

The Environmental Issues Committee
is seeking nominations for
**UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR***

*Send written nominations to Campus Recycling at Physical Plant.
Please include: your name/phone; who you're nominating; their
phone, and a paragraph on their environmental citizenship.

*6 awards closes April 27, 1995 contact: 346-1529



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METZ

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the unbelievable success of Oregon athletics this year made it difficult to juggle the two positions.

"The successes we've had in football and basketball have generated a lot more work for me," Williams said. "That's all I've done this year is work."

But before you shed any tears for our overworked administrator, don't, because he's not complaining, not by any stretch of the imagination. An alumnus of Oregon, Williams beams when the topic of conversation turns to the unbelievable successes

the Ducks have enjoyed this year.

"It's my wildest dreams come true."

On Tuesday, Williams took time out to reflect on the past eight months, saying that the excitement generated by especially the Rose Bowl made all his hard work worth it. Whether it be people coming up to him off the street just to talk about "Gang Green," or alumni rekindling their ties with the school, Williams said that this past school year has been a rewarding one.

"The feeling of goodwill about the University of Oregon

that was generated by that Rose Bowl was just a very special experience for me," Williams said. "It wasn't just the championship, it wasn't just the Rose Bowl, it was what a wonderful feeling so many people came to have about the University of Oregon."

Certainly this season has surprised almost everyone either directly or remotely involved with Oregon. Consider that the last athletics director had to oversee a 5-6 football team and a 10-17 men's basketball team, and perhaps no director has had the bulk of comings and goings to deal with as Williams has in 1994-1995.

Not only did he have to deal with the winning, but the school almost lost its round-ball savior, Jerry Green, and the women's coach, Jody Runge, needed to be rewarded for her back-to-back tournament efforts as well.

All this came in a season where Williams was faced with task of replacing long-time associate Rich Brooks, basically an institution in himself.

"It's not often that these three things will happen in the same year," Williams said.

Not too many people could have handled all this, especially with another full-time job. It would have been easy enough for Williams to just maintain the status quo in the athletic department, but it wasn't that way at all.

Williams took a bite out of the department's workload and it appears that he'll clear the plate as Title IX issues are being addressed, making room for the next person to come in with a clean slate.

It's in this way that Williams believes he will be even more helpful to the next athletics director. Getting in there and getting dirty has given Williams the first-hand knowledge and resourcefulness that he believes will really pay off when a new person is appointed.

"I'll be able to help the new athletics director in a way I never could have otherwise," Williams said, adding that he has gained a great deal of insight into the workings of the position. "It's been interesting for me."

I'm not even sure interesting is even an acceptable adjective for the 1994-1995 athletic success any more, but talking to Williams, it's my impression that that's just the way he approaches things. He's not one to accept full responsibility for the phenomenal "Year of the Duck," just as he's not one to complain about the insane amount of work and responsibility he's had to deal with over the last eight months.

Talking to Williams, it's clear that he was just honored to have had the chance to help out during the greatest stretch of time in Oregon athletics — so far.

"I fully appreciate, in ways I never have before, the positive impact a successful program can have for the University," he said.

As for the job?

"I've really genuinely appreciated the opportunity."

Chris Metz is the sports editor for the Emerald.

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