

'Multiples of ten' infiltrating

Metric system framework for designer class

By SANDRA PETERKORT
Of the Emerald

Whether most people are aware of it or not, the United States has begun a gradual change to the metric system. Evidences of the voluntary switch are already visible, ranging from dual measurement systems on dress patterns and measuring cups, to the increased availability of metric tool sets and drafting equipment.

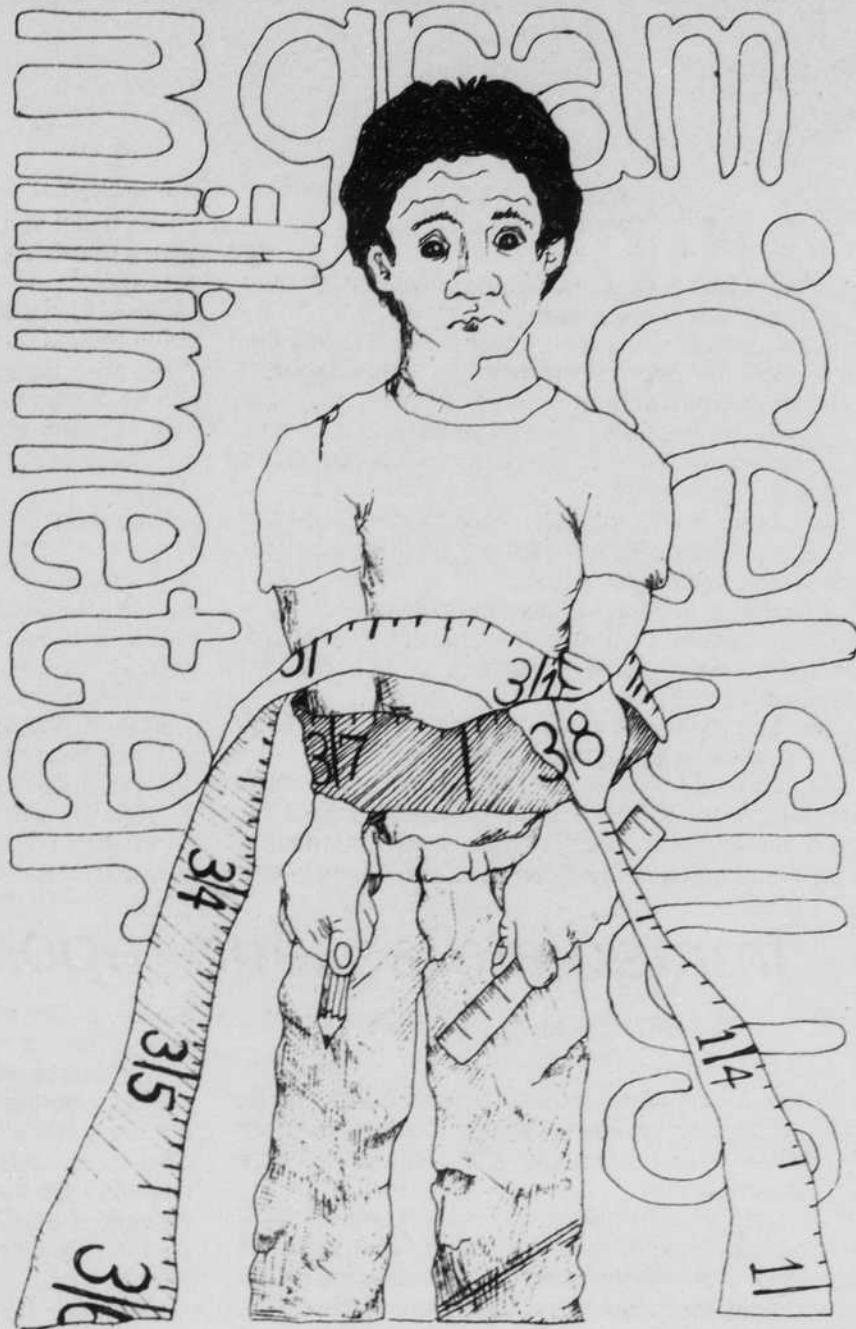
The University has also begun to reflect the change. Of course, the physical sciences have used metric measurements for years, but now that the country is moving in the metric direction, other disciplines are beginning to make changes.

