

RUSSIA

Continued from Page 1

Hyper-inflation figured into the average Russian's life makes living even worse.

"Yesterday, people can buy this or that, but today, the price could be three to four times" the price the item was the day before, the instructor said.

Yurevich lived with a family while he was staying in Moscow. But it's people like them, he said, that the western nations don't see when devising Russian policy.

"Yeltsin does all the things the West likes, like no aggression," said Yurevich, adding that the real problems of the people themselves are elements of Russian life western nations become blind to.

Yurevich said he has yet to contact his friends in Moscow. As of Saturday, he said, phone service was available, although mail service proves difficult to get through.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Disney duck

FROM THE PAST:

Walt Disney (right) met with former athletic director Leo Harris, Phil Harris and Ed Crowley in Los Angeles in 1947. The meeting was set up to gain permission from Disney to use Donald Duck as the University mascot. Prior to 1947 the University duck was a freehand sketch. Disney gave permission; however, in 1973 when Disney died, the Disney corporation didn't want the University to use Donald without a contract. This photo was used as proof that Disney had made an oral contract with the University and a formal agreement was hammered out. Oregon is the only university in the nation that has a Disney character as a mascot.

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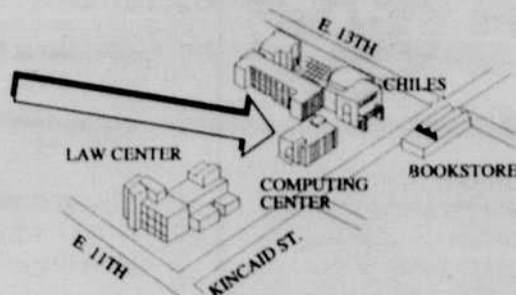
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MONSON

Continued from Page 1

Byrne said he convinced Nike Chairman Phil Knight to allocate other money to the OSN, which was then

paid to Monson via his OSN income.

The University claimed that it was Monson who breached the contract when he refused to report for his new duties. Byrne went to Monson's office March 17, 1992, to inform Monson of the decision to re-assign him. On the witness stand, Byrne described Monson's reaction as "the most profane, vulgar, ... coarsest language I have ever heard in my life."

After being informed of his re-assignment, Monson left Eugene that day and did not return until his trial began, more than a year later. The University continued paying Monson on his contract until May 15, 1992.



Don Monson

The University said had Monson accepted either of the offered re-assignments, he would have been paid at the same salary as when he was basketball coach. However, he would have lost his courtesy cars and membership at the Eugene Country Club.

But Monson said he had been a basketball coach for 34 years, and for him to accept the re-assignment would have been "suicidal" to his career. Monson is currently coach of the Adelaide 76ers, a professional basketball team in Australia.

Byrne testified the decision to remove Monson as basketball coach was based primarily on the team's win-loss record and the apparent decline in the team's overall performance during the previous couple of seasons.

At the time he was removed, Monson's record at the University was 116-145 overall and 42-72 in his last four seasons with the Ducks. Byrne said he had begun to consider replacing Monson early in the season and cited a loss to the University of Montana, a Division I-AA school, as an example of how poorly the Ducks were doing.

Byrne blamed the team's poor performance for falling attendance at home games, including a sharp drop in attendance by students.

"The students really walked out on us," he said.

Men's basketball and football are the only revenue-generating sports at the University, and their income supports the other varsity sports. However, Monson claimed he was never told his continued employment at the University was contingent upon gate receipts or win-loss records.

Byrne said he had never told Monson his employment depended upon those factors, but said, "I think it was just assumed."

Monson claimed part of the reason for the team's miserable 1991-92 season, which Oregon finished at 6-21, was because junior guard Terrell Brandon had left school to enter the NBA draft. Brandon now plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Byrne countered that testimony, saying Brandon had been academically expelled from the University and would not have been available to play during the 1991-92 season.

That testimony emphasized comments by Byrne made on Monson's performance evaluation, which said "the largest number of marginal academic students is on the men's basketball team."

The 11-women, one-man jury deliberated less than three hours before rendering a verdict in Monson's favor. Monson sued for \$425,788.52. The judge instructed the jury that, if it found in Monson's favor, it must deduct the amount of money Monson could reasonably have been expected to earn elsewhere during the period of his University contract.

The jury then deducted Monson's income from his Australian coaching job, about \$135,000, to come to a final judgment of \$292,087.83. The state attorney general's office is currently deciding whether to appeal the verdict.

Should Monson ultimately be victorious, the University will need to find a way to foot the bill, most likely from its general fund or the athletic department budget, said Dan Williams, University vice president for administration.