

GTFFF officials seek approval of new contract

By Doug Nash
Of the Emerald

The University's graduate teaching fellows' union currently is seeking approval of a new two-year contract that offers members more benefits and possibly higher salaries, say union officials.

And officials of the 300-strong Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation are urging the 500 or so nonmembers to join the union and vote on the contract.

"Most of the GTFs are represented by this contract and we want them to vote on it," says GTFFF President Brenda Cochrane.

GTF workload and salary arrangements remain virtually unchanged under the new agreement, which was negotiated last spring by the union and the University administration.

GTF wages fall on four different levels determined by experience, from \$4,464 annually for a starting teacher's aide to \$6,329 for a more advanced student. GTFs work an average of 17½ hours per week, Cochrane says.

"Basically, we managed to keep workload and salary the same as last year," she says. "We would have liked to have gotten a salary increase, but given the financial state of the University, it wasn't very likely. Also, if any more money comes out of the Legislature, there's the possibility we can negotiate for health care coverage."

The state Legislature passed a resolution last year allowing GTFs to negotiate for health insurance, which has been a major issue for the union since its founding in 1977.

Cochrane says the new contract provides more specific protections for GTFs whose classes are canceled and who are not retained by the University.

"The language in the contract means departments in the University have to specify why they're not reappointing people."

Under the new provisions, each department must use a reappointment priority list to give those GTFs whose classes are canceled first chance to be appointed to new sections.

The contract also will have financial advantages for GTFs, Cochrane says.

"GTFs can get an interest-free loan to cover tuition until their paycheck comes in," she says. "And a GTF who doesn't have an appointment in the summer, but has had appointments the previous year and is going to have an appointment the following fall, will have free tuition that summer."

The union, which is the only GTF bargaining unit of its kind in the country, will have a table in the EMU lobby to attract new members and to seek ratification of the contract.

Read it twice in the Emerald

Readers of the *Oregon Daily Emerald* may have done a double take Monday when looking at page "3" of the paper.

Page 3 was page 9 and page 4 also doubled as page 10.

What happened?

Well, when the paper was put to bed at around 12:30 p.m., pages 4 and 10 were delivered to the Springfield News with the rest of the paper.

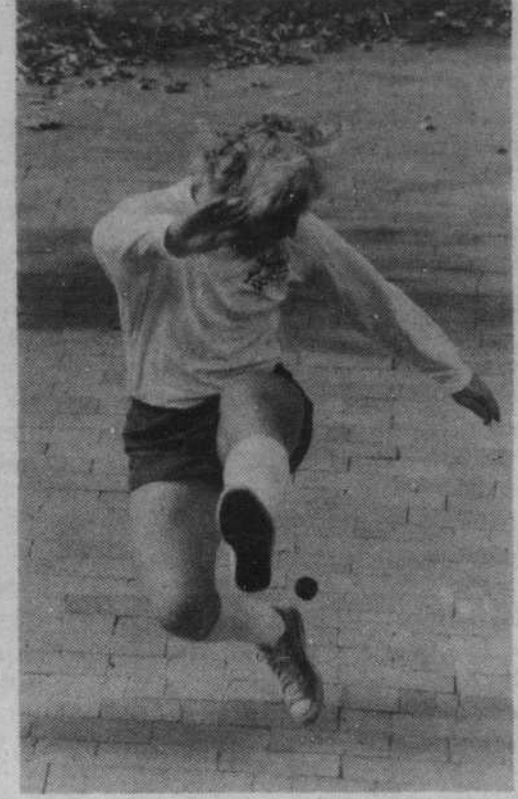
But those pages must have come untucked.

A *Springfield News* employee apparently grabbed pages 4 and 9 twice when printing the paper.

Oops!

Emerald staff members were as surprised as readers were. Bloom County fans will be disappointed, but never fear — the rest of the stories and advertisements will, for the most part, make it into the paper throughout the week.

The last time the same pages were printed twice in the paper was four years ago.



Photos by Dave Kao

A few feet away from recognition

By Joan Herman
Of the Emerald

Jim Fitzgerald gets a kick out of footbagging.

In fact, the 30-year-old Eugenie kicked his way — and his footbag — to a 5,000 consecutive-beat personal record in the EMU breezeway last Thursday.

