classifieds 686-4343
Production 686-4381

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