



# Spotlight

## Richard guards, records University past

By Mike Sims  
Of the Emerald

Four of the five human senses come into play when one visits the University Archives.

Smell the spring of 1891 in flower petals, now pungent with age, from that season's commencement exercises.

See and read large posters warning freshmen against rule infractions or breaches of tradition: "CRINGE! YE SKUTS OF '25." See vintage photographs of University buildings and oil portraits of past University presidents.

Hear audio tapes of University lectures by famous personages and humble professors alike; hear melodious voices from the past, raised in songs of praise to "Mighty Oregon."

Feel the soft texture of a blue felt freshman beanie (circa 1905), or the firm oaken dignity of a rolltop desk belonging to Charles Chapman, the second president of the University.

That desk is now used by University archivist Keith Richard, a man with a sixth sense: a sense of history.

Richard seems to have a story for each piece of memorabilia in the archives, located on the west side of Fenton Hall's first floor.

"The trivia aspect is somewhat a spinoff of the job," Richard explains. "Any archivist, whether of the University or Ford Motor Company or whatever, must learn the history of their particular institution."

Richard is a fountain of knowledge where University history is concerned, and not without good reason. By state law, he is responsible for all University records generated since the school's creation in 1872.

In addition, Richard says, federal laws require that financial records relating to student and University grants and federal audits of the school must be kept for five years for auditing purposes.

These records and thousands of pieces of miscellaneous memorabilia fill five floors in Fenton Hall. In addition, Richard uses archive storage space in the basements of DeCou and Watson dormitories.

As faculty secretary and secretary of the University Assembly, Richard stays true to his role as a caretaker of recorded history. He is responsible for keeping minutes of assembly meetings and other assembly records. These, like all University records — way back to the birthing days of the institution — will find their way back to Richard's domain.

Richard says that most archivists know where to find individual items in their custody without a "looking-it-up" process. However, he emphasizes that card catalogs and inventory lists are essential just the same: "None of us will be around forever."

Keeping the physical past around for as close to forever as is possible keeps Richard busy and ensures that he has "no typical work day."

"You can plan to get something specific done and then someone will come in with a request . . . and when people come in the door you don't know what they're

going to ask," Richard says.

These requests often lead Richard to an unexpected discovery of another piece of University lore. He once found a letter from then-Pres. Donald Erb to the state higher education chancellor that shed light on a minor campus mystery: the reason for the Xs and Os on the sidewalk in front of the Museum of Art. According to the letter, an early museum benefactor asked that cars carrying distinguished museum visitors be driven up a dirt path, directly to the museum front door. Later, when the quad was developed, the Xs and Os were added to the sidewalk to guide drivers around the museum and back to East 13th Avenue.

People use the archives to browse and search for University trivia, but the archives and Richard are available for other, practical purposes as well. Richard frequently receives mailed requests for student and faculty records, to verify enrollment, employment or academic credentials.

Students and faculty often use the archives for scholarly or literary purposes. One student is currently writing a biography of the late Sen. Wayne Morse. The archives provides the author with Morse's faculty papers from his years at the University law school, a valuable asset to research.

Richard confesses little knowledge of University history as a youth, save for that which he gleaned from newspapers. He graduated from Lebanon High School

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# emu Food Service

## in the Fishbowl: The Deli



Open: 9am-11pm M-F  
8am-11pm Sat  
12pm-11pm Sunday  
Deli: 10am-7pm

At the Deli you can make your own sandwiches from a wide selection of meats and cheeses. Also vegetarian sandwiches. Salads are available too. Pastries, juices, soft drinks, take-out ice cream, coffee, tea, yogurts, chips and other snacks can be found at the beverage bar.

## EMU Food Van

The food vans offer croissants, yogurt, a variety of drinks, fresh fruit as well as some sandwiches to help you get through the day.

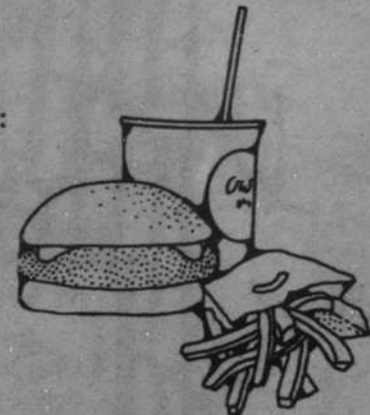


Located at:  
13th across from  
Gilbert Hall  
from 8am to 2 pm.  
and at the library  
turnaround  
from 9am to 2pm

## Fountain Court Cafe

Open for breakfast:  
7am - 10:30am

Open for lunch:  
10:30am - 2pm



The grill features breakfast prepared for individual likes and specific tastes. Our cafeteria features daily lunch specials with a choice of salads or salad bar, soups and chili, and desserts.

## discover the... Skylight Refectory

Open: 9am - 2pm

Featuring a touch of Italy with delicious calzone, pasta and lasagna. Crisp salad fixin's with an array of condiments, scrumptious gyros sandwiches, French roast coffees, and other gourmet delights await you in the Skylight Refectory...

located just a cloud or two above the Main Desk.

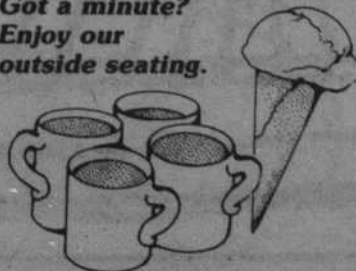


## Breezeway Cafe

for students on their way!  
breeze in - take out!

Students going places will find fresh-brewed gourmet coffee, a wide selection of pastries including muffins, donuts, and croissants, and their favorite ice creams.

Got a minute?  
Enjoy our  
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Open 4 - 7pm

Musical  
Entertainment  
I.D. Required



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