A good example of the changes are those occurring in the architecture department. In an area of study where measurement is of prime importance, a change of standard could have great repercussions.

Jerry Finrow, professor of architecture, now requires that his advanced students use the metric system in all their studio work. Since the change is expected to be completed by the late 1980s, learning to use the system now could be valuable.

"People who are being trained in technical areas will encounter it in their lifetime," Finrow explained.

Richard Parnaby, architecture graduate student, was living in Britain during its metric conversion. Although he feels personally that the idea of a changeover is "not a really big deal," it will take a lot of effort. "It will take months or years of propaganda, and it's important to have some people around that are prepared."



Drawing by Rebecca Young

As an aid to preparation, Parnaby is teaching a SEARCH class this term called "Measurement and Metric in Building and Architecture."

The real problems involved in the changeover, Parnaby explained, are both psychological and economic. The metric system, very neatly divided as it is into mul-

tiples of ten, is simple to learn to use compared with the complexity of our present system. However, the tendency is for people to try to translate between the two systems instead of making the full switch. Like translating in a foreign language, this type of translation only makes things harder. "I'm sort of bilingual," Parnaby concluded.

Students seek academic influence

A proposal to unionize students in University departments and disciplines has been drawn up by the ASUO executive.

The proposal is academic unionization and is not to be confused with student unionization, according to Peter Spratt, administrative assistant.

Academic unionization will protect students' academic rights while student unionization promotes students' rights on a broader spectrum including such topics as tuition hikes, he says.

The purpose of the proposal is to solicit students interested in "working together toward a greater academic voice in their respective departments and schools," according to Spratt.

Every discipline will have a union under the proposal. Spratt will meet with interested persons from each discipline to draw up a constitution and by-laws for each group.

Unions already exist for some departments such as the Economics Forum and the Political Science Student Union.

"Most department heads are in favor of student input, but can't get a grasp on students," says Spratt. Academic unionization will increase student input on curriculum and increase participation in faculty evaluations. In addition,

he hopes it will start a movement to include students on more campus committees.

Spratt estimates that academic unionization could be im-

plemented in six weeks, with enough student participation.

The chairers of the unions will form a board to advise the ASUO on academic matters.

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Red food dye maker challenges FDA ban

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A major producer of the red food dye banned by the Federal Food and Drug Administration has challenged a government contention that the dye may be a cancer-causing agent, saying there is no danger in using the dye.

"There is absolutely no hazard in using Red No. 2 despite what has been reported by the FDA," said Jerome Kinnison, color products manager for Warner-Jenkinson Co. of St. Louis. "That dye has been in foods since before 1907 and no health hazards have been reported in humans."

Kinnison said the FDA decision was based on a new analysis of old laboratory tests that had been inconclusive. He also said he was not convinced that even the massive levels used in the studies on laboratory animals were carcinogenic.

Manufacturers stopped producing Red No. 2 on Jan. 12, following the FDA report.

Kinnison said his firm will fight the FDA ban. "We will have to examine the processes of challenge," Kinnison said. "Going to the courts is at least one option open if no channels are available through the FDA. We have to challenge their decision on the basis of being a responsible supplier."

'The Two' continue recruiting

EUGENE (AP) — About 125 people, most of them young, attended a meeting Tuesday at the Eugene Public Library conducted by six members of the Human Involvement Movement.

A number of people from Oregon earlier went with a couple called "The Two," who organized the movement to help teach people to rise to a higher plane of existence.

The six people, who said they used pseudonyms, collected the names of about 30 people who wanted to receive more information about the movement through collect phone calls.

Some people stayed after the meeting to talk with Richard Scott, 22, Eugene, who said he was a former follower of the movement.

"I feel it is my obligation to tell people not to go," Scott said.

He said the group traveled to various parts of the country and its members subsisted on donations

from churches and the Salvation Army and said he left the group because he felt it was directed by the devil.



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