

Law students seek out pro bono

By Sarah Clark
Emerald Reporter

University law students are volunteering their services this week to people who cannot afford legal aid.

As part of Pro Bono Week, Jan. 25-29, the Student Bar Association contacted local attorneys and organizations and asked them to supply pro bono cases, or cases for the public good, for students to help research, said Pro Bono Committee co-chairman Chuck Mundorff. Law students can sign up for cases during the lunch hour every day this week outside the SBA office.

As of Monday, the SBA had 45 placements available. Cases range from criminal to environmental issues, Mundorff said. In one case, students will research Sixth Amendment case law for a man serving two consecutive life sentences who may have had his con-

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Eugene attorney

stitutional rights violated.

The SBA would like Pro Bono Week to be the start of a long-term pro bono referral service that the law school would offer to the community, Mundorff said. The event is also part of a national movement to make pro bono service a requirement for law school graduation.

Tony Rosta, a local attorney the SBA contacted for the event, said practical experience is vital to understanding law.

"Instead of reading a theory or a

book, you get to apply that theory," Rosta said.

The community can benefit from the services as well, Rosta said.

"There are a number of people who fall through the cracks of legal representation," he said. These are people who can't afford an attorney but make too much money to qualify for free counsel, he said.

"They can't afford a lawyer, but they could get advice (from the students)," Rosta said.

Other events scheduled as part of Pro Bono Week:

- Today from 11:15-noon, the Minority Law Students Association is sponsoring a panel discussion about the benefits of pro bono work.

- Friday from 11:15-noon, Assistant Professor Garrett Epps will lead a roundtable discussion about whether pro bono work should be a mandatory part of law students' curriculum.

University asks about drug use

By Demian McLean
Emerald Reporter

If you smoke hash, sip wine or sniff airplane glue, the University may want a word with you.

In cooperation with a federal study of student drug use, the administration mailed a survey Friday to 1,000 students asking them to describe their drug habits, if any.

Students were chosen randomly and are asked specifically not to sign their name on the survey, said Joanie Robertson, assistant dean of students.

In the spring, the University will get the survey results back and use them to design an alcohol and drug-use prevention campaign aimed at entering freshmen, she said.

The federal government will use the results in its ongoing national study of college drug use. It has sent similar surveys to more than 70,000 American college students.

The federal government will use the results in its ongoing national study of college drug use. It has sent similar surveys to more than 70,000 American college students, Robertson said.

"What are the patterns of drug use on the college campus? How does the University compare nationally?" she said. "This will give a picture of drug use on campuses."

The federal government required the University to distribute the survey as a condition to winning a \$119,000 grant, Robertson said. The grant money will be used to help incoming students adjust to the campus community, she said.

The survey asks 23 questions on a Scantron-type form. Students respond to questions concerning what drugs they use, how often, and how old they were when they first tried them.

Drugs mentioned include most illegal substances, such as hallucinogens and narcotics, as well as alcohol, tobacco and steroids.

The survey is not the first of its kind. Last spring, Student Health Center students conducted a more extensive student drug survey by telephone.

Students chosen for the new survey should receive a packet by today at the latest, said Robertson. They should also expect a follow-up letter later in the term reminding them to return the survey.

Balloons offer more than rising delight

By Jeremy R. Foutch
Emerald Contributor

Balloons have come a long way since the days when clowns contorted them into shapes of wiener dogs and rabbits.

Today, balloons act as floating greeting cards and elaborate party decorations that may even play a part in saving the rain forests.

Baballoons, a downtown balloon store that opened eight months ago, is one of the stores that prides itself on its outrageous balloon bouquets, creative decorating staff and the environmental safety of its balloons.

The owner of Baballoons, Patrick Ahuero, said his staff can design anything from a 15-foot palm tree for a summer party to a floating Lifesaver bouquet complete with an eight pack of Lifesavers.

The modern latex balloon that is used in these creations is a 100 percent natural substance that breaks down in sunlight and water. This is a big improvement from early balloons that were once made from pig bladders and later from a rubber similar to that used to make rain boots.

In fact, according to Baballoons facts and figures, research shows that today's latex balloons biodegrade at about the same rate as a leaf from an oak tree when both are under similar environmental conditions.

Latex balloons are produced from the sap of the rubber tree, which is one of the main forms of vegetation in tropical rain forests. The sap is collected in a process that does no harm to the tree.

The Balloon Council, which was formed in 1990 by a coalition of balloon manufacturers, distributors and retailers, said harvesting latex from rubber trees can be more profitable to third-world countries than raising cattle on deforested rain forest land.

Ahuero believes few people are aware of how environmentally safe balloons are.

Before relocating to Eugene, Ahuero worked in Honolulu with two of the leaders in the balloon industry.



Photo by Brian Hendrickson

Some of today's outrageous balloon bouquets.

Last May, Ahuero opened Baballoons at the site of the old Candy and Corn store at 1044 Willamette St.

"It seems like just about everybody who comes in wants to know what happened to the old store," Ahuero said. "This location has definitely been considered a downtown landmark for many years." Ahuero said the owners of the old store retired.

Baballoons carries numerous greeting cards and a variety of gifts besides the balloons.

Ahuero said a wide assortment of balloon bouquets are available for delivery, and the decorating service has complete party themes available for any function.

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