

Oregon Daily Emerald



Weather forecast

Today Partly Cloudy High 84, Low 55
 Wednesday Partly Cloudy High 84, Low 52

ASUO creates new position

As the first accounting coordinator, senior Jennifer Creighton will help the ASUO delegate finances / PAGE 3

A heavy dose of Bass

Ems left fielder Kevin Bass already has earned one player-of-the-week award for his heavy hitting / PAGE 7

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Rilling's conduct earns UO degree

Helmuth Rilling is the third honorary-degree recipient in 50 years

By Jack Clifford
 Oregon Daily Emerald

University President Dave Frohnmayer was there, delivering the requisite commencement welcome. The faculty was there as well, garbed in full regalia for the occasion. Also on hand were a smattering of dignitaries.

The only group missing from this graduation scene was the students.

But Sunday evening, in the Hult Center's Silva Hall, just one person was on hand to receive his "diploma."

The honorary doctoral degree bestowed upon Oregon Bach Festival co-founder and artistic director Helmuth Rilling may have been five weeks late, but the ceremony was timely nonetheless. Rilling had just concluded his 30th season as the festival's maestro by conducting his charges through Mahler's "Resurrection," an appropriate title to this exercise.

"I choose to call this 'Spring Commencement, Part Two,'" mused Frohnmayer, during his opening remarks. "And unlike some sequels, I believe this occasion readily surpasses the original."

Rilling is only the third recipient in the past 50 years of the University's highest honor.

Previous honorees were Mark Hatfield, former U.S. senator and Oregon governor, in 1997 and Corazon Aquino, former president of the Philippines, in 1995.

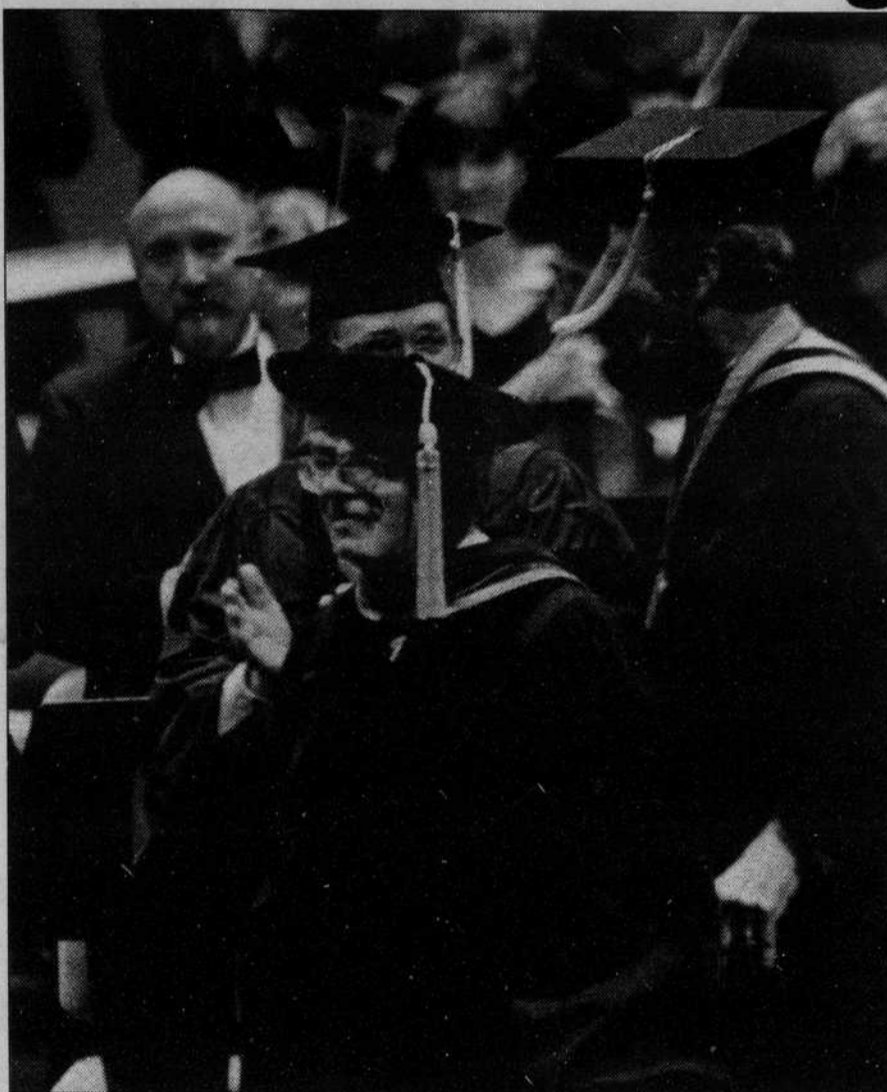
With this honor, the University recognizes those who performed extraordinary service to the nation or the world. A recommendation must be approved by the University Senate and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. Rilling could not attend June's commencement ceremonies — when such honors are normally conferred — due to his international performance schedule.

