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## TODAY

This is the last issue of the Emerald until Back to the Books on Sept. 22. Daily fall publication resumes Sept. 29.



## INSIDE

The Oregon women's soccer team will test themselves against some of the nation's best

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Chicago's Albert Belle blames himself for the team's dismal play

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## WEATHER

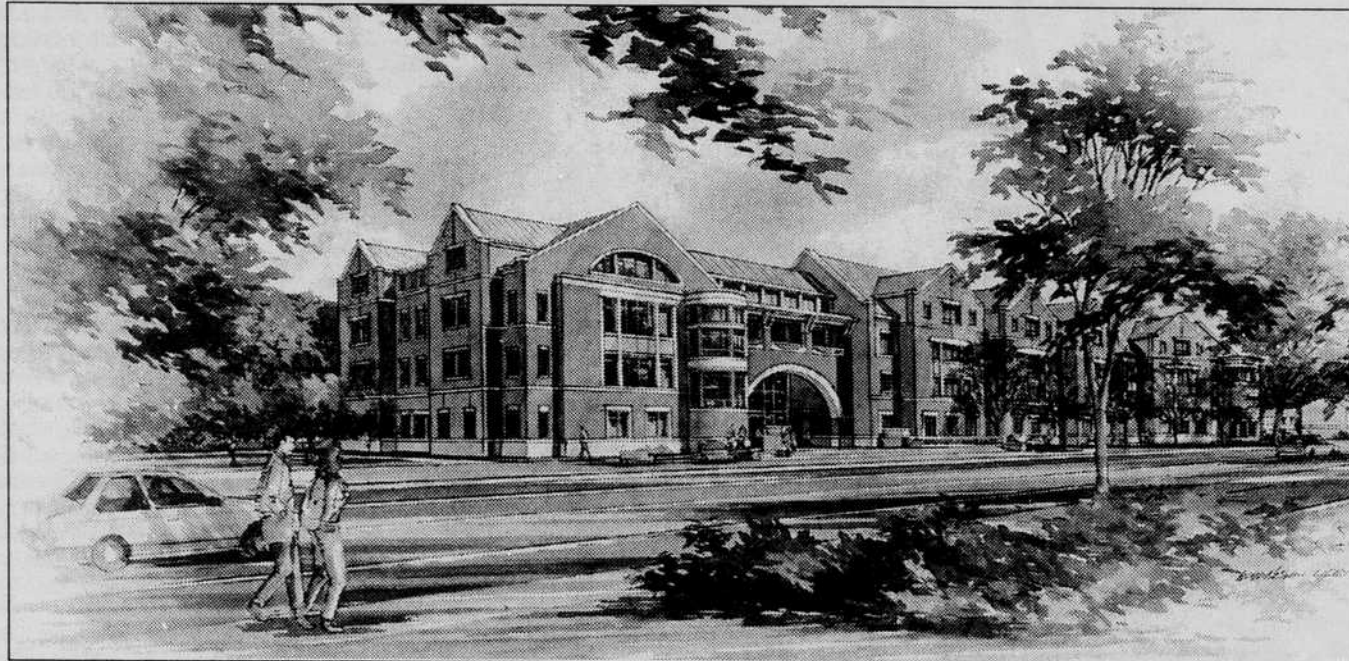
Partly cloudy.  
High 80. Low 55.

University of Oregon  
Eugene, Oregon

# Oregon Daily Emerald

An independent newspaper  
Volume 99, Issue 17

## WILLIAM W. KNIGHT LAW CENTER



COURTESY DRAWING

This artist's rendering shows what the William W. Knight Law Center will look like when it is completed in January 1999.

## Construction making progress

"We are required to replace every parking space that we displace."

Jane Gordon  
Assistant Dean

■ **BUILDING:** Students should be able to start taking classes in the new building by the target date of January 1999

By Michael Hines  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Construction of the new William W. Knight Law Center is on schedule, Jane Gordon, assistant dean of the law school, said.

The building, which is being constructed on East 15th Avenue and Agate Street, should be finished by its January 1999 target date. Barring any major problems, Gordon said law students will start attending class in the new building during the winter term of 1999.

A large amount of the funding for the school came as part of a \$25 million gift from Nike, Inc. chairman of the board and CEO Phil Knight. The school will be named after Knight's father, William.

