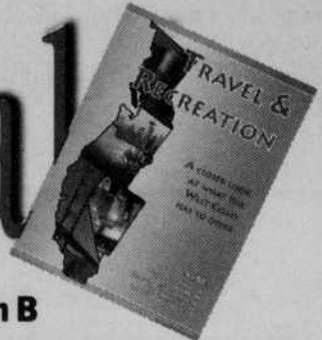


Oregon Daily Emerald



Traveling across the Northwest **Section B**

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SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

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Oregon judge rules same-sex marriages valid

Judge Frank Bearden said the licenses are valid, but ordered the county to halt until a law is passed

By Parker Howell
News Reporter

Oregon Circuit Court Judge Frank Bearden ruled Tuesday that same-sex marriages already issued by Multnomah County are valid, but ordered the county to cease issuing licenses. Bearden wants the county to stop issuing licenses to allow time for the Oregon Legislature to create laws that provide all couples with the protections afforded by marriage.

The highly anticipated decision, which will likely be appealed, was the first step in a legal process

designed to speedily establish the constitutionality of Oregon's marriage statute. If appealed, the ruling could end up in either the state's appellate court or supreme court.

At the time of the decision, Multnomah County remained the only county in the nation to issue same-sex marriage licenses. Bearden became the first judge to recognize same-sex marriage, saying the more than 3,000 licenses already issued are legally valid. He also said Oregon's marriage statute is unconstitutional because it bars rights and privileges guaranteed by the Oregon Constitution.

He gave the Legislature 90 days from the start of its next session to draft a new law. If legislators don't form a law, Multnomah County will regain authorization to resume issuing same-sex marriage licenses.

In his ruling, Bearden suggested Oregon follow the Vermont Supreme Court's decision to allow the Legislature to determine how to give all couples equal rights, saying the Vermont court's approach represents a sound example. The Vermont Legislature enacted a civil union statute as its solution for providing legal rights to same-sex couples. In his written findings, Bearden called the legal proceedings of the past several weeks "extraordinary, but not unprecedented," saying compelling reasons supported the case's shortened time frame. Bearden said time for "reflection and debate" is required so that laws or initiatives that are passed "coincide rather than conflict with each other."

Kelly Clark, attorney for the Defense of Marriage Coalition, said he was "not disappointed" by the decision, calling it nuanced and involved. The

coalition is committed to preserving marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"It's a very substantive ruling," Clark said. Clark said he was pleased by Bearden's decision to stop issuing same-sex marriage licenses. He added Bearden did not rule against the existing definition of marriage between a man and a woman. Clark also said Bearden's decision does not make same-sex marriage a constitutional right, but defers a final answer on the validity of same-sex marriage to the Legislature.

"In our view, that's the proper place for it to be, or on the ballot," Clark said.

Clark said the constitutional issue should not be carried out too quickly.

"There's no reason to rush through this," he said.

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MAKING THE GRADE



Pi Beta Phi members (right to left) Marissa Neitling, Julie Omiecinski and Rebecca Shively study Monday afternoon. Pi Beta Phi has the highest GPA of all the sororities.

Danielle Hickey
Photo Editor

'A' for Achievement

While some sororities and fraternities have succeeded at raising their GPAs, while others are still struggling

Chelsea Duncan
Senior News Reporter

This past term, University fraternities and sororities received the highest grades in the recorded history of the Greek Life Office, with the all-greek grade point average reaching 3.1. The number matched the University undergraduate average for the first time in more than 20 years, according to a Greek Life Office press release.

Many of the University's fraternity and sorority members have made headway since the administration implemented its endorsement policies in fall 2002, which include GPA and alcohol-free standards. Still, some houses continue to struggle with the tougher requirements.

Greek-affiliated students say they have been striving for a new image by placing a stronger emphasis on academics since the endorsement policies hit the greek system.

"I think that as greeks, we're trying to move into an entirely new direction," said Kara Merrill, Greek Life's vice president of panhellenic scholarship.

Merrill's sorority, Pi Beta Phi, accumulated a 3.41 GPA, the highest of all the greek houses. Kappa Delta came in second out of the sororities with a 3.28 and Chi Omega came in third with a 3.21, according to the release. The highest fraternity GPA was Delta Sigma Phi's 3.16. Beta Theta Pi achieved a 3.12 and Sigma Chi earned a 3.09 average.

Six of the 12 fraternities exceeded the University undergraduate all-men's average,

which was 2.98, according to the release. Three of the nine sororities met or exceeded the all-women's average, which was 3.16.

The houses are required to meet or make progress toward the University's undergraduate all-men's or all-women's GPA to maintain affiliation, Director of Student Activities Gregg Lobisser said.

Greek Life Coordinator Shelley Sutherland said greek-affiliated students have focused on improving their scholarship for the past few years, and since the implementation of the dry-house regulation for fraternities, GPA averages have risen.

"They've been able to focus more on their grades," she said. "Generally, the attitude and atmosphere is better now."

Delta Sigma Phi Public Relations

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EMS to feature name change this summer

Exercise and Movement Science will soon be called the Department of Human Physiology to reflect changes in the department's curricula

By Moriah Balingit
News Reporter

The crumpled paper sign marking the location of the Exercise and Movement Science Department in Esslinger Hall will soon be replaced by a new sign of unknown quality that will read "Department of Human Physiology." The new name reflects changes in the curriculum since the early '90s, when the department's main emphasis was training students to be physical education teachers, said EMS Department Head Gary Klug.

"The name change is actually following the transition," he said. "It's not leading it."

Klug said the department's mission has evolved to train people for careers in health care. Many students are interested in becoming personal trainers or plan to go to nursing or dentistry school following their completion of the program, he added.

According to Richard Troxel, director of undergraduate studies for the department, about a quarter of undergraduates are considering going into medical school.

Additionally, several students said "Exercise and Movement Science" was no longer an apt label for the department.

"They generally assume that we run around in workout suits," said EMS graduate student Tom Pellingier. "They don't take it very seriously because there (are) misconceptions."

Pellingier said the name "Department of Human Physiology" is "more accurate."

"It implies more of a comprehensive research," he said.

Troxel said the previous name "doesn't reflect the rigor of the curriculum we actually have." The previous name also had the problem of not being easily recognizable, causing problems when it appeared on graduate school applications.

"I do feel like human physiology is more accepted from other schools," senior EMS major Hannah Wiley said. "I think (the name change) is a good call for those who are entering graduate school."

The uncommon name also veiled the department in obscurity on campus, meaning many students weren't aware of the department until late in their tenure at the University.

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