"Like the music of Bach, with its range from playfulness to soaring majesty that can be enjoyed by a child or analyzed by academics, the work of Helmuth Rilling has enriched all who have been fortunate enough to hear the beauty or explore its deeply meaningful content," Frohnmayer said.

"This occasion allows us to say that our mission as a university and an institution of learning has been and always will be a service to our community, as well as the extensions of that community, both nationally and internationally."

Other University luminaries on hand for the pomp and circumstance included double-degree holder and U.S. Representative

Turn to RILLING, Page 3



"Through Helmuth Rilling's genius as a conductor... [we learn] the power of a lasting legacy."

Dave Frohnmayer
 UO President

Oregon Bach Festival's artistic director and co-founder Helmuth Rilling (left) receives his honorary doctoral degree from University President Dave Frohnmayer (right).

Catharine Kendall/Emerald

Debate on plan healthy

University and GTFF representatives meet Friday and discuss ongoing health-plan negotiations

By Sara Jarrett
 Oregon Daily Emerald

In an effort to reach an agreement after a 2-1/2 month dispute over health-insurance benefits, the Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation negotiation team met with Marian Friestad, dean of the graduate school, and Mark Zunich, employee relations manager, Friday afternoon.

The conflict arose after the GTFF health-plan carrier, ODS Health Plans of Portland, raised its premium prices by more than 90 percent beginning in September.

It seems like a drastic change, but the University had been getting a great deal the last few years, according to Paul Prew, a member of the GTFF negotiation team. The sudden increase came after a 15-percent cap on premium prices was lifted after two years.

If compared to other companies, ODS is suitably priced,

said Ken Pendleton, GTFF health-care consultant for the summer and part of the negotiation team.

The University, though, claims it can find no financially feasible way to cover the entire cost of the increase, Friestad said. It instead proposed an 80-percent coverage plan in June. The GTFF, however, refused to accept the proposal and instead decided to ask for even more.

Thus, it counteracted in June with a composite plan, which seeks full benefits for each term of employment plus one month. Because the current plan only covers the nine months of the regular school year, GTFFs are left without health insurance in the summer. With the term-plus-one-month plan, summer coverage would be guaranteed. The proposal also asked for spouse and

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Newcomers get a glimpse

At IntroDUCKtion, new students receive a brief taste of University life

By Sara Lieberth
 Oregon Daily Emerald

As a breeze tussled the "Welcome UO Students" banner over 13th Avenue in the afternoon sun and a sea of bright yellow-and-green plastic bookstore bags were being toted through campus Monday, new students and many of their parents were becoming acclimated to the University and its amenities as part of the ongoing IntroDUCKtion program taking place this summer.

During the two-day orientation, participants took placement tests, were led on tours, met representatives from their respective departments and with academic advisors to determine a course of study. But by far the most pressing thing on new student's minds was

the final portion of the program — registration on Duck Call for fall classes.

The scene in the lobby of the EMU ballroom was a mixed bag of excitement and anxiety as students waiting their turn to speak with an advisor flipped eagerly through the fall schedule of classes as parents sat patiently beside them. Then it was time to walk the path to Bean West across campus and actually use the University phone-registration system for the first time.

While many students were pleased with their choices and happy they were registered long before fall term begins, others discovered that with Duck Call, as in life, you can't always get what you want.

"My whole schedule is math and science," said Ian Shinney, an 18-year-old from Marist High School in Eugene. "I

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The Top Five

■ The top majors of incoming students

1. Undecided
2. Pre-business
3. Pre-journalism
4. Pre-psychology
5. Biology