

## University recycling continues to grow

While students have been serious recyclers for years, it's good to see the University taking steps to do more.

Pearl Buck Recycling founded a recycling program at the University a year ago. But after the first year it found that it could not afford to continue the service and the Physical Plant assumed responsibility for the program.

The Physical Plant has hired a business school graduate, Jim McEver, to study options for campus recycling. This is a good first step since a cost-effective program should be the ultimate goal in providing recycling service.

In order to encourage as many people as possible to recycle, it must be made as easy as possible. Recycling bins should be in every building on every floor that handles large amounts of recyclables. There should be recycling bins for white paper, colored paper, glass and bottles, cardboard and whatever else can be used again.

Since there aren't many hired workers available for recycling, Physical Plant employees that haul garbage could also be used to help in recycling efforts. Work-study positions could also be opened for recycling.

EMU Food Services plans to introduce reusable plastic mugs in resident dining halls. This should significantly reduce the number of paper cups that are thrown away each year. Coffee shops on and around campus currently offer discounts to patrons who bring in their own containers.

The Physical Plant, through McEver, is conducting a recycling study to incorporate the problems, obstacles, and costs of a campus-wide recycling program. He should be sure to talk to the campus groups that have been involved in recycling, since there is a wealth of experience there. McEver's findings will be presented to a newly-formed committee on recycling at the University.

Mills are starting to build recycling facilities, so the value of recyclable materials will increase in the future.

Now is the time for everyone to become recycling-conscious. But a recycling program is only as good as its users.

We need cheap, easy recycling and the sooner the better.



## Nuke-free

Lane County commissioners have recently offered the following justifications for amending the voter-enacted nuclear free zone ordinance:

- The amendment did not affect the substance of the ordinance; it is still illegal to make nuclear bombs in Lane County.
- The original ordinance was unconstitutional and subject to preemption by federal law.
- The recent Eugene vote showed that local citizens no longer desire a strong nuclear free zone.

I offer the following responses:

- The amendment *profoundly* weakens the ordinance. For instance, the original ordinance banned production of nuclear bombs, warheads and their delivery systems (ICBMs, submarines with nuclear capability, etc.) The new ordinance bans bombs and warheads, but not delivery systems. (This is rather like legalizing handguns while banning bullets — a somewhat irrational gesture.)
- Most of the enacted changes do nothing to enhance the constitutionality of the ordinance. An ordinance which bans production of nuclear bombs is no more or less unconstitutional than an ordinance banning production of the bombs and the

missiles intended to carry the bombs. The elimination of "Nuclear Free Zone" highway signs is merely a constitutionally irrelevant attempt to render the nuclear free zone invisible.

• A city vote is no substitute for a county vote, and if the commissioners really have faith that county voters favor these changes, they could easily have submitted the matter to a county referendum.

Conclusion: When changing voter-enacted legislation, the commission at least owes the voters credible explanations for its actions.

John Davidson  
Law

## Forum

# Academic excellence more valuable than athletic achievement

By Sandra E. Cannady

The drastic measures taken by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education to deal with extreme deficits in the athletic departments at Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, and Portland State University have received almost no publicity.

## Commentary

The athletic departments have been giving scholarships to promising athletes for tuition, books, and living expenses. Of course this must be the main drain on their budgets, not traveling all over the country for athletic competition. The OSBHE has decided that the athletic departments need not pay tuition for their people. Tuition will simply be waived for those athletes.

Of course, the money lost for tuition will need to be made up by the schools in some manner. The enrollment cap which was installed last year because of a vital need to limit class size to

ensure quality (as it was explained to me at the time) has been dropped by the wayside.

And the latest announcement from the OSBHE informs us of further tuition increases. Tuition at Oregon universities already ranks among the most expensive west of the Mississippi.

The money I pay for tuition is certainly not going into the pockets of my professors. The salaries offered to Oregon's faculty can't compete with those offered by other state systems and industry. Older faculty are retiring in droves and there aren't enough replacements being attracted.

The shortage of professors and lack of enrollment are sure to lead to overcrowding in the classrooms. What quality of education am I paying for? What does it mean to me?

It means they lied to me. My parents and teachers have lied to me my entire life. They told me that all I had to do to get a good education was to work hard, study diligently, and get good grades. I do not like being told lies.

My friends took puppetry and acting. I took five years of mathematics. They took advanced P.E. I took geography. They took freshman English. I took three years of college preparatory English and three more years of French. They took introductory science. I took chemistry, physics and biology.

After classes they went out for sports and pizza. I worked two hours cleaning the school, then studied most of the evening. Most of the money I earned went into the bank so I could pay tuition when (not if) I went to college. I went out only on weekends because my parents said, "School comes first."

At college, too, I've worked hard and studied hard. Between school and work, I've put in 80 hours a week for quarters at a time. I have gone to school full-time while working three part-time jobs.

And then there was the year I received no financial aid because I earned the princely sum of \$15,000 two years before, when I had been working full-time. I refused to drop out of

school. I waited tables graveyard shift, slept four hours, went to day class, slept some more, went to night class, and from there back to work. By the end of that year I was dumpster-diving for pop bottles to sell for bus fare to class. I still managed to earn A's and B's.

I could have avoided all this by studying physical education, rather than physics. If I were an athlete rather than a scholar, the state of Oregon would waive my tuition. There

is something insidiously wrong with an *academic* system that rewards those capable of *physical* gymnastics at the expense of those capable of *mental* gymnastics.

Did they lie to me? No, my parents and teachers told me the truth, but the OSBHE has turned the truth to lies and institutionalized ignorance.

Sandra E. Cannady is a student from Portland State University

## 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.

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.