

Deceptive Rose Bowl packages may be problem

Daniel West
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon football fans should be warned about possible problems involved in purchasing trip packages to attend the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, said state Attorney General Ted Kulongoski.

"We all are excited and proud that the University of Oregon is playing in the Rose Bowl," Kulongoski said. "But in our excitement, we can't let our emotions get the better of us."

Kulongoski cautioned students that not all Rose Bowl packages offered over the telephone, through the mail or in the media are legitimate; some are fraudulent.

However, some travel agents may

honestly overstate their ability to get tickets.

"For example, last year, more than 1,000 Wisconsin fans arrived in California to see their team play, only to find that their travel agents had overbooked their Rose Bowl packages and no tickets were available for the game," Kulongoski said.

Susan Adams, an Alumni Association operator handling travel packages to Pasadena, said, "What happened with the Wisconsin students wouldn't happen with our students because Conlin and Dodds tour agency is very reputable."

Of the 5,000 packages available, she said, the Alumni Association had only sold 2,300.

"We have more than enough packages to accommodate the need," she said.

Adams said the Alumni Association is taking the utmost care in order to avoid any problems with the packages it offers.

"The travel agency is taking time to make sure that everything is going to be fine," she said. "If there are any changes in the schedule, then the agency would make sure to contact the person as soon as possible."

She said the travel packages are available to students, and range in price from \$447 per person for the economy package to \$1,196 per person for the super-deluxe package.

For those booking with other agen-

cies, however, Kulongoski suggested some precautions.

"Consumers should check to make sure that the travel agencies have experience coordinating travel packages to major sporting events," he said.

Consumers can check to see if an agency has previously received consumer complaints by calling the attorney general's consumer hot line at (503) 378-4320 or the Better Business Bureau at (503) 226-4461.

After selecting a travel agent, consumers should stay in close communication with the travel agency. If time permits, obtain all components of the package, including tickets, before leaving for the event.



ROSE BOWL
Oregon vs. Penn St.

TREE

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Those who participate in the Tree of Joy program submit an application to the coordinators listing a few items they would like for Christmas. The wishes are then written on decorative ornaments and placed on a tree.

Those who wish to purchase something for a participant can take an ornament from the tree, buy and wrap the gift indicated on the ornament and return it to the tree for distribution just before Christmas.

University students can now participate in the program thanks to the efforts of the Druids Junior Service Honorary Society, who have placed a tree in the EMU.

"This gives students the chance to give something during the Christmas season," said Sandy Lorraine, coordinator of the project on campus. "We are usually cut off from the rest of the community. This makes the opportunity to help very accessible."

The Tree of Joy is also located in three other locations this

year: Valley River Center, the Payless at 29th Avenue and Willamette Street, and Oakway Center.

The Tree of Joy provides gifts for low-income children, disabled adults and low-income seniors in most of eastern Lane County.

Most of the gifts go to clients of Adult and Family Services, Lane County Mental Health, Senior and Disabled Services, Children's Services Division and Developmental Disabilities Services Division, said Mary Scott, current coordinator of the Tree

of Joy project.

According to Scott, the Tree of Joy was started as a child abuse prevention program.

"It was originally designed to help low income parents deal with the stress of the Christmas holiday," Scott said. "Since then it has expanded to help not only low income families, but elderly and disabled people as well."

Elizabeth Nemeth, a past recipient of gifts from the Tree of Joy, said it is a wonderful program.

"I have two daughters," Nemeth said, "and when you are

going through hard times it is nice to know you will have presents for your children on Christmas morning."

In 1993, more than 5,000 gifts were contributed by community members and distributed by volunteers, Scott said, which resulted in a total of more than \$130,000 in Christmas gifts. University students and faculty contributed more than 100 gifts to the tree at the EMU last year. This year the tree is holding about 75 ornaments, representing "wishes" mostly from needy children.

RESIDENCY

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and by Vice Chancellor Shirley Clark, according to James Buch, director of admissions.

According to Buch, they have exhausted the appeals channel, and the only other option is to challenge the rule in court.

The main point of contention centers on why they are here.

"What's at issue is what is the primary reason that individual is in the state," Buch said.

Dawson said that they chose to come to Oregon so they could raise their children in a safer environment and that, therefore, there must be another reason they are being denied resident status.

"California is not my home. It's simply where we came from," she said. "Other than owning a home, I meet all of their requirements."

She believes that the state doesn't recognize parenting as a job and because she doesn't have a taxable paycheck, she shouldn't qualify as a resident.

Dawson, who is physically disabled, said that the Department of Disability told her if she couldn't go to work, she would have to go back to school to be retrained. She also collects a check from Aid for Dependent Children.

She says she's stuck in a Catch-22. "We do meet the residency standards, but we don't draw a taxable paycheck."

However, Buch said, "I don't think it's an issue of where the check comes from."

Buch said many factors are taken into consideration when reviewing an affidavit for residency:

- When the person arrived here
- Where all of their belongings are
- Why did the person come here
- What is the nature of their activities
- What is the nature of their employment
- What resources are they relying on

He said that the more information the student provides and the more complete, clear and convincing the affidavit is, the easier it is to make a strong judgment on his or her true status as a resident.

Dawson maintains that the requirements were written for traditional students. "I don't have folks who send me money," she said.

Gary Christensen, assistant vice chancellor for student services and academic affairs, said, "Our rules are very clear. They apply to people whether they are traditional or nontraditional students."

Christensen said this is not the first time the policy has been challenged in court, but the number of cases has been very small.

Buch said that of the 757 affidavits for residency in 1993, 53 percent were approved. In 1994 the number of affidavits dropped to 163, of which 45 percent were approved. The drop is attributed to tighter rules that went into effect last November.

officer at the Eugene Police department, issued a warning Monday morning to the residents around that area to take caution with small children.

Cougars usually try to avoid contact with people as much as possible, said Steve Marsden, the executive director of the Siskiyou Project, a conservation organization.

"They don't like human beings," Marsden said.

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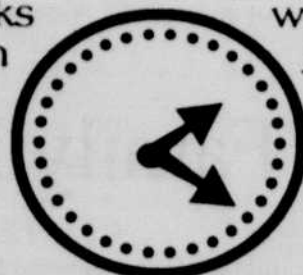
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COUGAR

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Fish and Wildlife Department went out to the scene to attempt to locate the cougar, said Dick Irish, a biologist from the Fish and Wildlife Department.

"A helmsmen went out with a dog to try to find a trail," Irish said. But they were "unable to locate any sign" of the animal.

Tim Birr, a public information