

Thursday, November 21, 2002

## Editorial

### UO can increase faculty salaries if administrator numbers are cut

The Oregonian on Sunday told a compelling story about Paul Risser, now ex-president of Oregon State University. Risser is leaving OSU after finding a job in his home state of Oklahoma, one that pays 66 percent more than his OSU salary.

Both the OSU president and University of Oregon President Dave Frohnmayer receive salaries of more than \$150,000 per year, with \$20,000 expense accounts. They have their own homes, given gratis, as a perquisite for serving as a university president. Even with all this, Risser and Frohnmayer have been the two lowest-paid university presidents in the West.

We would like to say that the salaries of presidents and upper-level administrators here should be raised, especially when low pay could lead to an administrative brain drain. But in good conscience, we can't. We can't because professors and faculty are chronically underpaid at the same time as a top-heavy bureaucracy continues to add positions.

The average University professor's salary is \$62,000 per year, a figure that is skewed when law school salaries are taken into account. And professors don't get free housing or expense accounts.

By way of comparison, professors throughout the American Association of Universities make an average of \$77,000.

We find it disturbing that although we will be paying higher tuition bills beginning winter term because of the state's budget crisis, the University sees no need to trim the fat of the upper administration.

It is also disheartening for us to realize that this bureaucracy is not set up to serve the students, who pay administrators' paychecks. How many people do we need for marketing, communications, public relations and outreach, anyway? Apparently, according to the University, we need a whole division filled with them.

And then there's Student Affairs Vice President Anne Leavitt, whose department students deal with every day, as it encompasses the EMU, University Housing, the University Health Center, the Registrar, Academic Advising and the Office of Student Life. Of the people she oversees, one is an "associate vice president" and one is a "vice provost." The vice president of University Advancement boasts 15 direct personnel — half of them calling themselves vice president.

When budgets are tight, having a seemingly endless parade of officers of administration is untenable. While the University may need some marketing personnel, those people cannot be more important and more numerous than the administrators dealing with students. As soon as the proliferation of administrators is reined in and faculty salaries are increased, we'll be concerned about the top administrator's pay.

## Editorial policy

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## A bloody battle

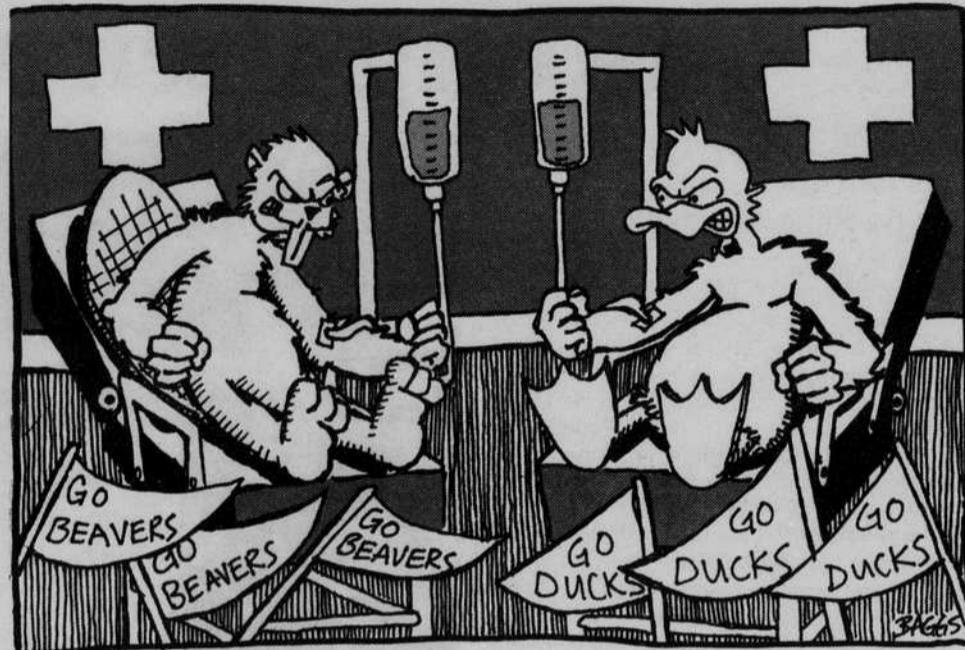
The Civil War game: a legacy, a tradition, a battle, a rivalry. Dating back to the 1894 season, Duck and Beaver fans have been at each others' throats with a fighting passion. The question of who will win the big game is always disputed.

This year's battle will be a bloody one. For the first time in its history, the competition is not only about the game, but also about saving lives.

For the 106th annual Civil War, the two universities are participating in the first annual Civil War Blood Drive Rally, sponsored by the alumni associations of both universities. Through Wednesday, students, staff, alumni and fans of each team are encouraged to donate a pint of blood in the name of their team. The winner of the competition will be announced during the game this weekend in Corvallis.

