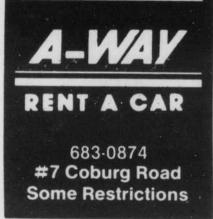
00000 0000 Q. Where can you get ANY drink for \$1? A. at

on Wednesday Night!

Jack Daniels-Cuervo-Bailey s-LIT's-Daiquiries-Margaritas-Wall Bangers-Singapore Sling-Amaretto Sour-Seagrams-YOU NAME ITI *

* except Grand Marnier 440 Coburg Rd. • 343-1221 ∞ 0000

Weekend Special \$2700 200 FREE MILES Pick up on Friday, **Return Same Time** Monday



john healy Pay up or get out

Sports are often full of inequities.

I realized the truth to that statement in the eighth grade.

I only wish this University would realize it now.

In the eighth grade, I played water polo for the local Boy's Club in Hilo, Hawaii. I played right guard on a team with a parttime coach, an aversion to practicing and an every-man-for-himself attitude.

We were entered in a tournament at the local Naval Air Station pool, a tournament that had drawn teams from all over the Hawaiian islands to my home town.

After three games we were 0-3, had scored but four goals and had given up 32. In our fourth game we faced Kamehameha, an all ethnic Hawaiian high school in Honolulu that actively recruited quality athletes from throughout the state.

We were behind 13-0 with just a few minutes left in the game when I took a long pass from our goalie and sprinted for the opponent's goal. As I reared up in front of Kam's goal, arm cocked for a meaningless goal, a Kam defenseman buried me under six feet of water.

I didn't score. I cried instead, my face buried underwater so no one could see my tears of frustration and pain.

That moment came back to me in vivid detail late last week while I sat in Athletic Director Rick Bay's office.

Bay and I had talked of the problems at this University, the lack of money, the losing football and basketball teams, the cynicism and frustration that Bay has fought through in his stay in the state of Oregon.

As Bay searched for a light at the end of a seemingly endless tunnel, I remembered what my Boy's Club team had done years ago. We had gathered for a team meeting with our coach, and we had argued for hours over the form our water polo team should take in the years to come.

The consensus had been to play teams of our own caliber from that day on. Teams that didn't recruit players with scholarship offers. Teams that didn't practice yearround, or have two full-time coaches.

We decided to play at the level we could support.

And that is what Oregon should do in intercollegiate athletics. Because of the lack of public financial support for the University's athletic program, I think the Ducks should leave the Pac-10 and go in search of a conference more in tune with their support base.

I have heard the arguments for staying in the conference from University Pres. Paul Olum on down to the bartender at my favorite drinking establishment. The help it gives to the University's academic side, the recognition it brings, the free advertising nationally for our University, our city, our state, even the Northwest.

But those arguments haven't swayed my conviction. Nor has the notion that stepping "down" to a league like the Western Athletic Conference would bring less exciting contests to Autzen Stadium or McArthur Court or Hayward Field.

A decision must be made about the form and future of the University's intercollegiate athletic program. Either the people of this state - and this city and University - must provide more than token financial support, or they must accept the consequences.

Those consequences can take only two roads. One is a road of being a perpetual also-ran, a road that requires living like a pauper and looking like one. The other road is to leave the Pac-10 for less competitive pastures that would actually prove more competitive.

Personally, I would much rather see the University remain in the Pac-10. But not if people in Oreogn will offer at best a tepid response to Bay's pleas for more money.

It always amazes me that many people in Oregon would never dream of allowing "their" school to leave the Pac-10, yet they remain blind to the specter of a University atheltic program that lurches and limps like a soddened wino.

I'm sure other programs - and their fans - notice the spectacle we present to the world. It seems to me that that image provides the world a negative rather than positive view of this University.

And I believe something must be done to alter our image.

Bay expresses a great distaste in even thinking about the possibility of leaving the Pac-10. "I consciously try to stay away from ultimatums," he told me.

But if the situation continues unchanged, the frustration among University fans will mount, the condition of athletic facilities will diminish, more and more coaches will leave for better-paying programs, and the deficits will grow ever heavier.

What can a new conference like the WAC offer?

Competition at the level the University can fund. Schools that have athletic budgets equivalent to this University's. Populations that are at best lukewarm about intercollegiate athletics, much as this state's population.

Isn't it better to play with a 50-50 chance of winning than to always be the underdog? Doesn't the feeling that your team at least has a chance sit much better with you on a cold, windy day, than the prospect of another 20-point loss?

And finally, doesn't the chance of a possible slot in the Holiday Bowl or Liberty Bowl keep you a little warmer than the seemingly impossible chance of going to the Rose Bowl?

The people of this state need to ask those questions of themselves. Only they can provide the answers.





For the Finest Selection of Fall and Winter Clothing - See Us

Jacket Sale in Progress



OUTFITT

"Eugene's Professional Outfitter" 771 Willamette and Vally River Center

Recycle this paper

Page 8, Section B

Wednesday, November 9, 1983