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## New academic calendar creates equal terms

□ Classes start on the hour, as state aims to provide structure, consistency

By Rachel Kerman  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon State System of Higher Education designed this year's academic calendar to be an equal 10-week quarter system, in contrast to the previous 11-week fall, nine-week winter and 10-week spring

term that the University experienced last year.

In addition, one week has been added to winter break and classes are beginning on the hour or on the half hour.

The reason for all of the changes is to provide "an approved structure and consistency," said Gary Christensen, assistant vice chancellor for Student Services.

As a result of equalizing the quarter system and creating a more "traditional sys-

tem," faculty are able to create consistent lesson plans to teach each quarter. Also, by starting classes on the hour, more classroom space has become available.

With one less week in the academic year because of winter break and students facing the raised tuition fees, some students may wonder if the school is trying to receive more money for what seems like less time.

However, "students are not being short-changed," said Herb Chereck, the Uni-

versity registrar.

Christensen agreed. "The number of weeks for break are not an offshoot to any of the larger issues," he said.

On the other hand, University archivist Keith Richard said he thought it was an oversight since the calendar is set several years in advance.

Richard said winter break next year will officially begin Dec. 8 and winter term will begin Jan. 8, a time span of almost four weeks.

## Sticks and tricks



Greg Hamilton for the Emerald

Leif Anderson takes time in between classes for a round of "stick juggling."

## Athletics suffers big loss with Monson

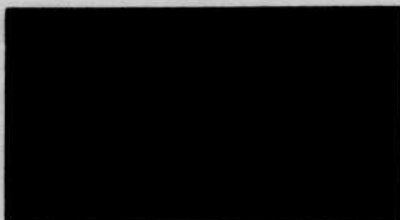
□ Department loses nearly \$300,000 to a former coach

By Martin Fisher  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University's athletic department has endured more than its fair share of losses over the years, some bigger than others. None, however, are as big as the July 22 loss of nearly \$300,000 to former men's basketball coach Don Monson.

Monson sued the University for removing him from his position as basketball coach following the 1992-93 season and re-assigning him, first as golf coach, and later as NCAA rules compliance coordinator.

Monson claimed the University not only owed him his salary of nearly \$84,000 for two years, but that it also owed him money he would have



earned on outside contracts during his contract period. Monson was removed as coach only three months after signing a new two-year contract.

Monson claimed contracts with Nike, the Oregon Sports Network and a summer basketball camp were at least partially negotiated with University involvement, and those contracts were contingent upon his employment as basketball coach.

However, the University claimed Monson's contract gave it the right to re-assign him as needed. Monson's contract contained a clause saying,

"The position as offered is subject to ... State Administrative rules." The University relied on a rule that says, "personnel may be transferred or re-assigned within an institution in accordance with the staff needs of the institution or other units."

The University also claimed it never guaranteed Monson's outside income, and in fact was prohibited by state law from doing so. However, the OSN is part of the athletic department, and Monson claimed income earned from the network was income earned from the University because of his position as coach.

In courtroom testimony, former athletic director Bill Byrne, now athletic director at the University of Nebraska, testified that he had personally intervened on Monson's behalf after Nike reduced its consulting fee payments to Monson.

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## End of Soviet siege just, instructors say

□ Two teachers believe Yeltsin's actions may give reforms a chance

By Edward Klopfenstein  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Hours after the Supreme Soviet surrendered to forces loyal to President Boris Yeltsin Monday morning, two University instructors fresh from Russia said Yeltsin's end to the siege was just.

Professor Albert Leong and Fruim Yurevich, senior instructor of Russian, both said Yeltsin's move to end the standoff might give Yeltsin's reforms a chance to pull the Russian people out of their worsening poverty.

Leong, a professor of Russian since 1966, was in Russia from July to August, and Yurevich, who started teaching at the University in 1975, returned from Russia Sept. 18.

"Everything the government wanted to do, the Supreme Soviet put a block on it," said Yurevich about his observations of Moscow. "That it would come to a violent confrontation was a possibility, but it wasn't in the air."

— Fruim Yurevich, Russian teacher  
Daily survival was the most obvious difficulty Yurevich witnessed. He said the single-most concern for citizens was eating.

Leong said he was confident about Yeltsin's victory because the hard-liners had no popular support. Much of their backing came from paramilitary and other radical elements of society.

Last weekend's coup was a continuation of the coup of 1991, he said. The earlier coup attempt failed because of a lack of force. This attempt to seize power failed because the plotters underestimated Yeltsin military backing, Leong said.

Living in Moscow, both Leong and Yurevich said they could sense deadlock between the Supreme Soviet and Yeltsin.

Yurevich said he has been researching the platform of the Supreme Soviet and can see no solution to Russia's economic woes in their rhetoric.

Mostly, what Yurevich saw was that hard-liners played on the difficulties of the citizens for gaining more power.

Politics was the last thing on the minds of most Moscow residents, both men said. They agreed that concerns for where the next meal would come from seemed everyone's vital concern.

"Middle-class life is sinking," Yurevich said. "They are making tremendous efforts to hang on."

Finding food and figuring out how to pay for it robs the most time and money from Russia's poor and middle classes, he said. Even finding where the food is distributed on a given day is difficult because distribution routes vary from day to day.

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