

Gift: Landscape program will benefit from donation

■ **Continued from Page 1A**
will plan landscaping for the house, she said.

The landscaping program will also benefit from the 75-acre donation.

Austin said the University plans to build a small conference center on the land that will serve as a site for conferences on landscape preservation, design and land-use management issues.

The Shire, located 30 miles east of Portland, has an estimated \$500,000 value. With the state and University matching funds, the total value of the donation will be about \$9.5 million.

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EMU Maple Room

ENGLAND (London), **ITALY** (Siena),
FRANCE (Avignon), **GERMANY** (Cologne).
Tuesday, October 17
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
EMU Walnut Room

GERMANY

(Tübingen, Köln, Baden-Württemberg)
Wednesday, October 18
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
EMU Oak Room

FRANCE

(Avignon, Lyon, Poitiers)
Wednesday, October 18
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
EMU Cedar D

For more information about these meetings, please contact Office of International Education & Exchange, 330 Oregon Hall (346-3207)

Computer requirement irks students

■ **MONEY:** The school's decision irritates some students because of the computers' high cost

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Reporter

A School of Law decision to require all first-year students to own Macintosh Powerbooks has caused some disagreement, say law students.

Some are happy with the decision, some are upset and some couldn't care less.

"They're nice, but I don't think they're a necessity," said Kris Albertus, a first-year law student.

Albertus doesn't have a Powerbook because she can't afford one. She is not the only one.

Many students just don't have the \$2,700 required to buy a Powerbook, they say.

Student Bar Association President Mustafa Kasubhai is also dissatisfied with the requirement.

"Because of [the Powerbook's] high cost, it creates a burden for people who want to go to law school," he said. "This makes it difficult for me to support a requirement that puts a burden on people with limited resources who would otherwise want to go to law school."

The law school took steps to help students get more financial aid to pay for their lap-tops, said Mitch Davis, director of information technology at the law school. Davis helped get the Powerbook requirement off the ground.

But only students who had room in their loan programs could receive money to pay for the Powerbooks, said Edmond Vignoul, director of the office of student financial aid. Still, a significant number of students received the extra financial aid,

he said.

Some students don't think they need a Powerbook to succeed in law school. Damien Figueroa returned his, saying his IBM at home can meet his computer needs.

Even students who like their Powerbooks are not sure the requirement is necessary.

"It's a big expense. I think as it is now [Powerbooks] are required, but students don't have to have one," said Beijing Wang, who is happy with his Powerbook.

But Davis believes the computer requirement will help students both now and in the future. It will help more students to become computer literate, and will force them to become familiar with telecommunications, he said.

"In the age of computers when you would think everyone knows how to use computers, we're still at 20 percent good usability," Davis said.

Most people use computers mainly for word processing, ignoring their online potential, Davis said. Knowledge of online services such as Nexus/Lexus/Medis, will help students in their research, and help them become leaders in their fields when they leave school, he said.

The law school began discussing a mandatory computer requirement more than two years ago, Davis said. It chose the Powerbook over IBM notebooks because of its online capabilities and because more students showed an interest in them at meetings held during the decision-making process, he said.

Powerbooks come with a built-in modem, while IBMs do not, Davis said. This allows students to use them wherever they go, he said. They also have an Ethernet

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— Kris Albertus
First-year Law Student

plug-in, which can be used in connecting to the Internet and in networking, which connects computers together. Ethernet is 100 times faster than a modem, Davis said. The law school is equipped with Ethernet plug-ins, which allow students with Powerbooks to rapidly access Internet services both in class and while conducting library research, Davis said.

Students can get a \$450 to \$550 upgrade that will allow them to use more than one online application at a time, Davis said.

Tim Overstreet, a salesman at Computer Systems West Inc., said IBMs are probably easier to use when accessing online services because more online software is available. This is because more people use IBMs, he said.

The law school tries to accommodate students who own IBM lap-tops, Davis said.

"We've offered them as much support as we can give them," he said.

But some IBM users say they are suffering because of the Powerbook requirement. IBMs have disappeared from law school computer labs. Second-year student and IBM user Randy Tindall complained that he can no longer work on his assignments at the law school because the Macintosh computers do not always read IBM files correctly.

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