

Court rules fees unconstitutional

□ The University of California can no longer require students to fund ideological groups

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Forcing students to help fund student political groups and lobbying is unconstitutional because it forces them to pay for causes with which they disagree, the California Supreme Court said.

The court, over a blistering dissent, ruled the University of California cannot make students pay part of a mandatory \$21-a-year fee for ideologically oriented campus organizations.

For example, the five-justice majority said, groups whose expenses are reimbursed by the UC Berkeley fee include both Berkeley Right to Life and the Campus Abortion Rights Action League. To force students who favor or oppose abortion rights to fund a group they despise violates their freedom of expression, the court said.

Justice Edward Panelli acknowledged that political activity can serve an educational function.

"At some point, however, the educational benefits that a group offers become incidental to the group's primary function of advancing its own political and ideological interests," he said.

Panelli declined to draw the line himself but said the university must do so and must let students withhold fees that subsidize political activities.

Dissenting Justice Armand Arabian said the majority showed a "shocking ignorance of the university's educational mission," which includes exposing students to controversial ideas.

The distinction between "educationally beneficial" and "ideological" speech is false, and "fraught with peril to the academic freedom of the university and to the right of all Americans to think and speak freely," wrote Arabian, joined by Justice Stanley Mosk.

For example, he asked, would an "educational" or "political" label be placed on a film by a Chinese student group about Tiananmen Square, a student forum on minority admissions, or a leaflet urging UC to sell its holdings in South Africa?

UC Berkeley collects the \$21 activities fee to support student government, which uses part of the \$600,000 for 150 student groups, ranging from folk dance clubs to campus political organizations. The 14 groups whose funding was challenged by conservative students over a decade ago included chapters of Greenpeace, the Sierra Club

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Smile while you tile



Photo by Randy Thieben

Physical Plant employee Art Lund repairs the tile around Lawrence Fountain Thursday.



File photo

Students at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology experience the great outdoors.

Coastal students ride wave of outdoor experience

□ Applications to study at the coast are being accepted for spring term

By Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Associate Editor

Taking a break from his research project, junior Jake Wagner perched himself on a fallen tree in the middle of a clear-cut in Charleston on the Oregon Coast.

Suddenly feeling a pair of eyes on him, Wagner hopped off the tree and gazed upward just in time to see a Great Horned Owl swoop from a dead tree a few feet from him and gracefully glide across the sky, leaving Wagner awestruck.

Lessons and experiences like this one, which took place outside of the classroom at the University-owned Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, are far more educational than those learned from books in stuffy classrooms on campus, OIMB students said.

"It was the single best educational experience of my life," said senior history major Chris Ball. "All of your classes are interconnected — political science, biology — all of your classes focus on the same region. It's real-

ly hands-on."

The program is launching into its twentieth year this spring, and for those wanting to experience an interdisciplinary program combining marine biology, political science, cartography and landscape architecture, applications are now being accepted for spring term.

The program is located in the small town of Charleston about 120 miles west of Coos Bay. Program Director Jerry Medler, a political science professor, said there is usually an equal number of men and women, and the program's limit is 40 students.

Students live in the dorms, but unlike the University campus experience, OIMB students and the four professors eat, live and learn together.

"The program is unique because it's a team-teaching environment where instructors get together with other instructors and students and all learn from each other," Medler said.

Because the program is interdisciplinary, all majors are encouraged to apply, Medler said.

"We've had a remarkable variety of majors; we're not just looking for biology majors," Medler said. "It's not

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WEATHER

Light showers are possible in the early morning, highs will run in the upper 50s.

Today in History

One year ago, the U.S. House of Representatives authorized an investigation into whether the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign conspired with Iran to delay release of the American hostages.

CLINTON REORGANIZING AID

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's plan to let college students repay education loans through community service will be phased in gradually, not launched as a nationwide initiative, a White House aide said Thursday.

"It was always intended to be phased in, but I think the president's committed to it," said Press Secretary Dee Myers. Clinton proposed a nationwide community service plan during the campaign.

Presidential assistant Eli Segal said Clinton wants to avoid a "massive new federal program" and is instead considering measures to strengthen existing service programs.

SPORTS

The Oregon men's basketball team will travel to Corvallis Saturday night to face Oregon State in round one of the Civil War.

The Ducks are in the midst of an eight-game losing streak this season and are stuck in the cellar of the Pac-10.

The Beavers started out winning their first five Pac-10 games, and were in first place, but have since slipped to 5-3 in the conference.

Scott Haskin has led Oregon State this season with 17 points and eight rebounds a game.

Oregon has not won a Pac-10 game since Feb. 15, 1992, when it defeated California at McArthur Court.