

UO GETS BIKE SILVER AWARD

The UO won a national silver award last week for student efforts to promote biking, but it's unclear if the commitment from the UO administration is there to go for the gold.

League of American Bicyclists President Andy Clarke made the trip from Washington, D.C., to hand UO President Richard Lariviere a sign for the 2011-2015 Bike Silver designation and congratulate the university for its 17 percent bike commute rate.

But Clark recommended that the UO join other top biking universities by adding professional bike coordinator staff to plan for and promote cycling on campus. "You could be probably twice that [17 percent] number if you put your minds to it."

Lariviere touted the UO's bike credentials but acknowledged, "We have a long way to go. We have to plan better, we have to integrate overall transportation thinking into our planning better, and we need professional individuals to come to the rescue of our students who have been working so valiantly. We will do these things, and when we do, we expect you back, Andy, with a gold or a platinum award."

But interviewed after his speech, Lariviere balked at clarifying whether he was making any sort of commitment to actually adding any professional staff to support biking. Asked to clarify if what he said meant that the UO would add part-time professional support, a full-time position or was just considering whether to add professional support for biking, Lariviere answered only "yup." The UO president then laughed and turned away.

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

DALE BERG

Lifelong Eugenean Dale Berg was born in 1940, the same year that his father, Norwegian emigrant Alfred Berg, opened a Shell service station on the corner of 13th and Lawrence. When he, his brother Paul and his father took up skiing at Willamette Pass in 1955, the family opened Berg's Ski Shop next door to the station. His brother Paul, co-owner of the store, died last winter at the age of 67. "I worked there evenings and weekends in high school," says Berg. "We shut down and went to Norway in the summer." Now, 56 years later, Berg still works at the shop, as does Svein, one of his four sons, and he still visits Norway every summer. "I've seen generations in families come through the doors with smiles on their faces," he says. "The best part of this business is helping families have fun together." Also known as "The Man About Town" on KUGN Radio at 7:20 am, Berg takes an active volunteer role in many community activities, from timing the finish line at UO track meets to boating safety checks for the Coast Guard (he previously served in the CG Reserves). He stays in shape with daily morning workouts at the DAC and weekly ski outings in season on the Wednesday Hookey Bus to Mount Bachelor. "I have my Norwegian cousins on the speed-dial," he says. "I'm on the phone with them all the time."



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