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Ruck and maul with
the rugby team
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Teachers' education contested

By Nick Reed
Of the Emerald

Five bills introduced into the House last week would, if passed, take a bite out of the apple of teacher certification in Oregon.

The bills were inspired by a study of the teaching profession in Oregon completed last September by a citizen's advisory committee. The report was submitted to the Joint Interim Committee on Education.

According to the latest figures available from the state Department of Education, there are nearly 26,000 teachers in Oregon public schools. About 1,400 students graduate each year from Oregon schools of education and are certified to teach. On the average, only about 400 get jobs.

And those lucky enough to find a teaching position join the ranks of what is the most underpaid professional group in the nation.

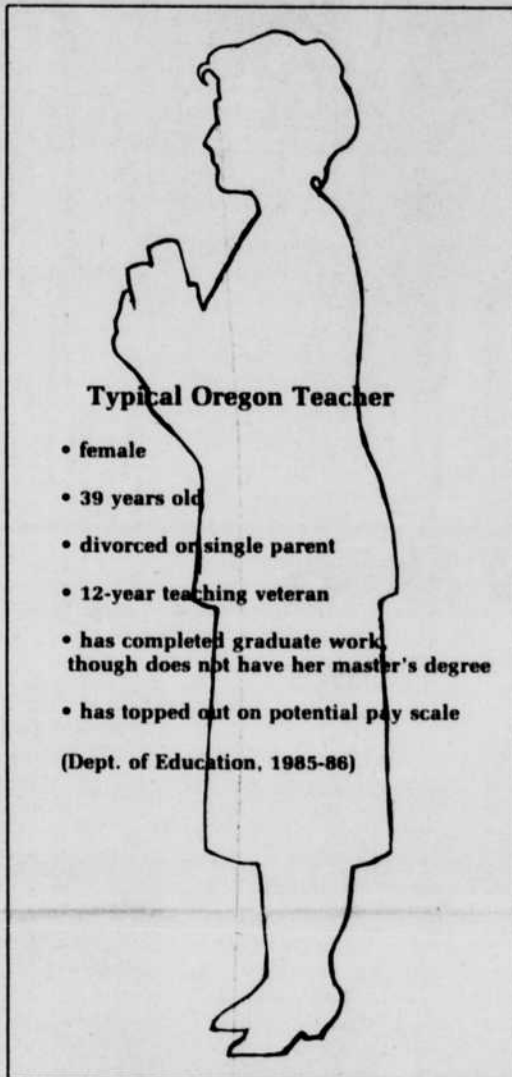
The advisory group researched different aspects of teaching in Oregon and submitted their findings in the form of a report, entitled "Teaching As A Profession: The Challenge For Oregon."

Not only did the advisory committee find that Oregon was preparing too many teachers, but they concluded that there will be no teacher shortage in the near future.

Another alarming finding of the committee stated that Oregon, like other parts of the country, seems to be drawing its prospective teachers from the middle and lower academic ranks of college graduates. Several national studies also suggest school districts tend not to hire those who performed best at college.

Based on American College Test (ACT) scores from Oregon's high school class of 1985, prospective teachers averaged 60 points

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Insurance company acquires controversial health account

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

The Texas Board of Insurance approved the acquisition of Keystone Life Insurance Co. by United Insurance Company, Inc. as of Jan. 1, 1987, said Mary Ann Maher, an account executive with Keystone.

Keystone is the contracted ASUO student health insurance program carrier. Maher said letters explaining the situation in full will be sent early this week to schools who have contracted with Keystone for the 1986-87 school year.

Insurance Coordinator Shirley Chase has not received full details of the acquisition, but learned of the acquisition by

phone on Friday, Feb. 20, she said. She said she is hoping to hear more sometime this week.

Keystone went into conservatorship at the end of January and requested assistance from the Texas Board of Insurance. The company was having some difficulty gaining reinsurance, which enables an insurance carrier to share insurance risk with other companies. This in turn allows a small insurance company to underwrite more policies without having to develop actual capital assets, said Steve Beckley of Bryerly and Co., the consultant who worked with the ASUO in negotiating the contract with Keystone in the Feb. 10 Oregon Daily Emerald.

IFC postpones appointments due to rising debate over senate role in hiring

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

The Student Senate confirmed eight ASUO appointments and postponed one confirmation amid controversy and confusion Monday.