At about 70 beats per minute, the feat took Fitzgerald only 55 minutes to accomplish. "I was surprised," Fitzgerald says of his record. "When I hit 2,000 I was smiling because that was my previous best."

The world record of 17,872 kicks is held by 18-year-old Andy Linder of Geneva, Ill., Fitzgerald says, who estimates his own record ranks about fifth in the nation.

Most nonkickers call the sport hacky sack, but the correct term is footbagging, Fitzgerald explains. "Hacky sack" is a specific brand name, he says.

Although Fitzgerald stopped at 5,000, he says he could have kicked even longer. "I'd like to get 10,000," says the former construction worker who's been kicking for five years.

Fitzgerald used a basic kick to reach his record, but has mastered some flashier moves, as well, which fall under

freestyle kicking. "A lot of times when we're out showing off, people say 'Gee, I didn't know you could do that with a footbag.'"

Best of all, footbagging enables Fitzgerald to "work and play at the same time."

Fitzgerald and fellow kicker Reed Gray have their own business, Flying Clipper Leathers, which produces handmade footbags and juggling balls in brightly colored leather. Since April, Flying Clippers has sold about 3,000 footbags all over the nation. The business is definitely alive and kicking, both men say. They hope to gross \$25,000 after their first year of business — and double that their second year.

Both men also say there has been "serious talk" about making footbagging an Olympic sport, complete with a five-foot net.

But until then, Fitzgerald will continue to kick his favorite habit.

Both Fitzgerald and Gray invite interested kickers to join their new club, Free FLOE (Footbag Lovers of Eugene). For information, call Fitzgerald at 344-9172.

Eight PIRGs meet at University

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

The keynote speaker at a dinner Saturday honoring the 13th birthday of the Oregon Student Public Information Research Group told an audience of PIRG members to be confident in the future because of the "incredible depth of the PIRGs."

Nearly 200 students from eight states sat crowded in the Amazon Community Center to hear Donald Ross, a former member of "Nader's Raiders," a group of four attorneys who played an instrumental role in the 1970s in the enactment of seat-belt legislation.

Ross, who helped found OSPIRG in 1970, traced the beginnings of the PIRG movement and recounted a 1970 trip to the University by consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

"In a very real sense the PIRG movement began in the very building we're holding our conference," he said, referring to the EMU.

The students were in town to attend the Western-PIRG conference hosted by OSPIRG. The group conducted workshops and programs about consumer issues and student involvement.

Ross, who built the New York PIRG into a \$2.8 million organization by creating chapters on 17 New York college campuses, said "the mood was electric" when 600 students squeezed into the EMU Dad's Room 13 years ago.

That night Nader and Ross generated

enough excitement to begin a petition drive to form a statewide public interest research group in Oregon, the first PIRG in the country.

"Out of the efforts here (the University) came the PIRG movement," said Ross, a

graduate of Fordham University and New York Law School.

PIRG leaders formed groups throughout the nation and from then until 1973 a social movement spread and grew across the country, he said.

OSPIRG celebrates 13th year

By Jim Moore
Of the Emerald

Obscured by the clatter and activity of the University-Husky football game this weekend was some clatter and activity from another meeting of college organizations.

Those students who spent Saturday giving the Ducks moral support and perhaps Sunday recuperating from too much of that moral support, missed the nearly 200 students from eight different states who breezed through Eugene to attend a Western conference of public interest research groups.

And breeze they did; not only from one PIRG program to another but from their campus to the University, and back again.

The typical mode of travel was car pools. For the typical student that meant piling into a car after Friday classes, driving non-stop to Eugene and piling back into the car when the conference ended and driving home Sunday — in time for Monday classes.

Twelve students used three vehicles and spent 12 hours on the road travelling

to the conference from Missoula, Mont. And people also came from as far away as Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

Once here, they hardly enjoyed the conveniences of the Hilton Hotel. Careful to bring along their own sleeping bags, most crammed into the houses of friends or local OSPIRG members.

Connie Lee Monson of the Montana group explained why she travelled so far, so uncomfortably for such a short time.

"I just joined (Mont-PIRG) and thought this was the best way to find out about the group," she said.

But there were also students at the conference who were no strangers to the procedures of a PIRG conference.

Annette Talbott, a member of the Colorado group, helped conduct a program on consumer issues Sunday.

This was Talbott's third conference and she said there was something special about this one.

"This year is exciting because there are so many people from so far away," she said.