

Football player pleads not guilty, faces jury trial

Joe Harwood
Oregon Daily Emerald

A 20-year-old University football player pleaded not guilty Dec. 15 in Lane County District Court to charges of fourth-degree assault and two counts of harassment stemming from a Dec. 3 altercation near the Sigma Nu fraternity house.

Mark Bradley Schmidt, who allegedly pushed one man to the ground and struck another in the face during the incident, faces a jury trial in Lane County Circuit Court on Feb. 17.

The 23-year-old student who was struck suffered a broken nose, facial contusions and a swollen and bruised left eye. The incident left Schmidt with a broken right hand, according to a Eugene police report.

The victims told police they were standing in front of their house at about 1 a.m. talking loudly when a car drove by. The occupants of the vehicle yelled "We're going to the Rose Bowl," according to the police report.

The vehicle then stopped at a traffic light, where Schmidt got

out and ran toward the fraternity house allegedly to find out who had yelled a profanity at him.

Witnesses told Schmidt that no one had yelled at him.

At that point, a 21-year-old student stepped up to Schmidt and repeated that none in the group had yelled at him, according to the police report. Schmidt then allegedly "forearmed" the student in the chest, causing him to fall backward into the street.

One witness, a 19-year-old student, told police the second vic-

tim was struck in the face when he tried to step in and break up the altercation between Schmidt and the first victim.

Schmidt told police he heard someone in the group yell a profanity, so he stopped the car and "jogged" over to determine who had said the words. He said the man he pushed had been running toward him. Schmidt said the second victim took three steps toward him with his hands up and fists swinging.

The 6-foot-2-inch, 270 pound defensive end told police he was

concerned for his safety because "there was a group of men around him," so he struck the second victim.

Police cited two people inside Schmidt's car and one fraternity member for being minors in possession of alcohol, including third-string quarterback Ryan Perry-Smith, 20.

Schmidt's right hand was put in a cast after the incident and he was not allowed to start in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 2, but saw considerable playing time during the game.

Proposal may increase federal wage

Suzanne Marta
Oregon Daily Emerald

President Clinton is considering a proposal that would increase the federal minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour to \$5.25 per hour, according to wire reports.

The federal minimum wage of \$4.25 has been in place since 1991, when it was increased from \$3.80 per hour.

This would be the third change in the past five years.

Oregon's current minimum wage of \$4.75 per hour has been in place since 1991.

The proposed 24 percent increase in minimum wage would likely have little to no significant effect, said James Ziliak, an assistant professor of economics.

"The hypothesized relationship of supply and demand curves show that an increase in minimum wage would create unemployment, but studies show otherwise," Ziliak said.

Ziliak said a minimum wage increase would have little change in real wages due to general inflation that naturally occurs over time.

Ziliak said that the biggest group affected would be teenagers ages 16 to 19 years old.

Students at the University had mixed feelings about the proposed change.

"It's more important for working class people working minimum wage jobs," Mindy Koblenzer said. "[Working class] people have to deal with the increasing cost of living."

"Employers won't be able to employ as many people because they would have to pay more in wages," Ryan Shaw said.

Others, like junior William Bryan, say they feel that minimum wage should be abolished altogether.

"I don't think there should be a minimum wage," Bryan said.

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RELIGION

Bible Study will begin today at 12:30 p.m. in the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry, 1236 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-4694.

Catholic Bible Study will meet today from noon to 1 p.m. in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 346-4468.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance will have a bisexual and lesbian women's drop-in group today from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-1142.

ASUO Women's Center will sponsor a personal protection/self-defense workshop tonight beginning at 6 in the EMU Gumwood Room. For more information, call 346-4095.