

University changes medical leave

By CHERYL STEINHAUS
Of the Emerald

Amendments alter health rules

Several amendments have been proposed to the University's rules governing medical leaves for students.

Under the changes, in cases where mandatory medical leave is considered, the dean of students would request assistance for and evaluation of mentally ill students by appropriate student health center professionals.

"When the old procedures were used in the past, they were difficult to administer," says administrative assistant Muriel Jackson of the proposed changes.

Previously, students were given the opportunity to consult with a private physician. But students often didn't take the initiative to seek out medical attention, and evaluations often were incomplete.

"The proposed amendments allow for protection of student's rights, and protection of the University and students from potential threats," Jackson says.

Recommendations for a student's medical leave could be made by faculty or students who feel an individual is endangering others or is a disruption to the classroom.

If the recommendations warrant an investigation, the dean of students would forward a written explanation to the student health center director for further evaluation.

The center director then would diagnose the nature of the danger to University staff and students or the educational process.

"Students have a right not to

have anyone interfere with their health problems, as long as they do not pose a threat to others," says health center director Jim Jackson.

If a student refuses to consult the health center, the dean of students would notify the student's parents and ask for their cooperation.

The student then would be informed that the University has submitted a request for his or her medical leave.

The next step would be a formal conference where the student could answer questions and discuss the situation.

A psychiatrist of the University's choice would attend the conference for observational and testimonial purposes. The student also could have a physician present for comment.

"Although cases where mandatory leaves are required are infrequent, it's important that clear action is taken and that the student is assured full due process," says dean of students Robert Bowlin.

Students also would have the option of appealing to the associate provost for student affairs if a procedural error has occurred.

Students who leave the University on a medical leave could return after any health problems are resolved and after gaining the approval of the health center director.

"The student will not be barred from the University," Bowlin says. "A student is guaranteed enrollment provided academic qualifications are met."

After reviewing comments from the community on the proposed changes, the University will file the amendments with the secretary of state's office.

"Before we come to that point, we will try to touch bases with all affected people, so that we can be sure there is a general agreement on the changes," Jackson says.

Copies of the amendment are available in the University President's office, Room 110 Johnson Hall, the ASUO President's office, Suite 4 EMU, and the reference desk at the library.

The last day to submit comments is May 15.

Symposium will include minority views

The 1981 Women's Symposium achieves a mixture of presentations by lesbian and straight, minority and Caucasian women.

In contrast to last year's symposium, which was canceled after minority and Caucasian women were unable to agree on programming, this year's symposium will attempt to include any interested women's groups, according to symposium organizers.

The symposium begins Tuesday and will conclude Friday. Feature speakers will be Merle Woo, who teaches at the University of California at Berkeley; Nilak Butler of the American Indian Movement; Susan Morales of El Centro de la Raza, a Chicano group; and Denise Carty-Bennia, law professor at Northeastern University and member of the National Conference of Black Lawyers.

The symposium will include workshops, panel discussions, music, films and a coalition-building potluck supper. The panel discussions and workshops will include a program on Tuesday titled "Racism: Taking Action." Sponsored by the YWCA Racial Justice Committee, the program will focus on institutional and personal racism.

Other programs will include "Fat is a Feminist Issue," "Breastfeeding Today," "Pregnancy and Pre-Natal Care," "Christianity: Feminine Mystique or Faith in Action?" and "Sexual Victimization of Children."

Music will be performed by First Light, a Eugene all-women rock and roll band, Niobeh, a black woman musician, and Emmy Fox and Nancy Sitz.