What an excellent idea. Tying in a rivalry such as the one between the University of Oregon and Oregon State University not only encourages fans to support their team and their school, but also encourages them to support the good cause of donating blood. It will also bring an awareness of the constant need for blood. I can only hope this event continues and grows from here.

According to the American



Steve Baggs Emerald



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Spin cycle

Red Cross, there are seasonal shortages of blood donations during the summer and winter times due to vacationing and holidays. So, what better time than at the beginning of the holiday season to boost donation in our region?

The only problem is, what happens when the drive is over? When all the "glitz" and "glam" of competition surpasses and the winner has been announced, how will donations be then? Will people lose their passion when it's not for the sake of competition?

I would be saddened if this were the case.

Donating blood should be done not for personal satisfaction, but simply because donating of oneself is a "good" thing to do. There is a constant need for blood donations in this region, so this act of kindness should not be taken lightly.

Sadly, however, not everyone is eligible. Eligible donors are at least 17 years of age and weigh more than 110 pounds. Upon arrival, donors will be asked a series of confidential questions to see if they fit the criteria to donate. Among those ineligible are people who have received a tattoo within the past 12 months, those taking illegal drugs by needle or those who have lived in certain parts of Europe for at least 6 months.

Many people, though, are still eligible to donate, and they should take advantage of the opportunity. According to the American Red Cross, only five percent of those who are eligible give blood. Think how many lives could be saved if the other 95 percent donated.

Blood donation has an additional benefit: testing. For people afraid of seeing their own doctor for blood tests,

the American Red Cross tests each pint of blood donated. Each donation of blood will be tested for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis, among other diseases, and the donor will be contacted in cases of positive test results.

The act of donating blood is simple for those who are able. In fact, it can take as little as an hour to complete the process. This simple deed can save nearly three lives with just one donation.

For those who missed the deadline for this year's Civil War Blood Drive, don't fret. There is always next year. And besides, donations are accepted locally at any time — the real winners are those receiving this precious gift.

Contact the columnist at sarahspellman@dailyemerald.com. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

## UO must ask if KUGN 'enhances' image

### Guest commentary

Early this fall, a group of faculty began discussing the University's problematic relation with KUGN-AM. We shared this issue with equally concerned students and immediately informed the administration of our desire to discuss it. Last week, the first of what was understood to be several meetings was held to reach some resolution of this complicated issue. But late Friday, University President Dave Frohnmayer issued a press release that appears to abruptly terminate that discussion.

I do not believe that the issue is as simple as the president asserts. One point of agreement is the hate-filled character of KUGN broadcasts. Frohnmayer deems them "disgraceful"; KUGN's own program manager calls them "offensive." The question is how to respond. Let me present my own view on the issue.

The president's position rests on a confusion. He correctly insists that the University cannot manage speech or take political positions. No one disagrees with this. But the president confuses

this claim with a further one — that the University can take no interest at all in a station's character when contracting with it. Any concern with what "the Voice of the Ducks" is attached to is a violation of "free speech."

This second principle cannot be right. Believing it means that if a porno channel offered the highest price for our games, we would be bound by the First Amendment to accept it. We would be bound to proclaim "the Voice of the Ducks" in between "Sex Court" and "How to Cheat on Your Wife." We would be bound by political neutrality to run pictures of our star athletes next to ads for "Barnyard Fun."

Frohnmayer's views may commit him to this. But then they are flatly at odds with University practice over the past 30 years. During that time, the University has periodically been asked to rent its campus to movie companies and has always based its decision on whether the film's content reflects well on the University. No one has ever argued that the First Amendment obliges us to rent our campus to smut. Why does it obligate us to rent our logo to hate?

It is important to keep in mind why we have big-time sports in the first

place. Frohnmayer has repeatedly told faculty that athletics and its broadcasts serve to enhance the image of the University as a whole.

Then surely it is appropriate to ask if our current relation with KUGN serves this goal, if that image is one opposed to hatred and bigotry. Is KUGN really the best venue for promoting our school among young people of color, a group that administrators say they want to attract — but which KUGN hosts consistently attack?

Some will point out that my parallel is not exact, and they would be right. Dealing with KUGN is not exactly like dealing with a porn channel. But the converse holds too: Reassessing our relation to KUGN is not exactly like infringing on someone's free speech.

A serious discussion of these matters might proceed by seeking to balance our concern for free speech with the very real pain that members of this community feel when they forget to turn the dial after the football game is over. I hope that we can continue this dialogue.

Cheyney Ryan is a professor in the philosophy department and a recipient of the University's Charles Johnson Award for the promotion of freedom of speech.