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### Law school tuition comparison

Estimated in-state law school tuition and fees for the University, a public school, is \$10,897 per year. Tuition and fees at the University of Washington's law school, another public school, run approximately \$6,000 per year. At Willamette University and Lewis and Clark College, two private Oregon schools, tuition and fees are estimated at \$18,380 and \$19,180, respectively. Here are a few other expense comparisons between the four law schools:

**Room/board** Oregon — \$6,622; Washington — \$8,319; Willamette — \$7,450; Lewis and Clark — \$7,200

**Books** Oregon — \$1,639; Washington — \$900; Willamette — \$1,250; Lewis and Clark — \$800

**Miscellaneous** Oregon — \$1,845; Washington — \$2,790; Willamette — \$2,580; Lewis and Clark — \$3,665

**Average indebtedness (1998)** Oregon — \$47,100; Washington — \$35,000; Willamette — \$66,428; Lewis and Clark — \$63,800

**Career prospects (1998 graduates)** Oregon — 88% employed after nine months; Washington — 94%; Willamette — 90%; Lewis and Clark — 91%

**Median starting salary (private sector)** Oregon — \$48,000; Washington — \$57,000; Willamette — \$38,000; Lewis and Clark — \$40,000

SOURCE: U.S. News and the schools

### Payments

continued from page 7A

elsewhere during the summer to offset some of the costs of the school year.

"During the summertime I'd like to go to [Washington], D.C., and work for the Natural Resource Defense Council, the EPA or Congress," Erwin said. "Basically, whatever I can get."

Erwin said that the impending debt would have an effect on his career choice, limiting him from taking jobs that wouldn't provide enough income to pay off his monthly loans on top of his other bills.

Nevada resident Jason Guinasso is the rare exception to the av-

erage beginning law student. He and his wife — an attorney for the Nevada Legislature — will cover the costs themselves.

Guinasso was fortunate to receive a substantial sum from his father-in-law for the purpose of law school and will pay for the remainder of the costs of school with money he and his wife have saved in the past few years.

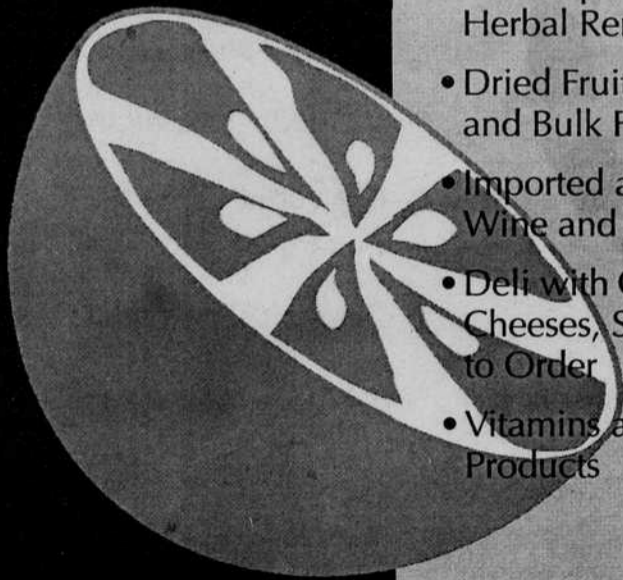
"It makes things tight but at least afterwards I won't have a lot of debt," Guinasso said.

While Guinasso studies here in Oregon, his wife will return with their 4-year-old son to Nevada. During the summer, he plans to utilize his contacts in the legal arena and return home to Nevada to work.



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