Funding for the school includes \$10 million from Knight and more than \$10 million from state bonds, and the rest will be privately raised. The entire project,

Gordon said, will cost about \$25.6 million.

The school may do additional fund raising after construction is completed, Gordon said. This may pay for additional furniture or other law school resources.

The ground-breaking ceremony took place June 18. The ground-breaking was done by University President Dave Frohnmayer, Capital Campaign Chair John Jaqua and Charles O'Kelley, who was the law school dean at the time.

The school chose ground-breaking on 15th Avenue and Alder Street carefully, Gordon said.

The building is being built on the edge of campus, which is convenient for most University students, Gordon said.

The building will not be in the middle of campus with the undergraduate classrooms, and that allows undergraduates to use a more compact center of campus. Law students, she said, can simply go to the new building for the day.

"The law school [building] is being built to allow [the school] to be used by the University in a better

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## Law school rankings only part of picture

■ **RANKINGS:** A better way of choosing a school would be taking individual tastes into account and talking to alumni of the school

By Carl Yeh  
Associate Editor

If you applied to law schools, you might have looked at a publication of school rankings like *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Graduate Schools Rankings. Did they mean anything then? More importantly, do they mean anything at all?

Rennard Strickland, the new dean of the University Law School, doesn't think so.

"I feel that [rankings] really come very close to defrauding students," he said. "What we ought to be looking at is what fits a particular individual as opposed to a mythical ranking."

Jane Gordon, the law school's Associate Dean of Students, agreed with Strickland. "I try to ignore rankings. When there are rankings, you should ask, 'are these the things I really value?' before you put any stock in it."

Celeste James, Senior Media Relations Manager for *U.S. News & World Report*, sees the publication as a how-to guide rather than an absolute measure of the quality of a school.

"This is a guide that is meant to be a start for a student who is looking for a university," she said. "We want them to look at the rankings as well as the articles inside that advise them how to get more financial aid, for example."

"The rankings merely give students a way

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### MAKING A CHOICE

- Talk to alumni from the school
- Talk to faculty about the reputation of the school
- Spend a day or two at every school you are considering
- Look carefully at the criteria of ranking when using them

## Dean Rennard Strickland shares thoughts on law student training



STRICKLAND

By Carl Yeh  
Associate Editor

A new state-of-the-art law school is being built. A new entering class will be the first to graduate in the 21st century. All this and a new dean to boot.

Rennard Strickland, a renowned Native American legal scholar and former Oklahoma City University law dean, is the new dean of the University Law School. He was selected in April to replace Charles O'Kelley.

In a recent interview with the *Oregon Daily Emerald*, he revealed that he is no stranger to the West Coast and that he has strong beliefs on how law school students should be trained for the 21st century.

Q Describe your education and experience.

A I taught at the University of Washington in Seattle in the mid '70s. In the late '70s and

### RENNARD STRICKLAND

### QUESTION & ANSWER

early '80s, I was involved with the publication of the Handbook of Federal Indian Law, [of] which I was editor-in-chief, and Charlie Wilkinson, who was then on the [Oregon Law School] faculty, was the managing editor. So, we did a lot of work on that book here in [Grayson Hall].

I don't normally tell people this, but I was on the American Bar Association (ABA) site visit team that at the end of the '80s really produced the kind of miraculous restoration of this law school. We were not a very popular group at the time. (laughs) But Frohnmayer came on after that and forged ahead with the hiring of a really quite stunning group of young faculty about six to eight years ago.

My field of specialty is American Indian law. So,

I really have to be in a place — at least from my work standpoint — a Native American population.

Q So, you're not new to this law school or to this area either.

A Right.

Q What about Eugene in particular do you enjoy?

A I am enjoying — and I am told that this doesn't continue all year — the summer. I come from an area where 100 and 105 degrees with 85 percent humidity is not unusual this time of the year. So, I particularly enjoy watching television and seeing people be prepared to deal with the "crisis" of the temperature breaking into the '90s.

I think the thing that is really quite marvelous about Eugene is that it is a community in which people still have a sense of the possible. It's a place where people really believe that good things

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### THE NEW DEAN

- **WHO:** Rennard Strickland
- **WHAT:** New Dean of law school
- **HONORS:** Spirit of Excellence Award from the ABA Commission on Minorities in the Profession, Regent's Award from University of Oklahoma, Distinguished Service Citation from the American Indian Coalition of Tulsa