

Oregon Daily Emerald



Arizona gets the best of Oregon Page 5

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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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Student sues over OUS' concealed weapon ban

Graduate student Brian Stubbs says the University system cannot restrict CHL holders from carrying a weapon

By Lisa Catto
News Reporter

Physics graduate student Brian Stubbs filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court against the Oregon State Board of Higher Education and the Oregon University System for not allowing him to carry a concealed weapon on campus.

Stubbs, who said he has a Concealed Handgun License and wants to exercise

his right to carry a concealed handgun on public property, challenged the board's policy of excluding CHL holders from carrying a firearm on property owned or controlled by OUS.

Kristian Roggendorf, Stubbs' attorney, mailed the complaint to the Federal District Court in Eugene Wednesday, and it is expected to be filed by the end of the week.

The complaint stated that Oregon statute allows licensed holders to carry their firearms in all public places except courtrooms. The only leeway is given to the Oregon Legislature to regulate firearms.

Roggendorf said the legislature passed a statute giving cities and

counties the ability to pass laws to prohibit gun use, but police officers and license holders are an exception.

"(OUS) doesn't have authority to ban lawfully carried firearms on campus," he said.

OUS spokeswoman Di Saunders defended the decision to ban handguns on campuses.

"Student safety on OUS campuses is our first and foremost concern," she said. "That is why the state board went beyond the Oregon statute and voted to not allow handguns on Oregon public campuses."

But Stubbs argues it isn't an issue of safety.

"Prohibiting law-abiding citizens

from carrying their handguns onto campus will not stop a criminal who is intent on violence," he said. "It will just ensure that all of the potential victims are unarmed and unable to defend themselves."

He added that knowing firearms are banned only provides an illusion of safety.

"There is an important difference in feeling safe and actually being safe," he said.

Roggendorf agreed with Stubbs.

He said 35 states have a liberal policy allowing people to carry handguns, and he has not found any cases where a license holder committed a crime in public with his licensed firearm.

Roggendorf also said licensees tend to be safer with firearms and they have far lower crime rates dealing with guns, other than senior citizens.

Kevin Starrett, executive director of the Oregon Firearms Educational Foundation, said Stubbs took it upon himself to change the policy but eventually sought help from the organization nearly a year ago. The nonprofit organization is committed to fighting for the rights of gun owners in court.

The group raised money to cover Stubb's attorney fees.

"For some time we have known that schools all over the state have

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Tracking the environment

Professor Ronald Mitchell received a \$282,000 grant to continue environmental agreements research

By Jennifer Sudick
Freelance Editor

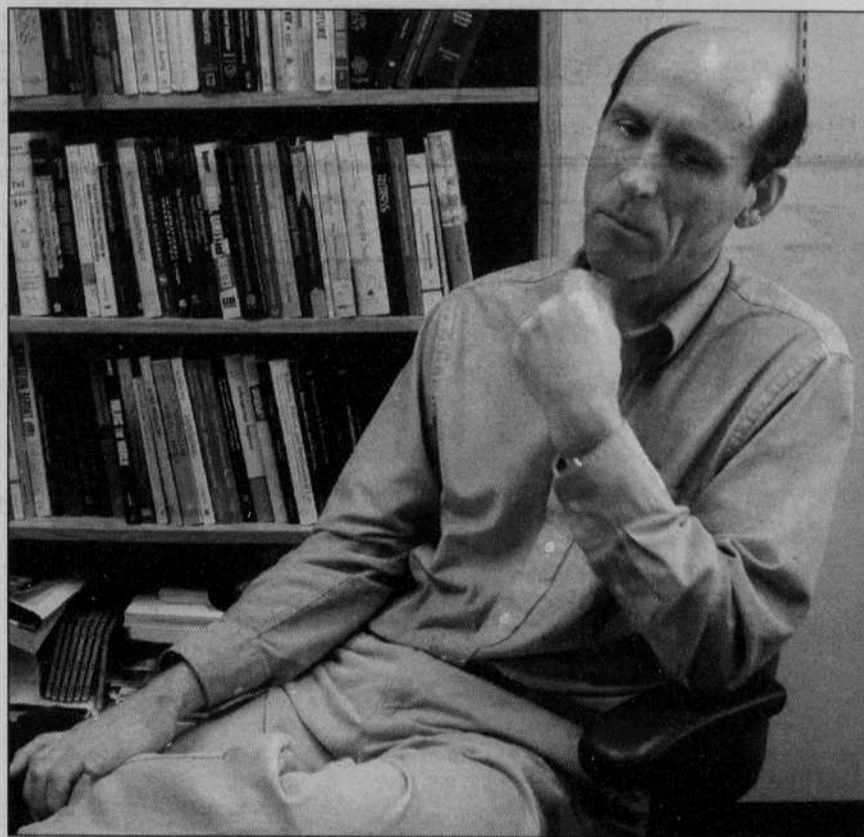
Political science Associate Professor Ronald Mitchell's ninth-floor office in PLC could be called a repository for environmental treaties research. Ten years of work sits in stacks of binders and in books along the wall, forming a listing of international environmental agreements larger than that of the United Nations.

