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Inside:

- German Correa Diaz, Page 5
- Dance company, Page 7
- Short Spins, Page 13

Faculty resolves to oppose Olum retirement



Photo by Bobbie Lu

The University Assembly passed three resolutions Wednesday all of which dealt with the State Board of Higher Education's decision to retire Paul Olum.

By Paula Green
Emerald Reporter

A faculty resolution opposing the State Board of Higher Education's Executive Committee decision to retire University President Paul Olum was presented before the meeting of the University Assembly Wednesday.

The resolution was in response to the frustration felt by University faculty, administrators and students due to the executive committee's Oct. 27 announcement that Olum must retire from his position June 30, 1989, rather than June 30, 1992, Olum's preferred retirement date. Olum's retirement is not mandated by law; rather, it was the decision of the State Board.

After calling the assembly to order, Olum turned the chair over to chemistry professor Robert Mazo, chairman of the

Faculty Advisory Council.

"Faculty members think they should chair this meeting. I think it is inappropriate for me to chair this meeting or to stay," Olum said.

Mazo requested that the Assembly "resolve itself into a committee of the whole," in order to discuss issues surrounding Olum's retirement.

Mazo then introduced Lane County Commissioner Alan Miller, who read a letter from the Board of Commissioners addressed to State Board President James Petersen, requesting that Petersen not accept the executive committee's decision regarding Olum's retirement. According to Miller, Olum's early retirement would have serious long-term effects on both the University and Lane County.

Mathematics professor Peter Gilkey then presented two motions to the floor for debate and

Turn to Olum, Page 3

Tentative compromise in GTF dispute found

The Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation and the State System of Higher Education tentatively have settled their differences as of Wednesday afternoon.

Although details of the agreement remain sketchy, GTF business agent and bargaining team member Sandra Nemeth said a compromise with the union and the State System has been reached, and both bargaining teams recommended ratification.

According to Nemeth, the GTFF union plans to ratify a package deal Thursday, Nov. 12 at its next general membership meeting.

The four-month dispute

centered on policy rather than wage issues, including time-leniency for health care payments, comprehensive job evaluations and specific GTF job descriptions.

Although Nemeth said she could not comment on the tentative agreement until ratification, she did say the GTFF generally was pleased with the outcome.

"We've got a tentative agreement on a complete contract... we were able to address all of the concerns of the GTFs," Nemeth said.

Chuck Hunt, GTF president, echoed Nemeth's assertion that union membership should be pleased with the settlement.

Public sounds off about park plan

By Andrew LaMar
Emerald Reporter

Planners presented the latest version of the Riverfront Research Park's master site plan and fielded questions from a crowd of about 60 people at a public forum held Wednesday evening.

Several people expressed concern about aspects of the plan and one man disrupted the meeting for about five minutes, objecting to the forum's format.

Barry Elbasani, chief architect of the plan, opened the forum by explaining he made three minor changes from the plan presented at the last public forum on Oct. 8. He said he made the "subtle" changes in response to suggestions at that forum.

Elbasani rotated the soccer

field to run north and south instead of east and west, widened the gap between two buildings at the park's southwest corner to add to the extension of a north-south corridor that runs from Johnson Hall northward, and provided more open space near the pedestrian bridge that runs across the Willamette River toward Autzen stadium.

Elbasani also discussed concerns raised at the last forum and their possible solutions. Proposed parking structures, which many people said could ruin the beauty of the park, would be only two or three levels and sunken a half-level into the ground, he said.

In addition, fields or courts for recreation would be constructed on their top levels, Elbasani said.

Another major concern was the increased auto traffic

created on streets connecting to the site. But Elbasani said the three entrances to the site — Agate Street, Onyx Street and Eighth Avenue — would spread out the traffic enough to make it safe.

Concern also had been expressed about Silva Orchard and whether placing buildings around it might endanger its very existence. Elbasani said he didn't know how to preserve the orchard, but that it would be studied.

After the presentation, Elbasani and representatives from the University, the Eugene Planning Department and the project developer answered questions from the audience.

At one point, the meeting was disrupted for about five minutes by a man in the audience who

Turn to Riverfront, Page 4

Speaker praises Nicaraguan-Costa Rican peace plan

By Kevin Harrington
Emerald Contributor

Despite the hostilities that have existed between Costa Rica and Nicaragua for most of this decade, the two Central American countries could be on the verge of mutually beneficial, peaceful relations, according to University political science professor Dan Goldrich.

Goldrich spoke on "Costa Rica and Nicaragua: Taking a Risk for Peace" at a forum held at the First Christian Church on Wednesday night. The event was sponsored by Clergy and Laity Concerned.

Goldrich said Costa Rica and

Nicaragua represent unique models of political development in the third world, and could potentially learn a lot from each other in the future. He said Costa Rica is one of the most democratic countries in Latin America, and the only one that doesn't have an army (the army was abolished in 1948). He called Costa Rica "one of the decent places on earth," describing it as an advanced welfare state.

Nicaragua, on the other hand, represents a unique example of grass-roots political organization in Latin America, Goldrich said. "Here's a country where people have put together a community-based effort at development, one that draws

and develops human talent from that base, and that's extraordinarily rare in Central America. I think it's the only Latin American country that has devised an economic development strategy that is based on a coherent orientation towards environmental reconstruction," he said.

Geographically, Costa Rica is Nicaragua's southern neighbor. Goldrich noted that tensions brought on by the contra war in Nicaragua have exacerbated differences between the two countries. "They have been virtually at the point of war throughout the 80s; very tense, very hostile neighbors," he said.

He characterized official Costa Rican hostility towards

Nicaragua as largely being the result of economic pressure from the Reagan administration. Costa Rica's export-oriented economy suffered a severe decline around 1980 due to decreasing world prices for its products (coffee, bananas, beef), higher oil prices and an increase in interest rates by international banks. The Costa Rican economy had been heavily dependent on foreign loans, giving it the highest external debt per-capita of any country in the world, Goldrich said.

This made Costa Rica extremely vulnerable to pressure from the Reagan administration. U.S. loans to Costa Rica



Dan Goldrich

Turn to Goldrich, Page 4