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LAW

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Law Conference, which draws an international field of lawyers and scholars to Eugene to discuss environmental laws and issues.

These activities make the program and the school highly visible — both to its supporters and detractors.

Axline argues the school is only representing citizens and groups who want environmental laws enforced.

The environmental law clinic is the only one of four clinics the law school offers that is run on campus with professors. The other three are "downtown clinics."

For example, in the criminal prosecution class, students assist felony trial lawyers with circuit court cases. The school also offers a criminal defense clinic and a civil practice clinic. These classes are considered less expensive than "in house" clinics like environmental law because students aren't working under direct faculty supervision.

"Clinical education is an important component to many legal and academic programs," Axline said. "The quality of the (environmental law) program has attracted students and supporters nationally and internationally."

He said people on the losing side of the clinic's successful cases are bitter that students are learning by practicing law.

This unhappiness in industry and state government makes the clinic vulnerable to cuts in at least two ways; The legislature could cut the law school, or administrators could cut the clinic to save political energy for other fights.

Though legislative efforts to close the school have failed in the past, Johnson speculated that the clinic's record of taking on anti-business cases will jeopardize the school's funding when the 1992-93 legislature spends its money.

Johnson argues that the state doesn't need another law school pumping out lawyers, but the issue of the clinic's reputation also figures in his thinking.

"I will not deny I am opposed to the way the clinic has operated," he said. "I think it's a misuse of public funds, and that flavors my desire to see it stopped."

He thinks he can get the votes to close the school because the financial crunch is greater this year. However, others believe a straightforward legislative victory for opponents of the clinic isn't likely. Rep. Carl Hosticka (D-Eugene), who is also a University professor, doesn't think opponents can muster the votes; even if they could, Governor Barbara Roberts would probably veto such a bill.

Given that, Hosticka sees no reason to give in to the clinic's enemies. The important vote for higher education isn't necessarily the appropriations bill but the tax bill at the end of the session where the legislature tries to come up with the money, he said.

Invoking what he called the "hypocrisy factor,"

'I will not deny I am opposed to the way the clinic has operated. I think it's a misuse of public funds, and that flavors my desire to see it stopped.'

— Rep. Rod Johnson

Hosticka said legislators can vote yes on giving money to higher education, then vote no on the tax bill that makes the appropriation possible. He said those who voted against the appropriation bill last year always vote against the tax bill.

"Why should we give away something important that we believe in order to appease these people who never support us when it counts anyway," he said. "Why throw the clinic overboard to make people happy?"

Even if a legislative victory is improbable, the debate itself could damage the clinic's chances of surviving the cuts.

"(Johnson) can exert pressure and make people's life miserable by talking about it all the time, generally making people uncomfortable to the point where the University or somebody could say, 'OK, we'll cut the environmental law clinic just to get this guy off our back,'" Hosticka said.

Signs of a political struggle within the school emerge on the issue of the clinic's cost.

University president Myles Brand gave deans and department heads the option of cutting sub-programs from their budgets to meet a required 20-percent cut.

"Every program is potentially subject to a 20-percent cut," Frohmayer said. "It's safe to say that we're undertaking a fundamental examination of all of our clinical offerings."

"The environmental law program is our most expensive clinical program by orders of magnitude," he said.

Mark Thomas, president of the Student Bar Association, thinks the dean is not accurately calculating the clinic's costs. The controversy has to do with figuring out student-to-teacher ratios. Mervyn Loya, the school's assistant dean who works closely with the budget, wouldn't say how much is spent on the environmental law clinic.

Recent graduate John Sample, who heads LAW, said he first heard about the high cost of the clinic last month when the school learned it would have to make a 20-percent cut.

"It came to my attention first through faculty saying that (the school administration) targeted the environmental clinic as being the source for the 20-percent cut," he said.

It's impossible to say whether the clinic will take a partial cut, a total cut, or emerge unscathed from the budget battles. The clinic's opponents may win their case outside the courtroom, however.

Rio Earth Summit opens with silence



RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — (AP) Diplomats and world leaders from

180 countries opened an Earth Summit on Wednesday by bowing their heads for two minutes in silence for a sick and fragile planet.

The Earth Summit culminates 2 years of often rancorous negotiations between industrialized and developing nations, much of it focused on

who will foot the cleanup bill, which could top \$125 billion a year.

Blame for fouling the environment is expected to be focused on the United States, which has so far acted as spoiler, lobbying to dilute a treaty to curb global warming and refusing to sign another to protect biological diversity.

"We have been the most successful species ever," said Maurice Strong of Canada, the summit coordinator, in his forceful

opening speech. "We are now a species out of control. Our very success is leading to a dangerous future."

"The wasteful and destructive lifestyles of the rich cannot be maintained at the cost of the lives and the livelihoods of the poor and of nature," he added. "We are either going to save the whole world or none of it."

The summit will be the largest-ever gathering of heads of state.

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