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Oregon Daily Emerald

Friday, November 7, 1986

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 88, Number 47

Pay equity law expected to pass under Goldschmidt governorship

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

Betsy Boykin is a part-time student. Like most students, she doesn't have a lot of money to spare. But unlike most students, Boykin is a 35-year-old single mother of two teen-agers. Boykin works full time at the University as a clerical assistant in the Office of Business Affairs in Oregon Hall, but her paycheck barely covers the living expenses of one person, much less three.

Boykin is far from the typical student, but she thinks of herself in another context in which she believes she represents the norm.

Boykin is a "typical" clerical worker in many ways: She is a woman, she is a mother, she is single, she is intelligent — and she is underpaid. She has worked at the University for the last two years, and she takes home about \$800 a month.

"Most of the time I've been single, we've had to live in subsidized housing because I can't afford the standard rental rates," Boykin said.

The money is so tight that budgeting is almost impossible, she added.

"Invariably something unexpected comes up," Boykin said. "My son needs a new pair of shoes, or my daughter has strep throat and needs to go to the doctor, and I have to pay for that. We're literally living from paycheck to paycheck."

Boykin's case is typical among clerical workers, not only at the University but at all state agencies in Oregon, said Margarette Hallock, the Oregon Public Employees Union research director and former chairperson of the state Comparable Worth Task Force.

But with the new administration headed by newly elected Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, Hallock sees hope for real improvement in the pay situation of undervalued clerical workers in the state.

"There will be a pay equity initiative in the

1987 Legislature," Hallock said. The proposal will include an upgrade in pay for most of the undervalued state employees and the establishment of a separate fund solely for the purpose of making those pay raises, Hallock said.

If the new comparable worth proposal is approved, it will signal the culmination of what Hallock calls a "three-year poker game."

The fight for comparable worth has continued since 1983, but the terms of the battle have changed somewhat.

The term "comparable worth" was a euphemism meaning that female-dominated jobs and male-dominated jobs should be valued equally. The term now used, "pay equity," is not exactly the same thing, Hallock said.

"Comparable worth took on some unfortunate baggage, namely the notion that all wages should be determined by a point factor system," Hallock said. "We only want to use the point factor system to find the undervalued jobs and raise their wages."

The pay equity "poker game" began in 1983 when the Comparable Worth Task Force completed a study of all jobs in state agencies and found that systematic discrimination caused large differences between the pay for jobs filled mostly by men and those jobs filled mostly by women, although the complexity and responsibility of the jobs were fairly equal, Hallock said.

"There is a 20 percent to 30 percent difference in pay between an entry-level clerical worker and an entry-level groundskeeper or maintenance worker, for example," Hallock said.

Beyond the entry level, as the study examined higher-status jobs, it found the differences in pay began to disappear. "At the management levels, the study showed no systematic differences," Hallock said. "That's because there are relatively no women in those positions."

The 1983 Task Force recommended the state

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Recount may take House away from Democrats

By Shawn Wirtz
Of the Emerald

With the last absentee ballots counted, Democrats took control of the Oregon House of Representatives by 31-29, but losing Republican Robert McDaniel will ask for a recount, he said. If a recount finds his 35-vote loss as actually a win, the House may be tied.

McDaniel lost the District 53 House seat in Klamath Falls to Democrat Bernie Agrons. The final vote was 7,785 to 7,750.

State law requires a free recount if the margin is within one-fifth of 1 percent, or 32 votes for the District 53 seat, according to the Klamath County clerk. McDaniel will have to pay \$15 per precinct for a recount, or a total of \$1,080 for the 72 precincts in his district.

Democrat Nancy Peterson of Ashland destroyed any hopes of a Republican majority. She was finally declared the winner in the District 52 House race Thursday evening after beating Republican Rose Otto 7,338 to 7,172.

The "scenario of a stalemate between the parties" could result in co-speakers, said Phil Keisling, press secretary to House Speaker Vera Katz.

At press time Thursday night, a caucus of 30 newly elected Democrats chose Katz as House Speaker, but one, Jeff Gilmour, from District 30 in Salem, held out. To become speaker, Katz has to have all 31 votes.

Keisling said Gilmour wanted to become chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, currently held by Wayne Fawbush from District 56 in Hood River.

Democrat John Bagnariol and Republican Duane Berenston shared the speakership in the 1979-1980 session of the Washington state Legislature when the House was divided 49-49.

An equal partisan split could also result in conservative Democrats or liberal Republicans switching sides to form a majority, Keisling said. He couldn't speculate on who would have the advantage in that situation, he said. "There's actually only a few of either (who would switch)."

"There will be a recount," said House Minority Leader Larry Campbell. The recount may be paid for by the Republican party, he said.

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Atiyeh, Hatfield to attend ground-breaking ceremony

By Stan Nelson
Of the Emerald

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., and Gov. Vic Atiyeh are among the dignitaries at the University today for the official ground-breaking ceremony of the University's new \$45.3-million science complex.

