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Perspectives

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measure of a MAN

The outpouring of genuine feelings about University President Dave Frohnmayer are well deserved by a man that has made truly great contributions to the University.



Get well soon...

As University President Dave Frohnmayer is scheduled to undergo surgery this morning to have a cardio-defibrillator implanted in his chest to regulate his heart beat, it is important to realize that the care being shown for his wellness is a genuine response to all the man has done for Oregon and the University.

There aren't many people who would say a bad word about Frohnmayer. And there's a good reason. While it would be easy for a person relatively unfamiliar with the workings of the University to assume Frohnmayer is mostly a figurehead, it is indeed the genuine concern and vast efforts the man has consistently given that has garnered the respect and gratitude of all those who know him or of his work.

The outpouring of wishes for his speedy and full recovery coming from the campus are the natural consequences of his compassion for others, foresight into the future and his amazing resumé of career achievements in Oregon public service.

Usually not on the same page of a given issue all at one time, students, faculty, University trustees and Gov. John Kitzhaber all wished Frohnmayer a speedy recovery on a video tape greeting card sent to Maryland over the weekend. One student, freshman Keigo Nakaide, initiated an effort to fold 1,000 paper cranes to send in place of cards or flowers. These are extraordinary demonstrations of respect for an extraordinary man.

Frohnmayer's leadership at the University has affected almost everyone in a positive fashion. Two of his main focuses, diversity and technology, have shaped the way the education process molds the minds of all students as they face the future. It would seem that his efforts in those two regards have been accurate and have started to produce citizens who are equally capable of deal-

ing with people and the technologies around them.

Frohnmayer also set record fundraising levels at the University and has been a key to building a commendable athletic program, a new law school, a library renovation and improved academic standing of the University as a whole. Oregon has twice been named by Fiske Guide to Colleges as one of the nation's best bargains.

It is not only Frohnmayer's abilities and foresight that make him so cared-for by the community, but it is also the dedication he has shown to civic duty throughout his life. He is a native Oregonian who served three terms in the state legislature from 1975 to 1980 and was the state's attorney general for 11 years. He made a bid at the governor's job. Frohnmayer even successfully argued six of seven cases before the United States Supreme Court.

While any success in personal, career or public service arenas earn an individual respect, it is the man's care for others that explains the emotional responses from those concerned. Whereas many notable names make the news for tragic events everyday in America, the kind of personal loss felt in this instance could only be for a man who'd spent decades endearing himself in the hearts of Oregonians.

While the lists of unpublicized kindnesses from Frohnmayer would be too long for one story to hold, there are a few that have been retold by those who the president has touched. For Pam Fields of the Office of International Affairs, she was buoyed by a personal letter that he sent to her after her son was seriously injured by a car while trying to cross a street, she told The Register-Guard in the Oct. 30 issue.

All that adds up to an amazing blend of talent, compassion and dedication that is all too rare in this world.

In a statement released last week, Frohnmayer said "Please know that I am touched beyond measure by the expressions of support for me and my family." That's the kind of result one deserves after showing such remarkable life-long dedication to others.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

CORRECTION

The story "Students deliver pumpkins to retirement center" (ODE, Oct. 29), should have said Hayley McGee is the resident advisor for Sweetser hall in the Walton Complex. The Emerald regrets the error.

THE WEEK IN THUMBS



To tying the knot... tight.

Emerald On-line Editor Jake Ortman and his new wife, Lydia, got married on Saturday. Congratulations, Jake and Lydia.

To lighting the holiday for elders.

Last Thursday nine students from Sweetser residence hall in Walton Complex took five carved pumpkins to the Farmington Square Assisted Living Community in an attempt to give back to the community.



Politics over democracy.

GOP Presidential front runner George W. Bush skipped last week's Republican debate in New Hampshire, which was attended by five other hopefuls. It appears a political decision outweighs democracy's basic need for discourse.

To a lack of cents.

In a survey by the Consumer Federation of America, one quarter of Americans said they believed their best chance to build wealth for retirement is to play the lottery. Those living paycheck to paycheck, who would most benefit by saving small amounts continuously, are even more likely to feel that way.