

Courts, judge want improved law education

By MARTHA BLISS
Of the Emerald

"Law Schools Warned of 'Acrimonious Tension'" headlines a recent article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Evidently, bar associations and courts throughout the nation are pressuring law schools for improved legal education.

Developments in Indiana and New York cause the schools the greatest concern.

In New York, a committee appointed by Irving Kaufman, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, proposed that lawyers wishing to practice in the circuit's federal district courts must have studied five subjects: trial advocacy, evidence, civil procedure, criminal procedure and professional responsibility. Known as the "Clare proposal," this recommendation would affect law students throughout the nation since the Second Circuit includes New York City, a popular place for lawyers.

In Indiana, the supreme court recently adopted a rule concerning state bar examination eligibility. Beginning Jan. 1, 1977, anyone wishing to take the Indiana bar examination will have to take specific courses that add up to about two-thirds of the course work of the normal student's legal education.

These developments during the past year have caused uproars in law schools throughout the nation.

What is their effect on the University's law school? Is it suffering the alleged "acrimonious tension?"

Since the developments do not specifically involve the state of Oregon, the law school is relatively removed from the problems. However, concern still persists, since New York and Indiana—like all states—are potential practice fields for any law graduate.

Law School Dean Chapin Clark finds the two developments "troublesome."

In correlation with law professors throughout the nation, he argues against the Clare proposal primarily on financial grounds. The main sore point lies in the trial advocacy course requirement.

This class, which teaches the student how to operate in a courtroom, is one of the most expensive courses a law school can offer because it requires such a small student/teacher ratio. Although almost every law school offers it, most can accommodate only a limited number of students in trial advocacy.

Oregon can handle about 40 students a semester in its trial advocacy courses on its present budget.

"On the national level, law schools are grossly underfunded," Clark remarks. "Thus, we can offer very few small-sized classes like Trial Advocacy. Small class size is supposedly a basic characteristic of graduate level education. We just don't have the finances."

Clark points out that adequate funding would provide for the smaller class size, a lower student/teacher ratio and active student participation necessary for courses like trial advocacy. He adds that if bar associations and courts require such expensive courses like trial advocacy, they should help provide the necessary funds.

The Indiana rule is even more troublesome than the Clare proposal, according to Clark. He remarks that the law student's curriculum should not be so "specific and set" as the new rule makes it.

Clark agrees that the courses required for the Indiana bar examination are valuable. However, he feels that the student's knowledge of the subject matter is the important thing, not course enrollment.

"Just because a student takes a course doesn't qualify him on (on the subject)," Clark explains. "He should be able to obtain the required subject matter any way he chooses, in or out of law schools."

Unlike Indiana, Oregon sets no prerequisite courses for its bar examination. The Oregon Bar Association merely informs its applicants of the 18 subjects covered on the examination.

Compared to Indiana's required curriculum for two-thirds of the student's legal education, Oregon sets a specific schedule for only one-third (the first year).

Killer gets death sentence

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — Erwin Charles Simants, convicted earlier this month in the shooting deaths of six members of a Sutherland family, was sentenced Thursday to die in the electric chair.

Lincoln County District Court Judge Hugh Stuart ordered Simants to be executed at 11 a.m., Wednesday, April 21, at the Nebraska Penal Complex in Lincoln.

Simants was convicted by a seven-woman, five-man jury on Jan. 17 on six counts of first-degree murder while in the commission, or attempted commission of sexual assault.

Simants confessed to murdering six members of the Henry Kellie family, three of them children, 12 hours after he shot them at point-blank range in their Sutherland, Neb., home last Oct. 18.

Immediately after sentencing, Stuart set 10 a.m. Monday for a

hearing on a defense motion for a new trial.

Under Nebraska law, the impos-

ition of the death penalty is subject to automatic review by the State Supreme Court.



Members of the Tri Balla Bounca juggling fraternity practice their skills during a club meeting. The fraternity was formed by dorm residents.

Jugglers form fraternity

By BYRON ACOHIDO
Of the Emerald

There are fraternities for scholars, for journalists and for male college students with a partiality to beer. And now, there is a fraternity for jugglers.

Several enterprising dormitory residents, recognizing the fact that "people in the dorms need something to hold them together," have formed a club for jugglers. They've named their group Tri Balla Bounca and their motto, inscribed on the back of their club shirts, is "It Takes Balls To Juggle."

Matt Ervin, a resident of Caswell dormitory, has been juggling for about a year. He introduced his roommate, Peter Thacker, to the art of tossing three or more balls into the air at the same time. From there other floor residents showed interest and the club formed naturally.

"Between jugglers there's sort of a fraternal feeling," Thacker contends. "It's something you can bullshit about in the cafeteria."

"Our meetings usually consist of three balls and a person," he says.

According to members, Tri Balla Bounca gives them something in common to do, allows them to mock "frat rats," and affords them a cheap form of recreation. Thacker adds that juggling is especially useful to the frustrated student.

"It's kind of a study break," he says, trying to keep his eye on the

three balls bouncing in and out of his hands. "It relieves tensions to juggle before classes or tests."

Some goals for the members include being able to juggle be-

hind the back or under a leg, juggling four balls at maximum speed, and juggling two balls and an apple, taking a bite out of the fruit every time it comes around.



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