The ceremony, which is from 2:30 to 4 p.m., will be held at the science courtyard on East 13th Ave., one-half block east of University Street. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held in the EMU Ballroom.

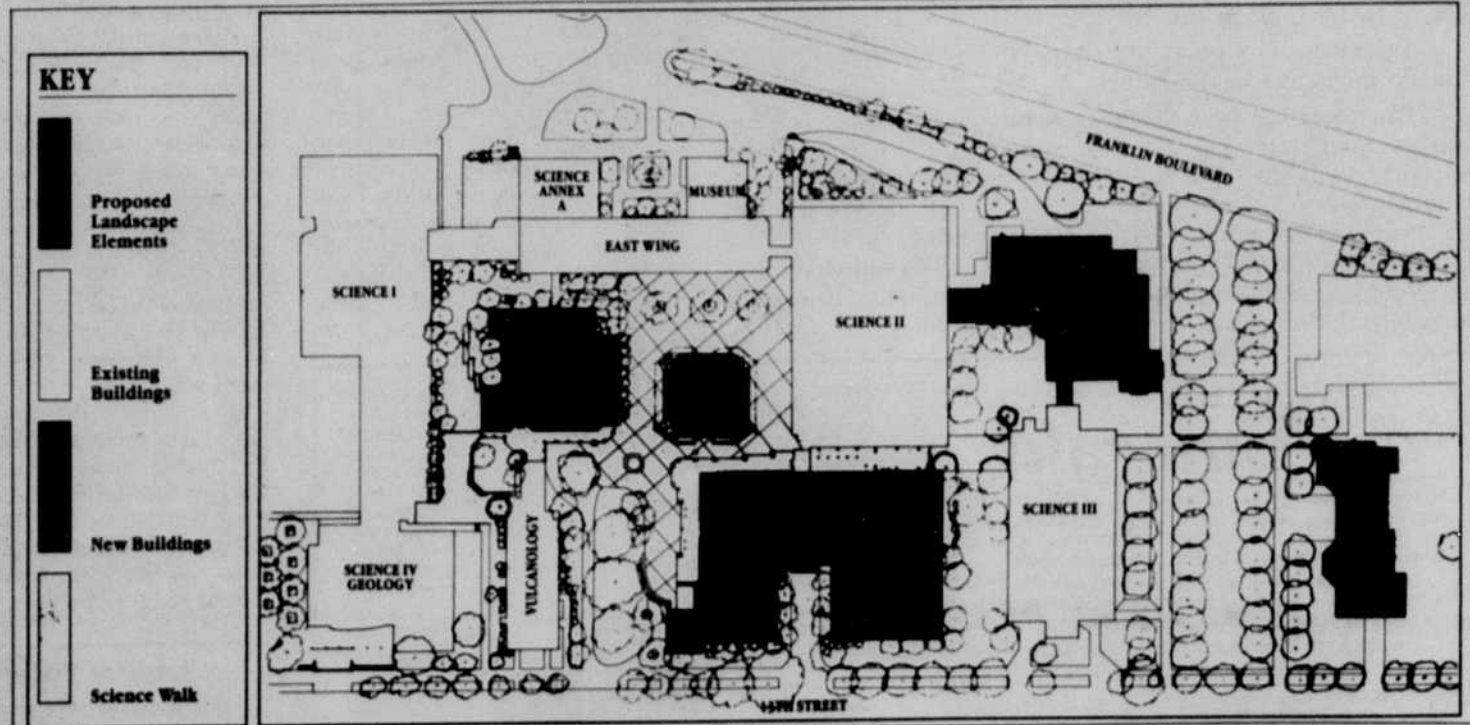
The groundbreaking caps a nearly two-year wait since the Department of Energy first granted the University \$3.3 million in November 1984 to assist in the planning of the complex, said David Rowe, University Planning director.

The DOE granted the University an additional \$8.179 million in July 1985, but the funding was temporarily held up because of the Gramm-Rudman amendment.

However, Hatfield and Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., were able to win the release of the money for the complex, said John Moseley, University vice president for research.

"Both Hatfield and Packwood were essential" in the advancement of the complex, Rowe said. "Without them, it would not have happened."

It was not until May 27 that a final agreement was signed on behalf of the federal government, and the University accepted the balance of the



Graphic courtesy of University Planning Office

\$33.3-million grant on June 5, Rowe said. The funding should arrive at the University in mid-November, he added.

The funding will finance the construction of Science V, a physics building, and Science VI, a geology building.

The funding also will pay for the extensive renovation of existing science buildings, including construction of a

new, more prominent entry for the science library. Fine arts and architectural studios and the Museum of Natural History facility displaced by the science construction will be replaced with the funding.

The Oregon Legislature also allocated \$12 million for the complex from state lottery proceeds designated for

economic development. The money will pay for the construction of Science IV-A, a computer science building, and Science IV-B, a biotechnical building.

Rowe called the new science buildings "one of the most exciting things that's happened at the University in a long time. Since the buildings are being built

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