

# EDITORIAL

## Students needed at rule change hearing

The University will hold hearings this afternoon for proposed rule changes and amendments regarding five campus policies.

One of the topics of discussion will be an amendment to the release and restriction of information in the Student Directory. Up to now students were able to restrict access to any or all of the directory's 12 personal elements (phone number, address, etc.). This information could be released to a third party without prior permission from the student.

Previously, if students did not want a phone number in the directory printed, it wouldn't be. An address, a major or other information could still be listed.

The software of a new computer system to be installed cannot process individual restrictions, but only all of it or none of it. It's unfortunate the new software system cannot do what the old one does. The old system performs a minor, but important, function, especially for those who believe their safety rides on what information is given out. However it's done, the rights of students to decide what facts are distributed should be protected.

Amendments to regulations governing the use of skateboards and rollerskates on campus will also be discussed. Complaints from various members of the University have led to a proposal that skateboards be banned from campus. While some of the complaints about skateboards, such as noise and destruction of campus property, are valid, banning skateboards would be unjust.

Because many students use skateboards for transportation, it would seem trying out some skateboard rules would be prudent before barring them from the University.

Discussion of new bicycle rules are also on the agenda. A proposed fine increase (from \$10 to \$35) for bicyclists who fail to obey dismount and walk signs is a good idea. Riding bikes at 15 to 20 mph on crowded sidewalks is unsafe for bicyclists and pedestrians alike.

Also, bikes not registered with the Office of Public Safety are subject to impoundment, as are bikes that are abandoned for one month.

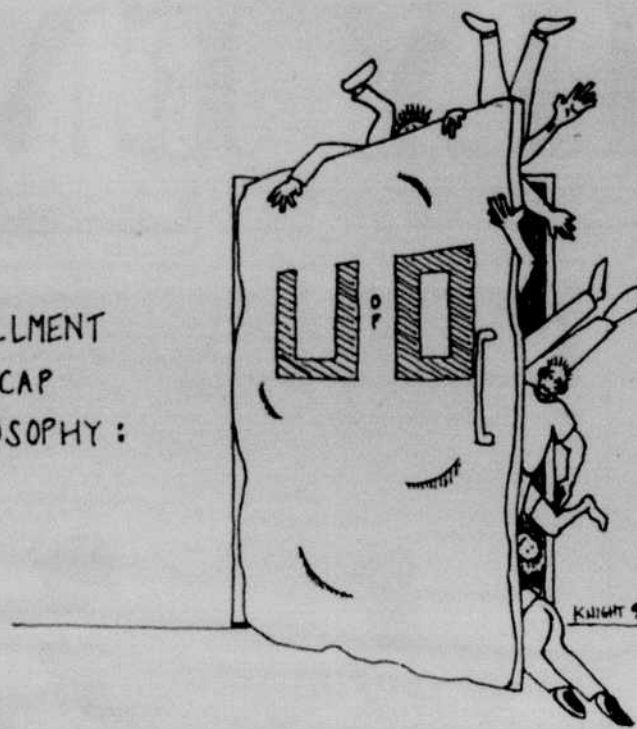
Finally, eligibility requirements and admission deadlines for children of employees and non-students to the University's child care services will be discussed.

Children of University students should get first priority, followed by the children of employees. Children of non-affiliated University personnel must come last.

The amendments for these changes are sponsored by the Parent's Council.

Hearings will begin at today at 1 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room. It is hoped students will show up and be heard.

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## Bikes, boards deserve tougher standards

If you have been on campus at all this week you have probably had your first near miss with a skateboarder or bicyclist.

The University Office of Public Safety is hoping to do something about the situation — and it is about time. The sidewalk's walk and dismount signs for bikes are regularly ignored. Students ignore the signs because there has been little or no enforcement measures carried out by OPS.

Raising fines for violating these common sense and common courtesy rules may seem like extreme measures to some people, but so far merely asking people to be courteous and dismount has not worked.

Now it is time to appeal to their wallets to get them to comply. Citations of \$35 may seem stiff, but you do have a choice in the matter — if you don't want a fine, don't ride your bike on sidewalks.

It is a poor reflection on University commuters that the situation has had to reach this point in the first place. While cyclists can make the conscious choice to risk an accident by riding on inappropriate paths, the pedestrians they may run over do not have the same chance to make that choice.

OPS has gone slightly overboard in its attempt to ban skateboards and roller skates from campus. It is seeking the authorization to levy \$10 fines and impound the boards or skates of violators.

Most pedestrians should applaud its attempts to do something about irresponsible and reckless use of these wheeled forms of transportation.

But the office does need to remember that some people actually use them to commute. These people should not be punished because their choice of transportation is often viewed as a toy.

OPS should work harder at enforcing rules that keep skateboarders and skaters on the street like other commuters. The ban of these items is a result of OPS's failure to enforce its own rules against stunt riding on campus.

OPS also wants to raise fines and impound the bikes of those people who do not officially register them with the office. The idea behind registration of bikes is that it makes it easier for the OPS to recover them if they are stolen. However, registration stickers can easily be peeled off of a stolen bike.

In light of OPS's dismal record for recovering stolen bikes, its time and resources would be more productively spent enforcing the new and more stringent rules it is seeking to pass. Making tougher rules is only a start. The next step is to devise an effective means of enforcement.

If OPS uses the same invisible enforcement tactics it has in the past the new rules will make no difference anyway.

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## LETTERS

### Band-aid

On June 14, University officials decided to increase the enrollment cap at the University by 300 students in order to compensate for the tuition waivers for athletes taken from the general fund.

The policy was termed a "band-aid" and the best solution from a set of bad choices to keep the Athletic Department from going bankrupt. However, the University community, and not the Athletic Department has been forced to bear the burden of this bad solution.

Courses in some departments are in demand to the extent that some students must delay graduation due to lack of available classes or inability to fulfill clusters. Where is the band-aid

to prevent these students from wasting time, money and financial aid eligibility?

Additionally, the increased enrollment has affected the housing market for non-students as well as students. One may argue that the market is no worse than fall '89, but that period was considered a crisis. The increase in rents forced low income non-students out of Glenwood and other areas near the University in 1989. Where is the band-aid to ease the 2 percent vacancy rate in Eugene

this year?

Although I enjoy athletic events and recognize their importance, I feel the University's top priority should be to educate and serve the state of Oregon as well as the Eugene community. By increasing the enrollment cap, the administration has compromised the quality of education and the well-being of the Eugene community in favor of funding athletics.

David Knight  
Mathematics

### LETTERS POLICY

The Oregon Daily 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.