

Law school tuition increase necessary

All the future Perry Masons who plan to attend law school here will soon have to go through more of a trial just to get through school.

Last week, the State Board of Higher Education approved a bill which will increase tuition fees by 25 percent for in-state students and 60 percent for out-of-staters. The plan will affect only new students to the school and will start next fall.

So the total tuition bill for in-state students by 1992, when the plan is completely in place, will be \$3,960 a year compared to the \$3,166 they now pay. For the lucky out-of-state student, the yearly fee will go from the \$4,768 they pay now to a grand total of \$7,605 by 1992. Quite a hefty increase, we'd say.

So what's the reason for this hike in tuition fees? It comes down to a matter of emergency action. This summer, the American Bar Association threatened to take away the school's professional accreditation, mainly because the school is poorly lacking in library funds and faculty members. The additional monies from the tuition hike, which will provide an extra \$274,125 per year, will go toward more library books and periodicals and possible salary increases for the faculty.

Although we aren't crazy about the excessive tuition increase for out-of-staters, it seems the action had to be taken for the school to maintain its quality. The proposed fees would make the University prices comparable to those of the University of Colorado's law school, which charges \$7,600 a year for non-residents.

However, the University's law school is already poorly lacking in minority students. This hike will make it far less likely that underprivileged students will consider our law school. Ironically, President Brand recently pledged to strengthen the University's programs to assist minority students and to work to recruit more minorities to this campus.

So with the extra money the tuition hike brings, the law school should set up some sort of assistance for minorities entering the school, such as a scholarship fund. Such an action is the least the University can do, if it is as serious about attracting more minorities as it says it is.

If no plans are made to assist prospective minorities in the law school, the University might as well plead guilty to doublespeak. And it can be assured that we the jury won't show much mercy in such a case.



Commercializing hot springs is a bad idea

Depending on how you look at it, natural hot springs can be thought of as either a peaceful, serene spot for spiritual growth or a killer place to party hardy.

These two opinions obviously conflict with each other, and problems arise as a result. The Cougar Reservoir springs, located about 50 miles from Eugene, has been at the center of such a controversy lately. In the past year, thefts, assaults and drug use have increased an estimated 20 percent in the area. So the U.S. Forest Service is planning to restructure the operation of the hot springs, but they aren't sure to what extent as of yet.

Plans for the springs range from a slight change in the present minimal supervision to complete commercialization of the attraction. The Forest Service feels that some people don't feel comfortable going to the springs, because of the so-called "counterculture" the place draws.

If we Eugenians can't be accepting of its offbeat characters, we're in major trouble,

seeing how we're known to have quite a surplus of such people. The problem that needs to be addressed is not the eccentricity of the visitors, but the criminal activity that occurs in the woods.

Commercialization of the springs, such as restricting visitation to daytime, prohibiting nudity and charging admission, would be a big mistake on the part of the Forest Service. To "citize" the natural environment would most definitely detract from the springs' primitive beauty and spirituality.

The Service needs to instead take action against the criminals who are spoiling the fun for everyone else. Increased supervisory patrols and more severe penalties for law-breakers at the spot would be steps in the right direction.

But by no means should the Service commercialize the springs. The prospect of going there to have a peaceful, esoteric experience would be all but ruined. We might as well just save the trip and sit in our bathtubs with bathing suits on.

Letters

The fence

Once again our student government leaders have shown that they are incapable of taking a definitive stand on any issue. Since they came into office, we have heard only rhetoric and the empty promise of an "open" ASUO government always available for the students.

From not supporting SCD's grievance against the CIA to Andy Clark's wishy-washy stand on the GTFF contract, we have seen his never-ending attempts to sound good, appease all sides, and then do nothing.

I wonder if he has any beliefs? Come on Andy, get off the fence!

Jennifer Bills
English

Whirling dervish

Tom Payne's letter, "Misplaced faith" (*Register-Guard*, Oct. 11) attempts to refute charges that claims for "God's" existence are irrational.

Like a whirling dervish, churning divine linguistics — or, perhaps, a dervish divine, whirling churning linguistics — Payne spins forth of abstract words into an argument of little substance.

Psychology, physiology, sociology and philosophy — not to mention linguistics approached with integrity — provide revealing insights into the nature and origin of concepts like: love, beauty, goodness, sincerity, trust, etc., intuition, experience, belief, knowledge, truth and faith — all, words Payne uses in an effort to place the concept of "God" beyond our reach to examine and evaluate.

Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer ("The Meaningless of Metaphysics"), and philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein ("Tractatus Logico Philosophicus") recognized the exploitive nature of such arguments.

Payne fails to include the theological definition of "Rationalism" — the view that rejects the religious scriptural revelation and supernaturalism to assert that reason alone is the source for religious knowledge. Rationalism led to deism, which inspired the Enlightenment and many of our Founding Fathers.

Tragically, the sole concept of merit in Payne's letter is the philosophical definition of "Rationalism" — source of any success he has achieved or ever will achieve — left unheralded, as by an opportunistic lover, intent on following a phantom

guru, the gender of whom, despite biblical explicitness, Payne takes reservations in declaring. Perhaps Payne saw a bearded lady at the circus?

The most accessible and enlightened commentary capable of freeing readers of the myths Payne espouses is George H. Smith's "Atheism: The case against God" (Prometheus, 1989) at LCC and Eugene public libraries.

Bert Tryba
Eugene

Assumption

Brian Bloch's article concerning the closure of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority created a serious misconception that needs to be cleared. Former chapter president, Leslie Ruby, was paraphrased as saying AOPi closed because of financial and "internal problems."

Later in the article, AOPi International Assistant Director Becky Pena was paraphrased as saying AOPi has been "monitored closely for internal chapter operational difficulties." These two statements are incorrect.

Alpha Sigma Chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi elected to discontinue as a chapter because we are unable to financially

support ourselves. The chapter's decision was in no way influenced by "internal problems," simply because we had none.

Ruby told me she was misquoted in order to bring symmetry to Bloch's story. And Pena admitted she confused Oregon State AOPis with our chapter. Unfortunately, that chapter had undergone restructuring and is being monitored by AOPi International.

Alpha Sigma has not had problems of this manner since 1983. In fact, our chapter has won several awards from International, including excellence in informal rush and chapter relations.

Actually, a mistake like this is not surprising. The assumption that something must be wrong with a sorority that is smaller than other sororities is popular among Greeks. I would like to take this opportunity to say that AOPi did not want to become a "big house."

We loved being a close group, our essence. It was this essence that kept us together

amid vicious rumors, unfair stereotypes and prejudices directed against us simply because we chose to be AOPis.

Yvette Jefferson
AOPi alumna

Green the grass

Noting Mr. Steve Seiller's concern for the grass here on campus, (*ODE*, Nov. 10) brings to mind other differences our campus bears.

All of the yucky leaves that fall on the ground in the fall, and the trashy way the student body dresses should also evoke concern in the aesthetically minded student. Get real!

Our campus lacks proper lighting for safety at night, handicapped accessible buildings and decent bike racks. When you see the differences on our campus, you should realize how green the grass really is on your side of the campus.

Eric Neiwert
Student

Letters Policy

The *Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community. Comments must be factually accurate and refrain from personal attacks on the character of others.