In September, Mitchell was awarded a \$282,000 grant from the "Decision, Risk, and Management Science program" of The National Science Foundation to continue his work of creating a comprehensive database of international environmental agreements and their effectiveness.

"The project eventually will identify which treaties rely on sanctions and which rely on rewards to assess whether rewards or sanctions are a more effective way of inducing behaviors that are less environmentally harmful," he said.

An earlier version of the database has already been used in University political science and environmental studies classes, and six students are currently working on the project, which Mitchell said will eventually include approximately 2,500

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Professor Donald Mitchell will be able to continue researching international environmental agreements after receiving a \$282,000 grant from The National Science Foundation.

Erik Bishoff
Photographer

Insurance, childcare at stake in election

The Feb. 2 special election's results could determine medical and financial futures for many Eugene residents

By Ayisha Yahya
News Editor

Some people may no longer have health insurance. Others may no longer be able to pay for child-care. And some children who are victims of abuse may lose access to customized programs of care.

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Thursday: Education

Today: Social services

Monday: Police

Tuesday: Pros and cons

These are just some of the myriad potential effects to the state's health and human services if voters reject

Measure 30 in the Feb. 2 special election. The measure calls for an increase in income and other taxes in an attempt to alleviate Oregon's budget shortfall. If the measure passes, the state stands to gain about \$800 million from the income tax surcharges; if it fails, it could lead to cuts of about \$544 million across state agencies.

A significant chunk of the cut will be carved out the state's Department of Human Services.

"If the measure fails, the department has been directed by the legislature to cut \$206.9 million," DHS spokesman Jim Sellers said.

The Department administers various services, such as the Oregon Health Plan, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, food stamps, the state's JOBS program and public health programs.

Sellers said the Oregon Health Plan is most likely to bear the brunt of the cuts; of

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Bush's same-sex remarks spark debate

After the State of the Union speech Tuesday, community members are taking sides on the issue of whether to Constitutionally ban gay marriage

By Jared Paben
Senior News Reporter

In his State of the Union speech Tuesday, President George W. Bush suggested he would support a constitutional amendment to outlaw same-sex marriage, and he praised the 1996 passage of the Defense of Marriage Act as a step

toward "defending the sanctity of marriage."

Bush also reaffirmed the act's definition of marriage as "a union between a man and a woman" and said if "activist judges" continue to rule in favor of same-sex marriages and domestic unions he would support a constitutional amendment to ban them.

Currently, the U.S. Congress is debating an amendment that would prohibit the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages, according to an article in The Washington Times. It would also allow states to ignore civil unions created in other states.

Both Bush's speech and the pending amendment

are causing a stir on campus.

Chicora Martin, director of LGBT Educational and Support Services, said she thought a constitutional amendment would infringe on the rights of the states, which have traditionally regulated marriage.

"I'm surprised that more states haven't stepped up and said, 'Actually, you can't do that,'" Martin said. "I think it follows a trend of Bush trying to reinforce his philosophy of religion on everyone in the United States."

Martin said an amendment would violate one of the "core tenets of our Constitution, which is

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Campus buildings:
How safe are they?