

Oregon Daily Emerald

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Fixing nature

Two city of Eugene employees prepare to stand this 30-foot-tall Dutch Elm in front of the Delta Gamma sorority house at 8 o'clock Wednesday morning. This \$416 tree was paid for by the sorority and is one of 14 trees the city is planting in the West University Neighborhood to replace trees killed this summer by Dutch Elm Disease.

Photo by Michael Wilhelm

Independent-status changes may cost students money

By Chris Norred

Of the Emerald

Nearly half the University's undergraduate, independent students, may lose their independent status for financial aid purposes when new federal criteria take effect next year.

The new criteria will include two major changes in the definition of an independent student.

Those two changes will define an independent student as one who is 24 years old or older by Dec. 31 of the year for which the aid is sought, or one who "was not claimed as a dependent by a parent or guardian for income-tax purposes for the two calendar years preceding the award year and demonstrates total self-sufficiency . . . by demonstrating an annual total income of \$4,000," excluding financial aid income, for each of those two years.

Students may also qualify as independent by meeting other criteria such as being a graduate student or married student, a veteran, an orphan, a parent, or an exception to the rules as determined by a financial aid administrator.

The changes in the independent-student definition

could potentially affect 48 percent of the University's undergraduate students who qualify as independent under the present rules, said Ed Vignoul, director of the University's Office of Student Financial Aid.

Of the 2,746 undergraduate, independent students who received financial aid at the University this year, 1,324 or 48 percent do not meet the 24 year age requirement.

A few of those students would not be affected by the changed definition because they also meet one of the other criteria by which they can qualify as independents, Vignoul said.

The other major change in student financial aid programs has already been implemented. Guaranteed Student Loans now require applicants to complete a Financial Aid Form needs test to determine eligibility.

Under the old rules of the GSL program, a needs test was not required and students whose parents made less than \$30,000 a year could replace the expected parental contribution with the GSL, Vignoul said.

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Jury favors sporting goods store in Brathwaite trial proceedings

By Dennis Fernandes

Of the Emerald

A Lane County jury ruled in favor of a downtown sporting goods store in a suit charging that the store did not adequately secure military-type weapons.

The verdict, handed down Wednesday morning in Lane County Circuit Court, culminates a three-week trial in which Sharon Brathwaite sought more than \$1.7 million as part of a lawsuit against Anderson's Sporting Goods, 199 W. Eighth Ave.

Anderson's was accused of not adequately storing the display weapons that were stolen in a pre-dawn burglary on Nov. 12, 1984, and used in the shooting death of Brathwaite's husband, former University student and two-time Olympian Christopher Brathwaite.

Former University student Michael Evan Feher broke into Anderson's at about 4:10 a.m. by smashing the glass front door of the store with a baseball bat.

He then reportedly stole two semi-automatic weapons — a Colt AR-15 and Reuger Mini-14 — and stationed himself atop the rim of Autzen Stadium. From there he shot Brathwaite as he was jogging on Prefontaine's Trail near the stadium.

Feher also shot at former University wrestler Rick O'Shea who was leaving the weight room underneath the stadium. Although Feher's shot missed, O'Shea did suffer injuries from shrapnel.

Feher committed suicide a short time later. Springfield Attorney William Wiswall, who represented Brathwaite, claimed the theft was a direct cause of Brathwaite's death because Ander-

son's did not "improve" security measures after four similar burglaries that had occurred since 1980.

William Cowling, the Medford attorney representing Anderson's, contended that Anderson's lived up to security obligations with a silent alarm system, which aided in the direct apprehension of three of the four burglars in those prior attempts.

The four-woman, eight-man jury deliberated for seven hours over two days before reaching its verdict. Judge Douglas Spencer polled the jury and found it 10-2 in favor of the defendant.

Anderson's owner Harvey Fox wept with relief after the verdict was announced.

"It's been a long ordeal for everyone," Cowling said.

He told reporters afterward that the valid point was, "the jury felt security was adequate, and the blame was rightly placed."

Brathwaite, although disappointed, believes she "made a point" and said the suit was filed as "a matter of principal" and not for monetary reasons, she said.

"I think people are more aware of this issue now, and I hope this case will affect security decisions in the future," she said.

Wiswall said they would consider an appeal but he didn't think they would actually pursue it.

He also disclosed that Brathwaite was awarded \$900,000 by the Feher estate in an earlier, out-of-court settlement. He added that Aetna Insurance Corp. is appealing that decision, and results of that process should be available soon.

Riverfront Research Park draws debate over classified research

By Stan Nelson

Of the Emerald

Administrators response to the University Senate's request for comment on the Riverfront Research Park dominated the majority of the Senate meeting on Wednesday.

Faculty concerns arose over the nature of research to be conducted at the park. There is currently a ban on weapons research, but because classified research is not allowed on the University campus, some faculty members believe a ban on classified research should also be applied to the research park.

Faculty members have stated correctly that research flourishes best under open research conditions, said John Moseley, University vice president for research.

"Unfortunately, the reality is regardless of whatever we do there will be a lot of secret research in this park in the form of proprietary research," he said, referring to research a company chooses to keep secret even when it is not required by the government to do so.

"It is truly impossible to develop a park that transfers the University's restrictions," he added.

The University does allow businesses that sponsor research on campus a short period of time to seek a patent, he said. Without the option to protect its own research, businesses will not develop at the park, Moseley said.

"I am personally confident that given the ban on weapons research and the general tenure of this community . . . the chances of a company actually wishing to locate in Eugene in order to do classified research is essentially zero," Moseley said.

Ambiguity arises in the interpretation of

what a ban on weapons research actually means, said Frank Stahl, biology professor and proponent of a classified research ban at the park. Any resultant research from the Department of Defense funding could be considered weapons research if the research has transfer capabilities, Stahl said.

The University faculty passed a resolution in 1966 that removed classified research from campus. Allowing classified research to be conducted at the research park, which the University supports by assisting in its creation, is hypocritical, Stahl said.

The Strategic Defense Initiative funds the same type of basic research as does the National Science Foundation, said University President Paul Olum. Basic research can be applied to both business and military, and sometimes it is difficult to make a distinction, he said. Olum believes the University and the city can distinguish between the two.

Olum agreed with faculty concerns that there should be an individual, possibly a member of the Riverfront Research Park Research Advisory Group, to assess questionable classified research conducted at the park, he said.

Faculty members opposing classified research at the park should oppose the whole idea of the park and reject the whole idea of the park, Olum said.

Six to nine months are necessary to develop a master plan for the development of the park, Moseley said. Once the plan is developed, then the City of Eugene can proceed with the infrastructure of lighting,

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