

Health Center director steps down

■ Dr. Gerald Fleischli surprised coworkers with his decision to leave at the end of the year

By Leon Tovey
Oregon Daily Emerald

After more than 10 years as medical director of the University Health Center, Dr. Gerald Fleischli is trading in his administrator's hat.

Anne Leavitt, associate vice president of Student Affairs, announced Friday that Fleischli is planning to step down at the end of the 2001-02 school year, and the University will begin a national search for a new director in March. The announcement was made at a Student Health Advisory Committee meeting.

Dr. Fleischli cited personal reasons for his decision to step down. He said he plans to continue prac-

ticing medicine at the health center but wants to move away from the administrative side of the job so he can focus on seeing patients and spending time with his wife, Linda, to whom he's been married for more than 40 years.

"For years my wife has been saying, 'why don't you retire?'" Fleischli said. "I had a list of things I wanted to do. ... I think I've gotten things rolling."

Fleischli has worked in student medicine for more than 30 years, beginning with an 11-year stint at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He worked as director of the health center at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, for 10 years before coming to the University in 1991.

His decision to step down leaves the University with the task of appointing a replacement who will be able to work on current plans, such

as the expansion of the health center, while defining a new direction for the center.

"(He) wants to leave by Sept. 1," Leavitt said. She pointed out that since fall term is usually a busy time for the health center director, "it would be nice to have (the new director) by July 1."

But before the search for a new director can begin, decisions have to be made on the search criteria. One of the key issues will be whether the University hires an administrator or a physician for the position, and Leavitt has asked the SHAC for its input. Currently, Fleischli oversees the day-to-day operation of the health center in conjunction with medical administrator Bob Petit, while continuing to see patients almost every day.

"This is about looking to the future," Leavitt said. "Are we going to stay half administrator/half

doctor and one administrator, or are we going to reorganize?"

Fleischli's decision to step down came as a surprise to members of the SHAC, a group of students and faculty who work with Fleischli on issues relating to the health center's programs. Chairwoman Amy Biggs, a general science major, said the line of communication between Fleischli and the SHAC has helped streamline the health center's programs.

"The great thing about the SHAC is that people with no connection to medicine have input," she said. "Sometimes students notice things the (Health Center's) staff doesn't. For me, you want to hire a physician who's a good physician but can also stay on top of things."

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News brief

Pro-choice groups to hold Roe v. Wade celebration

To commemorate the 29th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision and awaken surrounding pro-choice issues, ProChoice Coalition of Oregon and Planned Parenthood will hold their "Candlelight Celebration" at 6 p.m. today in the First Congregational Church, 1050 E. 23rd Ave.

Pro-choice politicians, such as Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, will be speaking and lighting candles at the event, along with activists, health care providers, students and religious leaders.

"This celebration should be a call to action for the pro-choice majority to demand that President Bush nominate, and the (U.S.) Senate approve, only individuals who will uphold Roe and a woman's right to choose," said Kitty Piercy, a member of ProChoice Coalition of Oregon.

In 1973 the court ruled to make abortion legal. But with talk that a justice might retire and with a Republican president in the White House, Piercy said this could be the last Roe v. Wade anniversary celebration.

The candlelight celebration will also give organizers a chance to urge citizens to vote if they want to keep existing freedoms.

"The right to choose is in danger at a national and local level," Piercy said.

Ken Henry, Central Presbyterian Church minister, will also be speaking on the religious support for choice.

"It is very appropriate that the voices of clergy be heard on this auspicious day," clergyman Greg Flint said.

— Ben Hughes

People briefs

Rumsfeld: I'm no stud

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld shrugged off a magazine cover labeling the 69-year-old as "The Stud" and said his wife was amused by the description.

Rumsfeld laughed heartily on a television interview Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" when asked about the conservative political magazine National Review's cover, which has a cartoon of the defense chief and the banner headline "The Stud. Don Rumsfeld, America's new pin-up."

Asked whether he saw himself as America's stud at 69 years old, the man in charge of America's war effort in Afghanistan retorted: "Come on,

get onto something serious, Russert."

PETA gets catty at Versace show

With Madonna, Gwyneth Paltrow and singer Sheryl Crow looking on, two anti-fur protesters jumped on the catwalk during designer Donatella Versace's haute couture show Saturday in Paris, reports Reuters.

The demonstrators, who claimed allegiance to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), were tackled by security guards as models continued to strut down the runway.

One unfurled a banner that said "Fur Kills. Peta."

The audience seemed stunned, but then the mood returned to normal as Madonna and Paltrow made jokes.

MLK Jr. on his side?

Danny Glover says the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. would have endorsed the actor's anti-death penalty message.

The civil rights leader is a man "who died committed to defending the principles of nonviolence," Glover told a congregation at Christ Unity Baptist Church in Modesto, Calif., on Saturday.

Glover also clarified remarks made during a November speech, in which he was quoted as saying that Osama bin Laden should not be executed, even if he was involved in terrorist acts.

The actor said he repeated his opposition to the death penalty, without referring to the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Nowhere is Osama bin Laden's

name mentioned," said Glover, who brought copies of his speech for the audience.

Spinning his promotional web

Tobey Maguire, leaping into action films this summer with "Spider-Man," says it's the right time for a superhero film set in New York, a city of real-life heroes.

"I think people will be ready this summer to watch a good guy in New York who has fun and goes around and beats up the bad guys," he said.

The World Trade Center was featured prominently in a trailer that was pulled after Sept. 11. But the towers remain in the skyline of Spider-Man's New York.

Compiled by Michael Hamersly

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