

Students get quality education at law school

By David Hollister

A strong and positive national reputation is something which has taken the University School of Law years to earn. Unfortunately, this reputation can be tarnished with a few careless strokes of an editor's pen. An unidentified editor of the *Emerald* didn't let the facts get in the way of a chance to kick the law school while it's down.

Commentary

Contrary to *Emerald* opinion, the law school maintains a prominent reputation as a diverse, progressive quality law school.

A valid measure in determining a public law school's success is to view the legal education process in hindsight, and review what the school has provided to the state it serves. Briefly, the University law school has produced 21 state legislators, two governors, 2

U.S. congressmen, 73 judges (including seven federal and three Oregon Supreme Court), 22 district attorneys, and one Rose Bowl referee.

This is but a sampling of the benefit the University has provided the state, and is not inclusive of all alumni employed in private business, state and federal government and municipalities.

The law school faculty is a primary reason the school is viewed with high esteem in the national and international law school community. Assistant Dean Chapin Clark is a nationally recognized authority on water law. Professor Dom Vetri is the leading tort authority in the state. Professors Merrill and Kirkpatrick played major roles in the reform and codification of Oregon's rules of civil procedure and evidence, respectively.

Former law professor David Frohnmayer is currently Oregon's attorney general, having appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court on numerous oc-

casions. These faculty members are only a representative sampling and do not do justice to each faculty member who has served to better the law school, the state of Oregon and the field of law in general.

While the Legal Research and Writing program drew media attention recently concerning an issue regarding appropriate discussion in the classroom, the media failed to mention the national prominence of the program. The University maintains a nationally recognized LRW program, which has been used as a model by such law schools as University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Idaho, and University of San Diego.

The law school's strong reputation is also evidenced in the student body. The most recent entering class had an average LSAT of 40 (85th percentile nationally) and an undergraduate GPA of 3.2.

Within the field of national environmental law, students at

the University have made their mark by forming Land, Air and Water, the nation's first student environmental research group. Highlighting the University's impact on environmental and natural resources law is the annual Public Interest Law Conference. This conference is in its ninth year and has gained international prominence as one of the finest of its kind. Last year the conference was attended by over 1,000 people from 22 countries, and featured 140 panelists.

The University School of Law has received much unfounded negative publicity in the past year. To infer such publicity offers a complete picture of our law school is unequivocally incorrect, and to further infer the school's reputation must be as such borders on irresponsible (at best) and criminal (at worst). With even minimum research it is evident the University law school offers not only a quality legal education, but is regarded throughout the nation with a great deal

of respect.

For the past 100 plus years the University law school has been the only public law school in the state of Oregon. Over that span of time the school has benefited the state by providing an affordable opportunity for legal education, and by training Oregon citizens who provide valuable services to the state upon graduation. The 1990-91 tuition for Oregon residents at Willamette was \$9,850. At Lewis and Clark it was \$10,750, and at the University it was \$3,426.

Can a progressive state, at a time of economic transition, afford to restrict our future judges, district attorneys, public defenders, environmental attorneys and legislators to an elite class of Oregonians who are able to afford a private legal education?

David Hollister is a student in the University School of Law.

LETTERS

Quarter's worth

This is for everyone who feels helpless about the Persian Gulf War. This is about sending a message through our money.

If you are grieved by this unwise, misbegotten war, and wish to see it stopped, now, here is something practical you can do: Paint your quarters red with fingernail polish. Then spend those quarters, using them in copying machines and vending machines, circulate them. Coins are immortal; banks do not withdraw them from circulation, and they pass through thousands of hands. The message of these colored quarters is: "Stop this war!"

The reason for the color red: It is taken from stop signs and spotlights. It means "Stop!" More practically, red fingernail polish is probably already in two-thirds of American households and can be painted on quarters immediately. I look for a day in which the red "stop" message, forged in the necessity of this emergency, can be replaced with other symbols representing public endorsement of a positive green light for a better world.

Starting at the University, we can send a message which will through the pocketbooks of millions of Americans in the coming weeks. As colored quarters become phenomenon in Eugene, the action will spread throughout America, until the messages of colored quarters reaches right in the very pocket change of decision

makers in Washington, D.C.

Remember, big change starts with small change. Send a message through your small change. Put your money where it can be seen. When you receive colored quarters, circulate them. Add a few more (or a lot) of your very own every day. This is a practical action you can take, without even missing classes, going to meetings, or standing in the rain. Yet your few seconds of adding color to your own money is self-empowering and will be visible.

Let this message begin in Eugene, and let it begin with us. Let the entire land be filled with a sea of colored quarters sending the message "Stop This War."

Greg Doudna
Senior, Linguistics

Responsibility

Let's get honest here. Is the loss of revenue the real reason the Dead fans are trying to reverse the ban on the Grateful Dead? Members of the Grateful Dead, much like the ex-mayor of Washington, D.C., Marion Berry, claim they do not support drug use, yet two weeks after their performance at Autzen Stadium their keyboard player died of a cocaine overdose.

And what was it they said about the well-behaved audience? Only 40 overdoses and 30 arrests for possession? Performances by the Grateful Dead attract large numbers of the drug culture who come to Eu-

gene to ply their trade. And by the very fact that the Dead are "invited" a message is given that "a little drug use is acceptable." It is this stupefied (drugged?), uninformed and irresponsible attitude that is at the bottom of today's horrendous drug problem.

Drug use is not a victimless crime, nor is it a private affair. The adverse economic impact of drug use, whether legal or illegal drugs are involved, is enormous, currently costing Americans in excess of \$250 billion annually, plus a yearly death toll nearing 500,000. By comparison President Bush estimates the Persian Gulf War will cost us \$15 billion, and to date their are less than 100 allied war deaths.

Our son was a casualty of the drug wars. He died of a reaction to cocaine in his senior year at the University. I believe that if the attitude toward drug use at the University had been less permissive this tragedy would never have happened. Having events on campus which give an illusion of acceptability to drug use and drug users is a travesty. And when the motive for such blatant disregard for the law and the welfare of our youth is money what does that say about the values of our school and the community? They are willing to sell the lives of our children to fill their coffers.

Sandra S. Bennett
President,
Oregon Federation of Parents

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By GARY LARSON



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