

## Drug-testing opinion will ease controversy

The University is referring the legal controversy surrounding the Athletic Department's new drug-testing policy to the Oregon State Attorney General, seeking a formal opinion on issues raised by opponents of the policy.

Seeking such an opinion is a logical step in the ongoing debate surrounding the policy, and we applaud the administration for taking this step.

Opponents and supporters of the policy are basically deadlocked at this point, and the possibility of the questions raised ending up in a lawsuit are unacceptably high. Thus it is beneficial to seek mediation from an off-campus source, the attorney general.

It was also wise for the administration to use the suggestions of the ACLU and the ASUO Office of Student Advocacy, the chief opponents of the policy, in formulating the questions sent to the attorney general.

A key issue is whether formal rule-making process guidelines apply to the implementation of the program. We hope the attorney general believes the program, which has severe implications for athletes' educations and civil rights, is distinct from other participation and training requirements, which have not been put through the formal rule-making process.

The request also asks for opinions on the constitutional issues raised, such as whether the consent forms every athlete must sign are valid, and whether participating in athletics is a right or a privilege. Hopefully, the attorney general will uphold students' rights in regards to these questions as well.

We stress our earlier position that while the University is dealing with questions surrounding the policy, the policy should be temporarily suspended for those athletes who feel it is a violation of their rights.

That suggestion is even more feasible now, because such a suspension would have a fairly clear duration — six to eight weeks for the attorney general to develop his opinion — and a clear resolution. Furthermore, if the attorney general's opinion holds that the policy or its implementation is improper, the University will face additional liability if the opinion supports athletes' objections.

In the interest of fairness to athletes who are directly affected by the questions going to the attorney general, let the athletes play while the questions are being resolved.

Resolution is badly needed in this case; asking for the attorney general's opinion is an honest and welcome attempt to resolve the controversy surrounding the drug-testing policy.



## Letters

### Alleviate woes

I noticed in Friday's letters that Jeff Selis is frustrated with our arena-style scheduling (ODE, Jan. 9). The following step-by-step process should alleviate such woes.

1) Spring, '87: Get your packet and put it in your backpack. Go to Lost Packets and pretend that you've lost your packet. Proceed to schedule in the spring with that newly-made packet.

2) Fall, '88: Retrieve last spring's original packet from your backpack and pre-schedule with it as if it were for the fall. Here's where you avoid the rush as you can select your courses as early in the afternoon of the first day of scheduling as you wish.

3) Fall, '88: When you're free to collect your actual fall packet, do so; then proceed to retrace your steps of earlier that day or the previous day.

4) Fall, '88: When told that the classes that you wish to select are full, simply show them that you are indeed on the list and that they forgot to stamp your packet.

Some final notes. It's important to pretend when called upon, but try not to overdo it. It

helps to even look a little confused. Learn how to roll with the punches of bureaucracy. Register drunk.

Tim Jaques  
Senior

### Change major

Michael Cross should change his major to creative writing. He has style and a vivid imagination when it comes to defining terms such as "Darwinism", "evolutionary" and "secular."

To aid the unwary who might accidentally take him seriously: Darwinism is a theory of biological and not social change. Attempts to apply theories formulated for the physical sciences to the social sciences generally result in some fairly strained analogies at best.

Furthermore, extinction due to maladaptation is the natural result of a particular evolutionary trend; to call it "anti-evolutionary" is absurd.

While Cross's notion of "secular" seems a bit odd, his suggestion that "secularism" is genetically transmitted is truly novel.

Finally, I would like to point out that the secular adherents of many of the world's major religions stand a better chance of reproducing than non-secular members, as many of the latter are required to (or voluntarily) practice celibacy.

Hiawatha  
Graduate, music

### Thank you

Sunday, Jan. 11, 1987 will always hold bitter-sweet memories for me.

I was in a very serious auto accident on Highway 126 near Cedar Flats; had it not been for my wearing a seat belt, I would not be here today. Please think twice about whether to buckle up when traveling.

The people I encountered were all wonderful: the emergency ward staff at Eugene Clinic, the owners of the property on which I crashed,

friends, and family. Thank you all for your kindness, sensitivity and support.

I would like to thank in particular the two men who helped me right after the crash. When the first man said he smelled gas and I was trapped inside, he must have sensed my panic and began to calm me.

He was very encouraging as he pulled me from the wreckage and checked my injuries. He assured me I was going to be okay, and he helped prevent me from becoming hysterical. If you're reading this — thank you so much, you'll never know how much it meant to me.

The second man who rushed me to the hospital was also great. His training as a special education instructor at Springfield High School must have directed him to keep me awake and distract me from the pain and realization of what had happened. Thank you for your insight and compassion.

People who say that goodwill in humankind is lost are wrong. To all the wonderful people who assisted me on that terrible day, thank you so very much.

Karen Stone  
Education

### Faithfully

Much as I admire Sean Axmaker as a film reviewer — something I can say of very few others in the same field — I think he should perhaps give credit where credit is due.

His review "The Mosquito Coast" (ODE Jan. 8) seems to ignore Paul Theroux's extraordinary novel, which was transferred faithfully — strengths and weaknesses — to the screen in Peter Weir's direction of Paul Schrader's screenplay.

Michael E. Stamm  
Graduate secretary,  
English department

Thursday, January 15, 1987

### Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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