

Oregon Daily Emerald



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University slated to update student privacy code

The University is gearing up to revise its 'Student Records Policy,' but some of the changes are drawing fire

By Jared Paben
Freelance Reporter

If the federal government wants to find out all about a student, it can. If it wants a student's social security number, it can get it. How about a list of personal characteristics, such as birthmarks or tattoos? It can get that, too, along with photographs from the

University. If the request comes in the form of a subpoena with a request for secrecy, nobody will tell the student about it, and there is nothing the University can do.

In 1996, when Congress began enforcing 1994's Improving America's Schools Act, the federal government obtained authority to force universities to surrender student information to law enforcement agencies without telling the student. Now, the University is updating its "Student Records Policy" to bring it

in line with these federal regulations, and the process is drawing controversy from all over campus.

The biggest change in the new privacy code is the University's legal right to hand over student information to federal law enforcement agencies without notifying the student. Although the University has been bound by these regulations since 1996, the situation has never arisen here. Given the time lapse, administrators said they thought it was time to update the policy.

This decision alone has drawn the ire of many on campus, including biology professor Frank Stahl, an outspoken opponent of such laws. He argues that students should be notified of the release of their information so that they can seek legal council for defense or to block the release of the records.

Stahl and student groups on campus are also angered by the steps the University has taken to update the code, which they claim have been kept out of the public's eye. Specifical-

ly, Stahl claims that Melinda Grier, the general council to the University, and other members of the administration have failed to adequately inform media, student groups and the Faculty Senate of the changes to the privacy code. Stahl cites the administration's failure to adequately inform the public of a June 3 pre-hearing that fell during Dead Week. He said that the meeting, as well as a June 20 meeting, were held at times in which students

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Stalled senate bill seeks tuition cuts for illegal aliens

Supporters of SB 10 say it will help the state in the long run; critics contend that it would drain the state of nearly \$1 million

By A. Sho Ikeda
Reporter

A recently introduced Oregon Senate bill would extend in-state tuition to illegal immigrants and their children who plan on attending Oregon universities.

Senate Bill 10 would require a student to have lived in Oregon for at least three years while attending a high school. Additionally, the student would have to plan on becoming a U.S. citizen or a legal resident alien.

Currently, non-legal aliens and their children must pay out-of-state tuition in order to attend any school in the Oregon University System.

"We want everyone to realize that this bill benefits every student," said Gabe Kjos, ASUO legislative associate. "We will get a chance to increase diversity on this campus, so it is a win-win situation for every student."

Kjos said that about 150 to 250 students from around the state and the University attended a June 17 rally in Salem to support the bill.

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NEWS BRIEF

Loan rates at all-time low

Federal student loan interest rates fell to a historic low today, giving students a greater opportunity to pay for college and consolidate old loans.

Interest rates on Federal Stafford loans issued after July 1, 1998, will be reset to 2.82 percent for in-school payments and grace and deferment periods, and to 3.42 percent for repayment. Interest rates for PLUS loans issued after July 1, 1998, dropped to 4.22 percent.

