

CLEP tests can provide a term for an hour

By LISA PETERSEN
Of the Emerald

For students who don't want to spend 30 hours in a class studying a subject they are already know, the University's College Level Examination Program offers a shorter alternative: an hour-long test.

If students pass a CLEP test in a particular subject, they receive University credit for a class in that subject. Two kinds of examinations are offered — general and subject.

The general exams are for students with enough background and knowledge to successfully challenge an area of study. The tests are designed to measure understanding in broad areas including social sciences, history, natural sciences and humanities.

Subject exams are comparable to taking the final examination in an undergraduate college course. The tests cover the content of a typical course in areas such as American history, Eng-

lish literature and biology.

About 20-30 students a month take CLEP tests, which are given during the third week of each month. About 40 people will be tested this month, says Evelyn Rowe, the program's supervisor. About 75 percent of the students who take CLEP tests pass them, she adds.

Many students who take the tests have taken such tests before, know how to prepare for them and do well, Rowe says.

Usually students challenge only one or two classes, but some students have challenged the equivalent of their entire freshman and sophomore years.

"Individuals I have talked to figured they are saving \$2,000 to 4,000 by being able to be tested, so they wouldn't have to be here," Rowe says. "They can complete their college education in three years instead of four."

The norms (passing grades) for the tests are based on actual performances



Graphic by Tom Ettel

of students in college classes. "That is who you are competing with when you take these tests," Rowe says. "Can you do as well as your peers?"

The passing point is just slightly above the 50 percentile, or just slightly

above what half the college population can do, Rowe says.

Rowe advises students to study one or more of the standard texts in the subject area before taking a subject examination.

Students will not receive a letter grade but the credit will count in their credit-hour totals. The limit on how many classes students can challenge depends on the number of ungraded hours they are able to accumulate, she says.

Also, students will not receive credit by examination if they have taken the examination before, if the examination covers material equivalent to or more elementary than courses in which credit has already been granted, or if the students are currently enrolled in that course or in a higher-level course in the same sequence.

The fee for each CLEP test is \$20. More information is available from the Counseling Center's testing service office at 686-3227.

Hike sought for EWEB power

Eugene Water and Electric Board consumers are facing a near-doubling of rates for power purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration.

The proposal for a hike in wholesale prices was submitted last week by the BPA to the U.S. Department of Energy, and will take effect Dec. 20 if approved.

Customers of consumer-owned utilities will pay retail rates of less than two cents per kilowatt-hour compared with a national average of nearly four cents, says Sterling Monroe, BPA administrator.

Privately-owned utilities will also pay higher rates for surplus BPA power under the proposal, he says.

Despite the price increases, wholesale rates for Northwest public utilities will remain the lowest in the nation, he adds.

The rate increase is necessary to cover the government's cost of producing and distributing the power, most of which comes from dams on the Columbia River, Monroe says.

"Everything we buy is going up in price," says a BPA representative.

Money from the rate increase would offset the increasing cost of power purchased from three nuclear power plants at the Hanford facilities in Washington, the representative says.

Tom Santee, EWEB information director, says the Eugene utility has taken part in several meetings on the proposed rate increase and has hired a consulting firm to analyze the proposal.

Garry Kunkel, EWEB rates manager, was out of town and unavailable to comment on the analysis.

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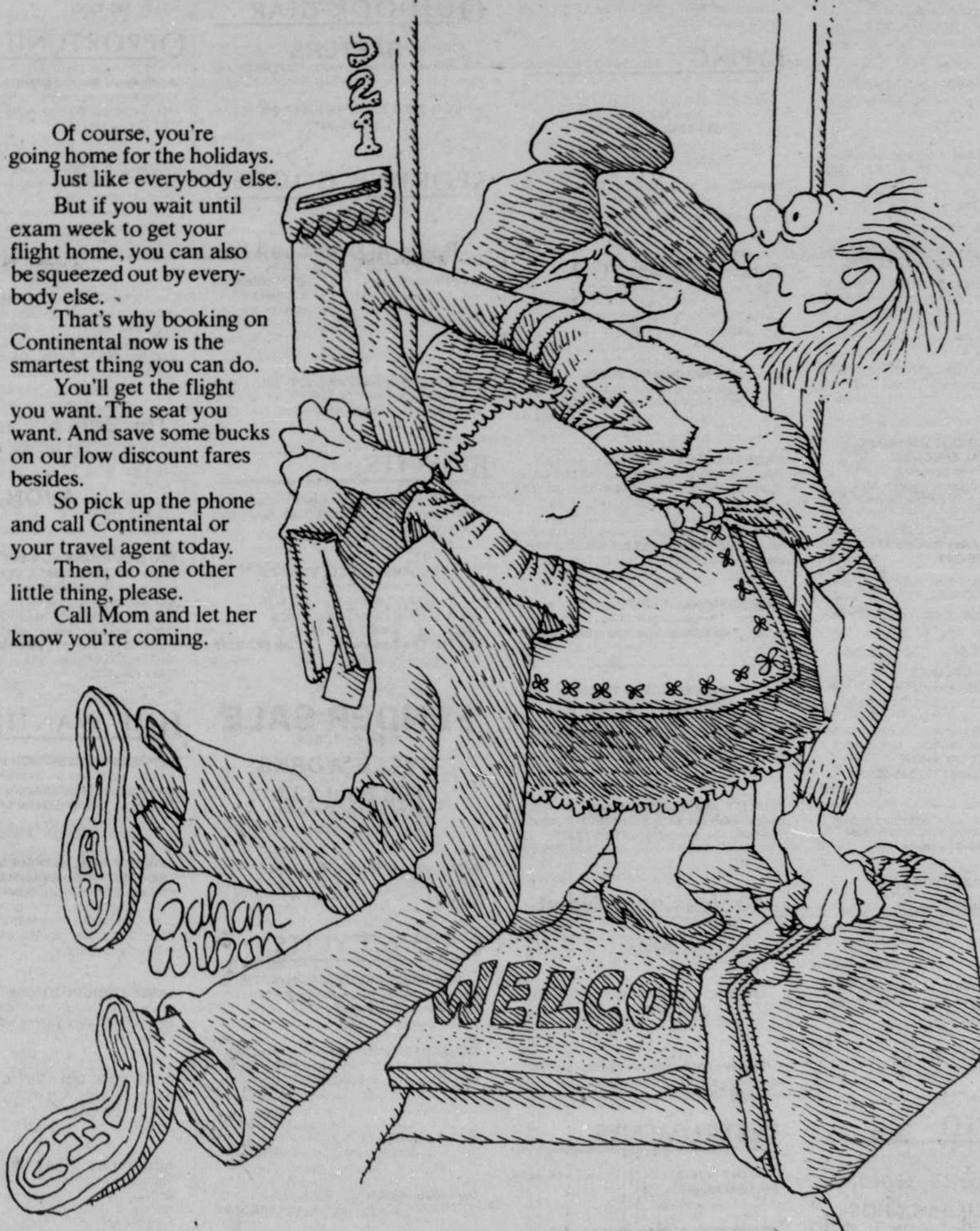
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