

The possibility of preregistration

It is ironic that in spite of all its talk of high-technology, the University lags behind Oregon State and all the major West Coast universities in computer registration.

Currently, computer registration — even preregistration — is still a mere dream at the University.

The major asset of advanced registration by computer is to avoid conflicts between student demands, class offerings and classroom space. In general, preregistration allows the University to plan ahead so students won't have to take as many "leftover" courses due to close outs.

Students wishing to take journalism, computer science or physical education classes know what leftover classes are all about. In fact, students are taking second- and third-choice classes until their senior year.

A preregistration program would encourage academic advising and planning. Since students would submit the courses in advance, the University would, ideally, have time to compensate for under and over-enrollment in classes.

Computer registration (pre-registration with all the administrative tasks computerized) would better utilize class space and decrease student hassles with closed classes. It might even put an end to those long, tedious lines.

Computer registration would aid Oregon Hall by coordinating tuition, fees, records, and other administrative information in one system.

A University report, compiled in 1981, suggests that a preregistration deposit and increased computerized student financial aid coordination could enable computer registration to pay for itself.

So, why are we the only school left in the Pac-10 without at least preregistration?

The excuse used to be hardware. First we didn't have the right machine. Then, in 1981, we got an IBM 4341.

For the last 10 years registrars and computer center directors have had problems finding the right software program.

Art Gloster, head of the computer center until 1981, adopted a program from Appalachian State University that had been modified at the University of Alabama. At the time, that program and others were considered unsuitable for the University.

Now computer scientists here and in private industry inform us that they have the capability of adapting a program for preregistration. Some are even willing to do it, despite the history of setbacks.

Another long-standing problem is that student records are not computerized. A registration package would require uniting computerized student record files and a rewritten time schedule. This is time consuming, but certainly not an impossible job. It could be accomplished by reorganizing manpower in the registrar's office.

So, what keeps the University from implementing a preregistration program appears to be personnel problems and priorities.

The computer center and Oregon Hall have been unable — or have refused, we don't know which — to work together to establish computer registration.

No one person in a position of power seems to want to take responsibility for seeing a preregistration program through.

For the University to have computer registration, our old-fashioned ways of registering would have to change. Personnel would have to be mandated by the administration to see a program through to completion.

It requires courage to enter the computer age.

The University has promised students preregistration for the last 10 years. It has studied the possibilities long enough. It is time for a implementation.

We make the following suggestions:

First, personnel hours must be prioritized at the computer center and in the registrar's office to computerize student records and the time schedule of classes.

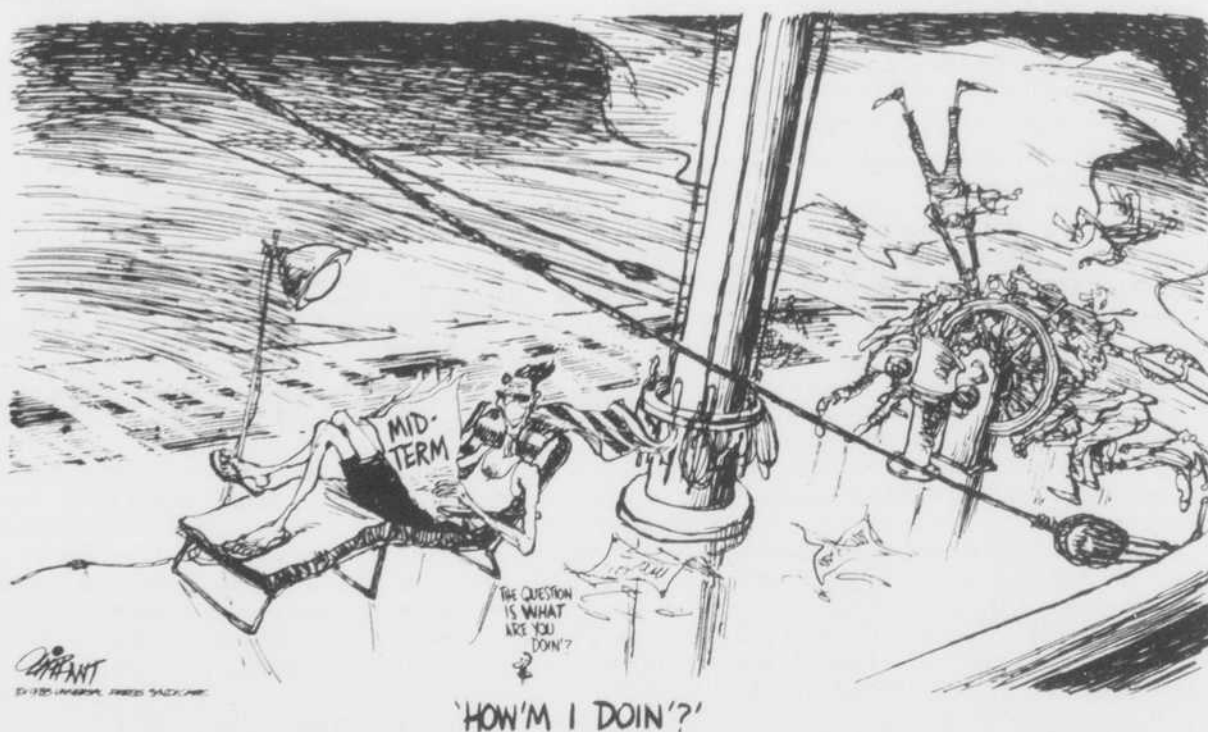
Next, a program, any program that has a reasonable chance of working, should be adopted. The registrar's office should stop holding out for the program that will meet all their needs to the detriment of the students.