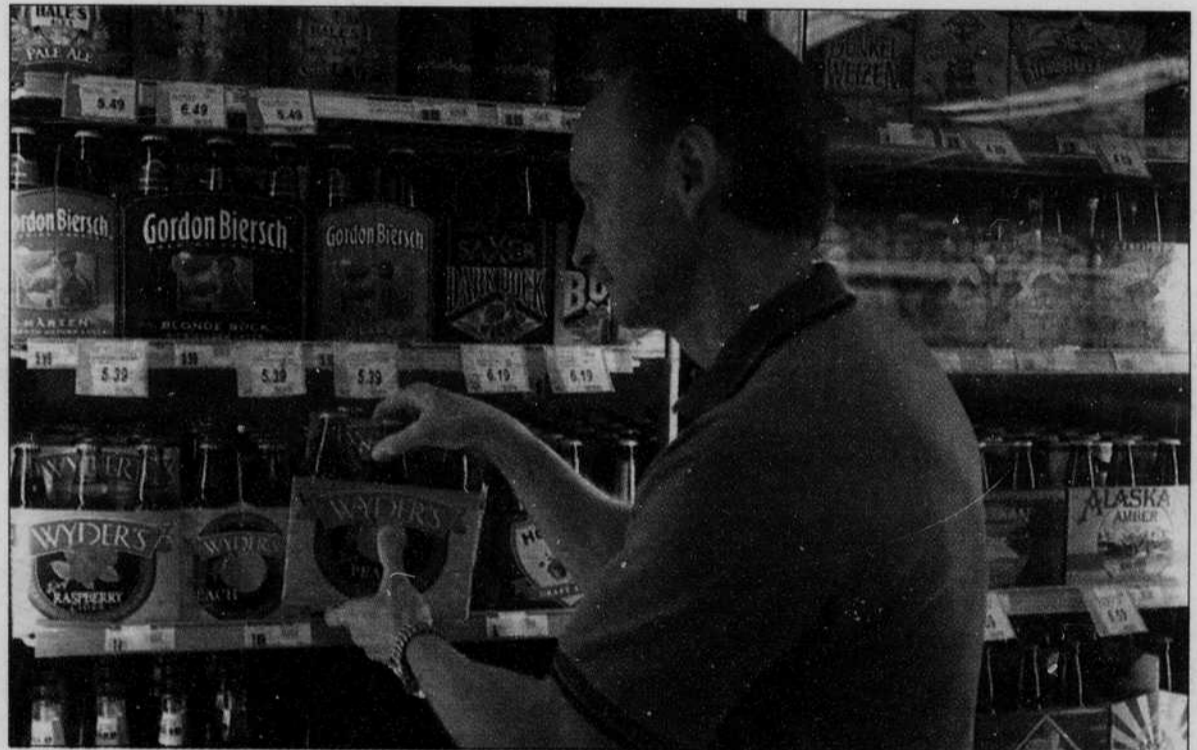
Rates on recently issued loans have fallen a total of 4.77 percentage points during the past three years.

Besides providing a ripe opportunity for taking out new loans, the new loan rates are also favorable for loan consolidation. When students consolidate, current federal loans are repaid in full and a new loan is created with the lower interest rate, which in turn lowers monthly payments.

Students interested in consolidation can do so via a private institution, such as Sallie Mae, or through the federal government. Information on Sallie Mae can be obtained at www.salliemae.com, and information on government consolidation can be obtained at <http://loanconsolidation.ed.gov>.

— Jan Tobias Montry

MALT ASSAULT



Jessica Waters Emerald

Les Brod, assistant beverage manager at PC Market of Choice, restocks the cooler with so-called malternative beverages.

Malternative law shelved

A bill en route to the governor's desk would overturn the policy limiting malt liquor sales to liquor stores

By A. Sho Ikeda
Reporter

Students came close to losing some of their favorite alcoholic beverages from their local corner store because of a state ban on "malternative" beverage sales. The Oregon Legislature overturned the ban early last week; however, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski must still approve the policy reversal.

Under the Oregon Liquor Control Commission's rule, the sale of malter-

native beverages such as Mike's Hard Lemonade and Smirnoff Ice would be restricted to liquor stores.

The OLCC's policy was aimed at aligning with federal regulators' preliminary conclusion that most malternative beverages derive a majority of their alcoholic content from added liquor, not from malt.

"It's ridiculous," said Lauren Manes, a recent University linguistics and French graduate.

Manes said if that the OLCC kept the regulation, she would have purchased beer solely from grocery stores, because the closest liquor store is miles away.

"It seems silly to sell beer and wine at a grocery store and not other drinks that aren't hard liquor," Manes said.

House Bill 3130, which revokes the rule, passed 22-4 in the Oregon Senate and will now travel to Kulongoski. If the governor signs the bill, it will allow grocery and convenience stores to sell malternatives until the end of 2004.

"The whole ban seems pointless because those drinks aren't much different than beer," said Carrie Ferderer, a clerk at the Alder Street 7-Eleven. She said that it would be pointless to ban malt beverages from convenience

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