

Oregon Daily Emerald

Monday, September 28, 1987

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 89, Number 18

OPEU strike ends in salary increase

*University workers pleased
with tentative settlement,
returned to normal positions*

By Mike Drummond
Emerald Associate Editor

The Oregon Public Employees Union strike rolled out of the University just as quickly as it rolled in.

Hundreds of University OPEU workers cheered on the steps of Johnson Hall early Thursday afternoon when Theresa Livingston, a welfare assistance worker for Adult and Family Services, informed the vocal crowd that a tentative settlement had been reached with the state.

"We have conducted a well-organized, peaceful and effective strike. We pulled together in ways we have never dreamed possible, and we've achieved what we think is a good tentative agreement with the state," Livingston said at the post-strike rally.

The state agreed to most, but not all of OPEU's demands, and union members still must vote in favor of the settlement before the contract becomes ratified.

The state moved little on the pay issue but granted a host of benefits, which opened the door to a settlement.

Terms of the agreement stipulate the following:

- A 2 percent pay increase retroactive to July 1, 1987. (The union originally demanded 4.5 percent increases retroactive July 1, 1987, and another one effective July of 1988.)

- A 4 percent pay increase beginning Jan. 1, 1988.
- A one-time \$70 bonus.
- Full medical and dental insurance.
- One hundred percent seniority rights.
- Pay equity in 65 classes of employment.
- An additional \$20 a month effective Nov. 1, 1988.

- A meet and confer policy regarding workload.

Karen Roach, director of labor relations for the state, said she believes the contract should be ratified within two weeks.

"We're really pleased with the outcome; both parties feel that the settlement is fair," Roach said.

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt called the contract "fair and equitable" for the state, the citizens of Oregon and OPEU employees.

"The contract is within the legislative approved budget, and will not require dollars from the state emergency fund," Goldschmidt said.

"I am impressed by the quality of our workers, and I am sympathetic to their legitimate concerns. I want to assure those workers that their voices were heard," Goldschmidt added.

However, the nine-day strike cost Goldschmidt



Photo by Andy Cripe

Members of the Oregon Public Employees Union celebrate a tentative agreement Thursday in front of Johnson Hall.

Turn to OPEU, Page 4

Officials expect record-breaking enrollment

By Will Holbert
Emerald Associate Editor

University officials predict this year's enrollment will break all previous records, making it the fifth consecutive year of increased enrollment.

The expanded student body has benefitted local landlords and been a headache for University housing officials.

In addition, the University has hired 101 new faculty members, including author Ken Kesey. Kesey will teach a

novel writing class for the English Department.

University Director of Admissions Jim Buch estimates 17,822 students will enter the University this fall. A final figure will not be available until after September 30.

If enrollment predictions prove accurate, there will be a one-year increase of 680 students and a five-year increase of 2,400 students. The University plans to stabilize the student body at 17,500.

Seniors and graduate students comprise the largest increase.

"What we are experiencing is a continuation of a trend that started three

years ago," Buch said.

Television commercials and direct mail campaigns have promoted the University throughout the region, while programs geared toward helping new students adjust to University life have increased student retention, according to Buch.

A more "personalized" University is the most important cause behind the record-breaking enrollment, he said.

The higher enrollment coincides with the University's decision to raise the academic requirements for incoming students. This will further increase the number of students who remain at the

University because those who satisfy the tougher admission standards will be better prepared for University study, Buch said.

The high enrollment, coupled with the state worker's strike, threatened a chaotic registration process. However, union workers prepared most of the registration paperwork before striking the University on Sept. 15, according to Buch. Faculty and management filled in for striking workers last week at McArthur Court.

"Our commitment is strong to carry

Turn to Enrollment, page 5A