Debate arose during the con-

firmation of Incidental Fee Committee appointee Jeff Wheeler and Constitutional Court appointee Richard Wiener. Senators argued on having these two appointees appear before the senate before

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Surrogate motherhood creates controversy over ethics

By Mary Courtis
and
Lucinda Dillon
Of the Emerald

"Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other."

So spoke Solomon when he was called to decide which of two women was the mother of a baby in the Old Testament. His harsh but ingenious judgement prompted the real parent to renounce her claims to the child and thus, truth was revealed.

Unfortunately the case of surrogate mother Mary Beth Whitehead vs. William and Elizabeth Stern is not so easily or cleanly resolved.

Although no ruling has been made on this case to date, it has touched off a widespread national debate on surrogate mothers and the ethics of the artificial fertilization in general; a debate that we are far from resolving.

The questions are many. Is a woman's womb something she can or should be allowed to rent? Should the use of surrogate mothers be a legitimate option for couples who are unable to have their own children? What are the implications of this sensitive and complex issue and how does it relate to other controversial issues like abortion, sperm banks and fetal abuse?

Whose daughter is Baby M? Whitehead is the child's natural mother. But William Stern is her natural father. Both parties would seem to have legitimate claim to the child on biological grounds. So what is the basis by which we can decide legally or morally where Baby M belongs?

Emotionally, it is possible to empathize with Whitehead when she says: "Seeing her, holding her... she was my child. It overpowered me. I had no control. I had to keep her." But assertions by William Stern's also must be considered thoughtfully. "I am the father and I want my daughter back."

Unfortunately, there is no legal precedent for a case like that of Whitehead vs. Stern. Surrogate motherhood — at least the formal, high-tech, contractual kind — is a relatively new phenomenon. Only 600 babies have

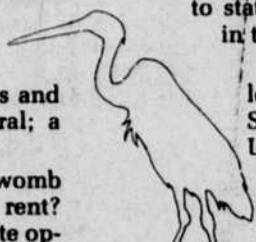
been born to surrogate mothers in the last decade and only one other case has wound up in court.

There is currently a case in California where a 20-year-old Mexican woman is withholding a child she had agreed to carry for her cousin, according to an article in the San Diego Union.

Judge William Pate has postponed ruling on the case until late February, but has said initially that the contract made between the two cousins, which would grant \$1,500 to the surrogate mother, is legally binding. This is the first case in California to support the protection of surrogate contracts under state and federal law.

Some lawyers and other legal officials are hesitant to state what the proper or appropriate action in this instance is.

"Currently there is no case law and no legislation on surrogate mothers," said Steven Shepard of the Legal Aide Service of Lane County. "There's no law on the books."



When The Stork
Doesn't Deliver

Graphic by Lorraine Rath

Shepard indicated this situation may change in the future. A bill has been introduced at the state level by Senator Larry Hill that would outlaw the practice of surrogate motherhood in Oregon, Shepard said. The bill currently is being considered by a committee.

Nationally, there are rumblings as well. In September the National Committee for Adoption came out in favor of banning the practice, and other critics argue that the surrogate contract should be revised to allow the natural mother several days or weeks after the birth to change her mind.

Noel Keane is a Detroit lawyer who has been arranging surrogate contracts for 12 years. He thinks the New Jersey state courts should support the Sterns in this test case. "I hope the court enforces this agreement as a written contract that has been terminated," Keane said in a recent telephone interview.

Turn to Surrogate, Page 4

Editor's note: This is the first in a four-part series that will examine the options available to those people unable to have children by choice or for medical or legal reasons. The series will examine thoroughly areas of surrogate parenting and adoption, as well as the legal, moral and ethical implications of these options. In other stories, the technological options for infertile men and women will be introduced followed by a story that will focus on those people who remain childless by choice.

Lawyer explains process of drawing up contracts for surrogate, parents

By Lucinda Dillon
Of the Emerald

In 1976 a couple came to lawyer Noel Keane with an unusual request: they wanted him to find them a surrogate mother.

"I tried to advertise for them and no newspapers would allow it," Keane said in a recent telephone interview. His ads finally were accepted by the college newspapers at Eastern Michigan and Wayne State in Michigan, and soon one of the first formal surrogate contracts in the United States was arranged.

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