

Law School gets \$150,000 for teaching program

■ **DONATION:** The gift is intended to create a law school appeals court judge training program

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Reporter

A former University professor and Oregon Supreme Court chief justice donated \$150,000 to the University's School of Law to establish a teaching program for appeals court judges.

Kenneth O'Connell, who taught at the law school from 1935 to 1958 and later became an Oregon Supreme Court chief justice, hopes his donation will help create a new trend for law schools.

Law schools need to place more emphasis on educating judges, O'Connell said. They

focus primarily on teaching rules to students, while overlooking the need for a supplementary program that would help appellate judges create a standard to determine whether their reasoning process is right or wrong, he said.

He is working in conjunction with law school dean Charles O'Kelly and associate dean David Schuman to create a program that will improve the quality of the legal system.

"We're working with Justice O'Connell to figure out exactly how the money should be spent," Schuman said.

They have discussed the creation of a bibliography of resources or starting a collection that would be continually updated, Schuman said. They have also considered creating a

two-week retreat for judges where they would receive intensive training, he said.

Appellate, or appeals court judges, review trial court decisions to determine whether the law was interpreted correctly in finding a verdict, University law professor David Schuman said.

"There are so many things that need to be known for the process of decision making," O'Connell said. "Appellate judges are deciding questions that make up the law ... and we have law schools that are leaving a complete blank in the training of judges," O'Connell said.

Judges often don't have the time to research on their own, and even if they did, most of the information about the appeals process is written by professors

for other professors, he said.

Justice O'Connell has always wanted to start a program that provides resources to appellate judges, and saw an opportunity to do so when he decided to sell a house he owned in Arizona.

"I thought it would be a good idea to donate the money [from the sale] to the University to use it for education at the law school," O'Connell said.

He wants the program to be used as a resource throughout the state and nation. He would also like to see other law schools developing programs like this.

"I'm hopeful that law schools will awaken to the fact that their job is not just to educate lawyers," O'Connell said. "I'd like to see this process taken over by law schools all over the country."

police BEAT

• A woman walking home from a tavern New Year's Eve survived an attempted rape in the Pioneer Cemetery. The woman first saw the man on the corner of East 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street as she walked out of the tavern. The man then followed her into the cemetery, where he allegedly attacked her. The woman fought off her alleged assailant. The woman described the suspect as a black male in his late twenties.

• Police are reporting a half dozen cases of tires being slashed during the last week. Cars in or around the parking lot of East 14th Avenue between Kincaid and Alder streets have been particularly hard hit.

• A TV, VCR, bikes and CPUs, a value of \$10,000 were taken from an apartment at 150 E. 15th Ave. Authorities theorize that the burglars may have been tipped off by the tenants' absence when they noticed several newspapers at the front door. The burglars, who entered the unit through a kitchen window, allegedly ransacked the apartment, turning over drawers and rifling through the tenants' personal items.

• Occupants of a dwelling at 1000 Patterson St. had about \$3600 worth of electronics equipment stolen during the break. Authorities say the alleged burglars entered through a defective door.

• About \$410 in stereo equipment was stolen from Sigma Chi fraternity during the vacation. Fraternity members discovered the crime when they returned from vacation. Police do not know how the alleged suspects may have entered the fraternity house.

• Occupants of a dwelling on 1930 Onyx St. had all of their valuables taken during the winter break. The alleged burglars forced their way into the dwelling through a window.

