

# Letters

## Respect opinions

Alpha Kappa Psi, the professional business fraternity at the University, would like to voice its support for the retention of Paul Olum as the president of this university. Olum is an honorary member of Alpha Kappa Psi, and has shown tremendous support for our organization.

President Olum is an invaluable asset to the University. He has the best interests of students, faculty and staff in mind when making decisions that affect them. We are, therefore, requesting that the state board either reconsider its decision to retire Olum in 1989 or provide a valid reason for its decision to retire him.

Olum's desire to retain his position until 1992 shows his dedication to the University. It has been obvious recently that students and faculty want Olum to remain in office. Students and faculty are the heart of any university and their opinions must be respected and acted upon.

Jim Chesemore, president  
 Pamela Berema, vice president  
 Alpha Kappa Psi

## Bad odor

I have smelled the odor emanating from the forced retirement of Paul Olum before. It is the stench given off by mediocrities who are desperately nervous when they have to work with someone visibly superior to themselves. Why, then, did the University community make it so easy for these

people to do their dirty work?

When a person who is doing a satisfactory job is being forced into retirement, the people doing the forcing should be required to state publicly their reasons for taking the action. Instead, Olum's defenders have acted as if they themselves bore the burden of proof. In the process, they used arguments so preposterous that even the dolts on the board could see through them.

There is no more devastating indictment of the top manager of an organization than to say he has built an organization so weak that his departure will significantly hurt major projects

already under way. Yet this is exactly what Olum's "supporters" are charging him with doing! CEO's of major corporations almost never announce their departures 18 months in advance. Does the resulting uncertainty make it impossible for them to recruit good people for the number two and three positions?

It may have been impossible to force the board onto the defensive on this issue. Possibly nothing could have saved Olum's job. But his defenders never gave themselves a chance.

Stan Vernooy  
 Student

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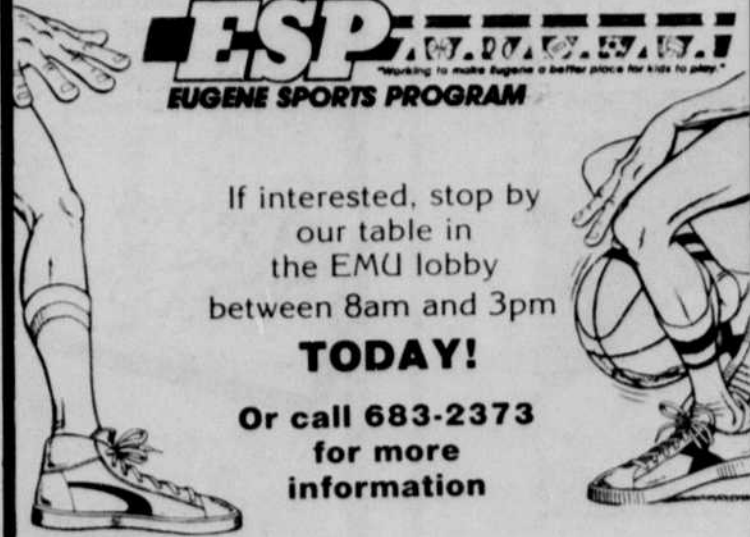
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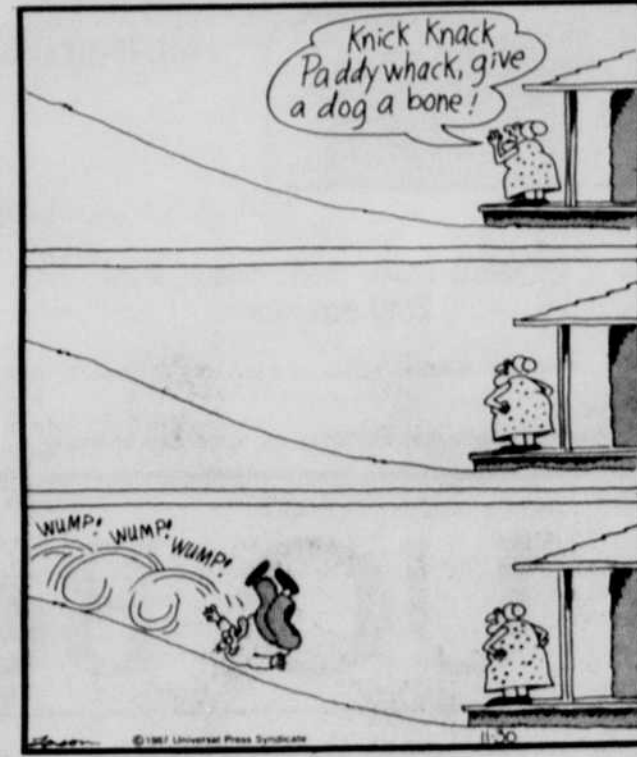


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