

Case raises important employment questions

□ When school removed Monson, it believed rules were being followed

By Martin Fisher
Oregon Daily Emerald

When the University re-assigned Don Monson from head men's basketball coach to golf coach, it did so with the assurance that state law supported such a move.

When it made the decision, the University had the assurance of an attorney who drafted the Oregon Administrative Rule that was being relied upon that the re-assignment was permitted by the rule.

It all seemed rather straightforward, written there in black and white.

However, 12 Lane County jurors saw enough shades of gray to decide the rule did not give the University the authority to re-assign Monson and promptly awarded him about \$290,000 for his troubles.

Although the case will likely be appealed and eventually overturned, it raises important questions about the University's method of contracting and its reliance on the myriad of rules and laws that are incorporated by reference into the University's standard employment contract, which is also called a Notice of Appointment.

Analysis

The contract itself is one page, although the applicable rules and laws fill binders with reams of pages. Technically, the contract is hundreds of pages thick, if one considers not only the state rules and laws, but federal laws, University rules and codes and, in Monson's case, Pacific-10 Conference and NCAA rules.

Certainly, somewhere in all of these rules, there must be something that allows the University to re-assign personnel. Common sense dictates that institutions or businesses be able to arrange their staffs as they see fit.

It seems, however, that the jury could not convince itself that Monson's re-assignment met any specific need

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Out with the old



Photo by Thomas Bergstrom

John Anthony, a University Physical Plant groundskeeper, worked Saturday to remove a diseased tree from in front of Chapman Hall. The University will be replacing the old tree with a young, healthy sapling.

Quick call to DuckScoop taps you into school info

□ University's computer network still in its infancy

By Martin Fisher
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It's midnight, Wednesday of Finals Week and you suddenly remember your history final is tomorrow, not Friday. But when? Where?

You get out of bed and frantically begin ripping your notebook to shreds, finally recalling the paper airplane that had once been your class syllabus.

Check the fall time schedule? You can't because, like most people, you threw it out after classes began. You're sunk — unless you have a computer and a modem, in which case you're in business.

A quick call to the University computer network gives you the information you need, and you can return to blissful slumber, or begin cramming.

DuckScoop, the University's campus-wide information service, came online about a year and a half ago, and JQ Johnson, director of network service for University computing, hopes students will begin making greater use of the system.

Aside from exam schedules, the system contains time schedules, usually well in advance of the printed schedules, a copy of the *General Bulletin* and other campus information, such as football schedules, University press releases, upcoming events calendar and a complete University phone book.

Although DuckScoop is still in its infancy, Johnson sees great potential for the network's future. For example, the current time schedule is simply a copy of the printed version.

In the future, students may be able to search for all classes taught by a specific faculty member, Johnson said. Such a search could be very difficult if a student had to read through the schedule to find the same information, but would take only seconds via DuckScoop.

Future versions may even incorporate

pictures and eventually video, Johnson said, though the technology to do that is not yet available.

DuckScoop runs on what is called a Gopher client, which is a program designed by the University of Minnesota to more easily present information found on the Internet. The Internet is a loosely organized collection of computer networks throughout the world. The Gopher software effectively "tunnels" through the Internet to find information.

Johnson said he anticipates Gopher to be the software used for DuckScoop for a couple of years, depending upon changes in technology.

The University network offers students, staff and faculty access to more information than they could ever possibly use, which actually could pose a danger for a student on a tight schedule who gets lost in a sea of data.

The University's Gopher connection does a decent job of presenting information in an easily accessible format. Quick reference items include online searches of the *CIA World Fact Book*, various dictionaries, Roget's Thesaurus and the Periodic Table of the Elements among others.

There is also access to card catalogs for the Knight Library, Kerr Library at Oregon State, the University of California library, the Library of Congress and, with a little hunting, hundreds of libraries worldwide. It is possible to search under a specific discipline and get the names of, and access to, specialty libraries.

For example, a quick search under government/law results in access to the Columbia University law library, White House press releases, the full text of the North American Free Trade Agreement and recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Obviously, the problem is not finding information; the problem is selecting the right information, which is a nice position for any student to be in.

Forget to read the next chapter in *Paradise Lost*? Don't worry, it's there, too.

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WEATHER



Summer has finally decided to really show up! Temps should be around 95 today for a high and in the 50s for overnight lows. The warm weather should continue for the remainder of the week. Enjoy!

SPUD GUNS A HOT POTATO

PORTLAND (AP) — Hurling spuds has become a fad. Problem is, kids just don't throw them. They launch them from homemade mortars.

Spud guns are fashioned from capped plastic pipe and powered with a flammable aerosol propellant, such as hairspray. The potato leaves the cannon with enough force to break a car window, and flies for blocks.

"I'm not going to say something stupid like, 'You could put your eye out with this,'" said Portland firefighter Rob Ware, "but with the force you see that potato coming out of there, you could injure somebody and even kill them."

Spud guns are outlawed in some California towns. Bay area police in Martinez, Calif., consider it a felony to carry one.

SPORTS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A club owner in the Southern League proposed Monday that the homeless Nashville Xpress play in Puerto Rico in 1994 in an attempt to tap into the island's love of baseball.

Hersh asked the Southern League's board of directors to let his investment group manage the Xpress, currently a Minnesota Twins farm club, in Puerto Rico starting in 1994.

The league's directors did not vote Monday but are expected to decide on the proposal Aug. 13.

If approved, it would be the first minor league team affiliated with Major League baseball to play in Latin America. Winter baseball has prospered for years in Puerto Rico.