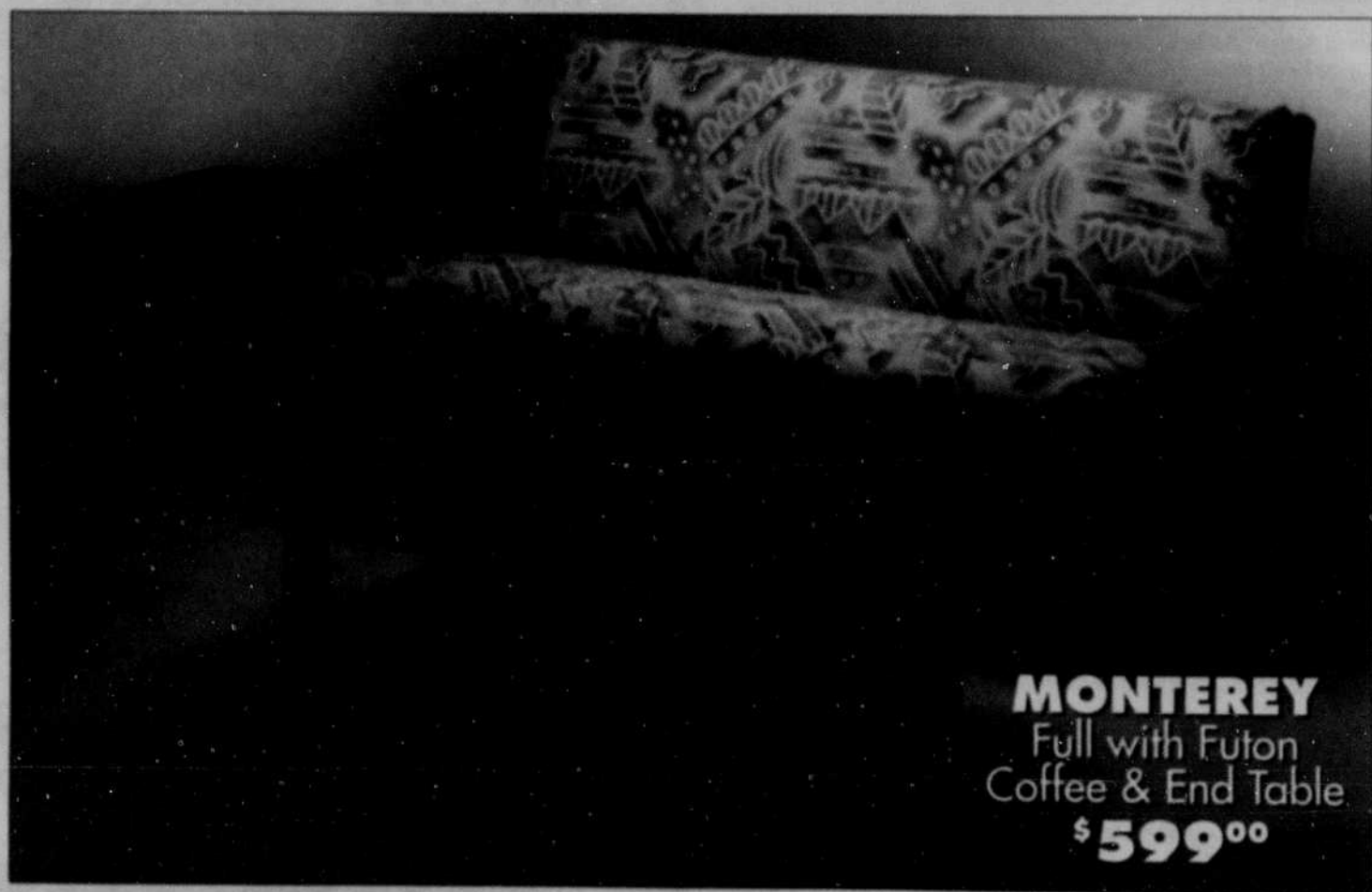
• A 17-year-old Creswell man was cited for allegedly assaulting a Glenwood man Wednesday afternoon. The man said he was riding his bike in an alleyway between Alder and Hilyard streets when he encountered the youth and his two friends. The man and three teenagers exchanged words as the man rode away on his bike.

According to police accounts, the three teens chased the man until they caught up to him and flipped the man's bike. The man fell off the bike and suffered abrasions on the left side of his face. When interviewed by authorities, the Creswell youth said he did not mean to assault the man but wanted to talk with him.

FUTON

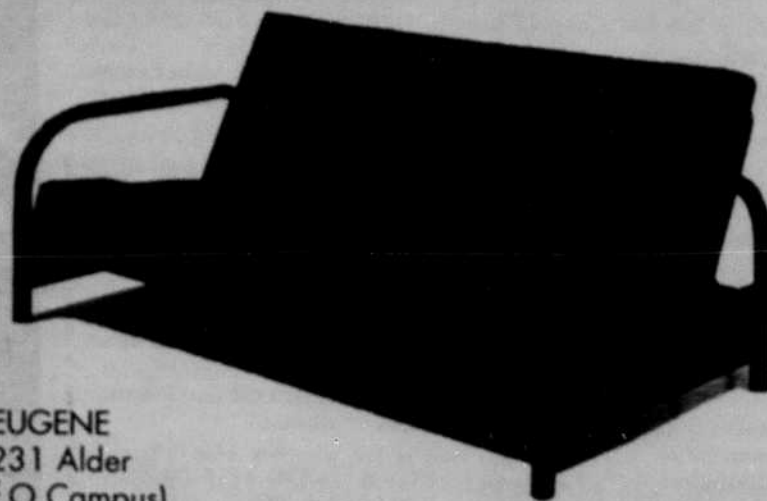
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