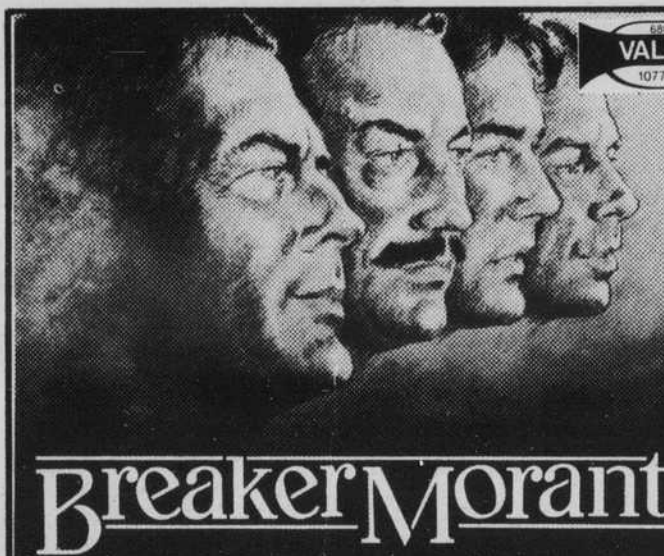
For further information, contact the symposium office, Suite One EMU, 686-4732.

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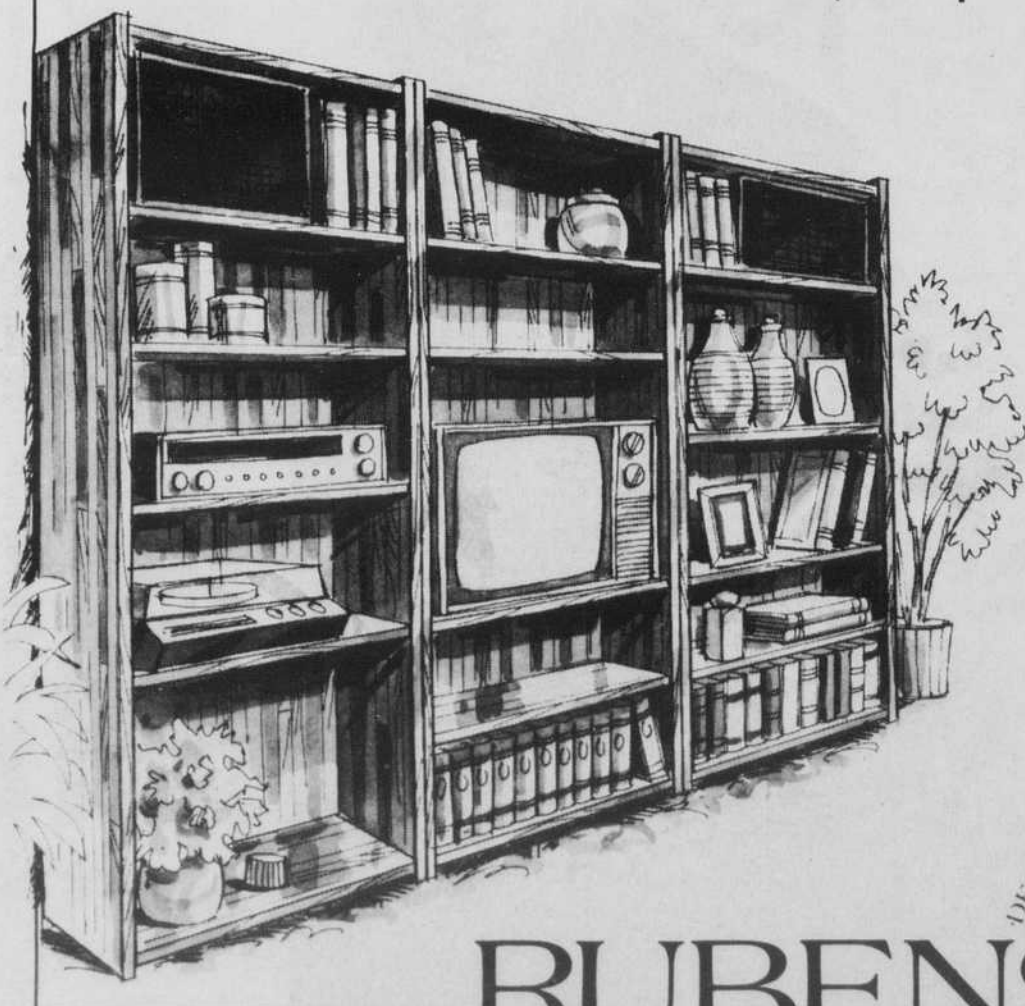
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