

Oregon Daily Emerald

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1994

EUGENE, OREGON

VOLUME 96, ISSUE 39

We're in this business because we like it and because we're making a living at it.

— Donna Armstrong



Tom Armstrong harvests late season apples.



Tom Armstrong works long hours to harvest the classic and new varieties of apples grown on their farm.

An Apple A Day

Tom and Donna Armstrong have introduced new varieties of apples to the local market

Photos by Michael Shindler

Story by Anne Moser-Kornfeld

Anne Moser-Kornfeld
Oregon Daily Emerald

The apple is considered one of the most special fruits. The Greek translation for apple tree meant "bearing fair fruit." The lush Lane County valley is especially well-adapted for growing apples.

University students can enjoy an escape into the world of apples.

In 1960, Tom Armstrong started, directly out of high school, a tree fruit business from the bare ground on 15 acres of prime land outside of Santa Clara. Since 1973 he and his wife, Donna, have replanted their orchard twice and now manage a commercial apple orchard on the urban boundary. Tom's Apples may be one of the best kept secrets in the area.

Their business is very successful, supplying apples to local families and businesses. Like many small businesses, they've experienced ups-and-downs.

Donna Armstrong talked about the orchard and its bounties on October 14. "The orchard has made a good living for us. We're very conservative and watch our pennies pretty close considering only 75 percent of the orchard is in production at any one time,"



Following their motto, the Armstrongs handle their apples with care.

Armstrong said.

They're proud of their accomplishments, considering Tom is mostly self-taught. He just got out books and read about fruit harvesting. With more education, the Armstrongs may have made fewer errors in the beginning, but they tap into local resources when questions come up, particularly about pest control.

Turn to **ARMSTRONG**, Page 3A

GTFF claims technology fee violates agreement

Grievance: Union says the fee is really an 'instructional fee' that should be waived

Natasha Shepard
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The \$50 technology fee tacked on to the tuition of all University Graduate Teaching Fellows is a violation of an agreement between the graduate teaching fellows' union and the University, according to a grievance that the union will file this week.

The union, formally the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF), alleges the fee is actually an "instructional fee." This type of fee is waived for GTFs, according to the collective bargaining agreement, signed in 1993.

The grievance, according to union representative Diane Rau, would serve as "formal notice that we believe there's been a violation." The GTFF has been gathering signatures from GTFs to be submitted along with the grievance and has collected more than 200 signatures so far.

According to the union grievance, the University should "cease the assessment" of the technology fee for GTFs and refund any money already paid toward the fee.

"We believe (the fee) to be a violation of the conditions of employment because GTFs are entitled to a waiver of instructional fees," Rau said. "(Yet) the technology fee has been referred to as an instructional technology fee or an educational technology fee."

The services the fee pays for, including computer and Internet use, were provided to GTFs in the past without charge, Rau said. The agreement also guarantees that "the University shall provide each GTF with facilities and services appropriate to their assignment," including "needed office equipment, supplies and services." The question, Rau said, is whether computer services fall under this category.

Although University employee relations manager Eric Buckles has "not seen a grievance," he said that the University

Turn to **FEE**, Page 5A

GOOD MORNING

► SEATTLE (AP) — If your place has bad acoustics — REALLY bad acoustics — King County may have a deal for you.

Tucked away in a county warehouse are 880 acoustical baffles — strips of synthetic fabric up to 60 feet long — that the county wants to unload.

The baffles, which are like colored banners and cost the county \$195,000, were to hang from the Kingdome ceiling. But that was before plans for the stadium changed and construction experts decided to spray an acoustical insulation over the 9.5-acre ceiling instead.

The insulation replaces 40,000 acoustic ceiling tiles that had to be removed after four fell into the stands July 19.

Acting Kingdome Director Dick Sandaas said Wednesday it has not been decided whether to return the "gray elephant" baffles to the manufacturer, and take a possible loss, or sell them on the open market.