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Workers donate money to charity

The Duck Stop, located in the University Bookstore, continues to send tips to non-profit organizations

By Chelsea Duncan
 News Reporter

A dollar here and a dime there may not seem like a lot in a tip jar, but at the Duck Stop coffee bar, tips add up to thousands of dollars — and a greater cause.

Instead of pocketing their tips from customers each day, employees at the University Bookstore bistro collect the money throughout the year and donate it to different non-profit organizations. This fall, employees began collecting tips that will be contributed to the HIV Alliance, which provides HIV education and services to the community.

Bookstore General Manager Jim Williams said tips have been collected for about nine years, and all together the coffee bar has donated about \$40,000.

"We at the bookstore never felt it was quite right to take tips," he said, adding that Duck Stop employees are paid a bit more than those at other coffee shops, and they also get benefits such as vacation time and discounts.

Each year, a \$3,000 goal is set, but Duck Stop employee Erin Tuttle said last year's tips, which were donated to the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic, added up to more than \$5,000.

"Three thousand dollars is always our goal — we usually go over," she said.

Employee and senior Brett Hanson said when he started working at the



Danielle Hickey Senior Photographer
 Senior barista Brett Hanson makes coffee in the Duck Stop, where workers are donating their tips to the HIV Alliance. The bistro sets a donation goal of \$3,000 per year.

Duck Stop about a month and a half ago he wasn't sure how he felt about giving up his tips. But he soon realized he liked the idea of donating to a good cause.

"If I was working at any other job and making the same amount, I wouldn't be getting tips," he said. "It feels better, (so) why not."

However, Hanson said he's noticed that some people decide not to give money when they find out tips aren't going to the employees.

"It frustrates me to see people that know we're giving up our tips, but they're not willing to either give a tip or give the same amount of a tip because we're not getting it," he said. "It gets them off the hook of giving."

He added that it makes him even more willing to donate the money.

"That kind of thing makes me appreciate it more," he said.

Senior and self-described tipper Katera Hopkins said she has worked at a coffee shop where tips were a part of the pay, so she respects that Duck Stop employees donate the extra money.

"I guess I would give them tips anyway, but I appreciate it more because they're giving it up to a good cause," she said. "I think it's really a good way for them to reach out."

HIV Alliance Development Director Carisa Tremayne said that with recent government funding cuts the organization has been struggling to meet its

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GTFF

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along with your prof," said Eric Lindgren, GTFF vice president for University relations.

Lindgren said the University was violating its contract with the GTFF, which specifies a preference for year-long contracts.

"There are (University) departments that aren't following the contract," Lindgren said.

The union's contract states: "Whenever feasible, GTFs will be employed year-to-year rather than term-to-term where the need for performance of specific GTF duties can be reasonably expected to continue. GTFs should not be employed term-to-term in order to determine whether they are adequately qualified for a GTF position."

Richard Linton, the University administrator most familiar with the negotiations, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Goff echoed Lindgren's concerns about job security.

"How hard is it to teach when you're worried about where your next job will come from?" Goff said.

Goff urged the University administration to bargain in good faith with the union, and said GTFs are an integral part of the University.

"The University needs to realize how important we are to this campus," Goff said.

He added that GTFs teach 27 percent of the classes at the University.

Money, of course, figured prominently into the union's concerns. One GTF said graduate salaries at the University lag far behind comparable institutions.

"We need a 30 percent raise to make us average," GTF Liz Harlan-Ferlo said.

Junior Jim Lowry said if the GTFs want more money, they should be given more money.

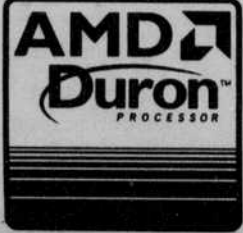
"It sets a good precedent for other grad students who are considering coming here," he said.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at chuckslothower@dailyemerald.com.

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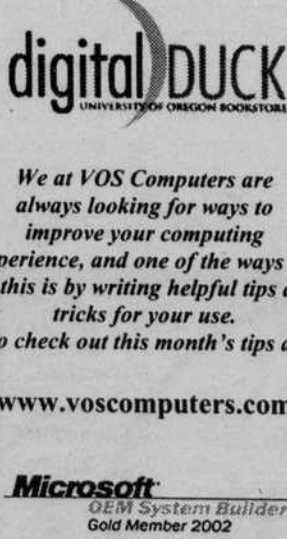
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