During summer term 1983 a test group of 100 to 300 students should use the preregistration system to register for fall classes.

If the program works, it should be implemented immediately. If it needs refinement, hours should be allotted for this.

For the last but not least suggestion: the administration should carry through with its promise to conduct a "demand analysis" — a tally of courses requested by returning — for fall 1983.

Computer registration is not the panacea for all the problems of student demand, but it's a large step toward becoming a modern university.



letters

Mailroom

In the Carson mailroom a laundry-basket bin full of letters, magazines, IRS forms and aerogrammes, some of which date back as far as Christmas, have not yet been delivered to students. These pieces of mail bask in the bin simply because they lack full or correct addresses.

A human error on the sender's part may translate into as much as a three-week delay in the mailroom. Ostensibly, mailroom workers just don't have time to deal with misaddressed mail.

A letter that has been addressed without, say, the proper box number slows down the mail distribution process. But a three-week backlog hardly seems necessary. Even the U. S. Post Office would blush at the thought.

I don't blush at the thought, but I do turn red — livid with anger. This kind of carelessness with my mail could potentially cost me money, a job, a friendship or a family tie. To say nothing of all the other students who never knew their mail was being treated in a slapdash fashion.

No doubt the situation has not arisen from laziness among mailroom workers, but rather, from a lack of sufficient personnel to handle the regular volume of mail and particularly "problem mail."

I suggest the situation be remedied immediately. You wouldn't let a laundry basket full of dirty clothes sit around

and fester for three weeks, so why do it with our mail?

Susan Andrews
graduate, journalism

Academic

I am writing in response to the leading article in the Jan. 14 Emerald regarding the Physical Education Department.

It is an insult, at least to this member of the GTF teaching staff, that the "(student) can leave behind the academic atmosphere when they enter Esslinger Hall."

Granted, the "P.E. Department is open for business," but does this business not also function to educate the students as to the "why" of exercise? I feel it should, and in most classes does.

Activity classes, of course, must contain plenty of activity, but as well, the student must realize what is happening inside their body as they perform certain movements. It seems to me that knowing such things as correct form and technique and safety factors in the weight room, basic structure and function of the human body, as well as other knowledge pertinent to human movement, represent academia.

Hopefully, the student will be offered some guidance in attaining a higher level of fitness and lifestyle through taking certain activity classes. Whoever said that a student can forget academia when they enter Esslinger Hall

would do well to reconsider their statement.

J. David Symons
graduate, exercise physiology

Causes

Michael Cross' article concerning capital punishment was well supported. However, if Michael had ever studied discrimination in our society, he would quickly realize that Blacks far outnumber other groups on death row. Blacks and other minorities confronting the adversary system cannot afford to pay successful lawyers like F. Lee Bailey. Therefore, they are supported by recent law school graduates just learning the ropes.

For example, Hurricane Carter was charged for murder discrimination, unemployment and the availability to purchase guns.

Europe has a low murder rate and no capital punishment. The English police carry no guns.

I believe the cause of crime must be thoroughly examined before we make a hasty decision regarding capital punishment. Why do people murder? Will the fear of death deter the motive to kill? Every increase in the percentage of people unemployed in our nation leads to a corresponding increase of murder. What's Ronald doing to our society anyway?

Drew O'Rourke
senior, sociology

oregon daily emerald

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