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Faculty again faced with evaluation issue

By LOIS LINDSAY
Of the Emerald

The fate of public disclosure of faculty-course evaluations is once more in the hands of University faculty members.

In an official statement Thursday afternoon, University Pres. William Boyd said he was "quite willing" to have the issue of allowing access to student evaluations of faculty returned to the faculty for debate.

The statement came despite Boyd's announcement earlier this month that he would not approve disclosure of those materials. The president said he was basing that decision on a December faculty vote which "expressed clearly its (the faculty's) desire not to have such materials published."

The presidential action was taken in order to comply with a State Board of Higher Education ruling of Nov. 25 which placed the burden on college and university executives to decide whether public access to official faculty records would constitute violation of privacy rights to those materials.

Although student leaders accused Boyd of making a "hasty and inappropriate" decision, the president states this is not the reason he agreed to have the issue returned to the faculty.

He told the *Emerald* he is taking the action to "help clear up some misunderstandings" between the administration and the ASUO.

"I don't regard my action as changing anything," Boyd explained. "I've always said I would be guided by the faculty in making my decision. There just seems to be some disagreement as to whether or not

they have actually ruled on the matter."

The ASUO claims the December vote did not address the issue of privacy rights to the materials and so did not constitute an adequate ruling on the issue. They say that vote concerned a motion to establish a new evaluation form.

Although Boyd said he doesn't "necessarily agree" with the ASUO's contention, he is "willing to have the issue put to the test."

"If Jim Bernau (ASUO Pres.) is right, the faculty vote will indicate that. Whatever the case, I will abide by their decision."

Boyd said he indicated his willingness to return the matter to the faculty at a conference with the ASUO last Monday. He said he told Bernau at that time that he would take a "neutral stand" on the issue pending faculty discussion of the matter.

Bernau said he is "pleased and reassured" by the University president's decision.

"We feel very comfortable about having this matter debated between the faculty and students through the faculty governance system," he maintained. "This is what we were asking for all along."

Bernau said the ASUO has abandoned plans to appeal the matter to the State Board. He said such a move is "no longer necessary" because of Boyd's latest decision.

According to the ASUO president, a notice of motion on the public disclosure issue will go before the General Faculty, March 3. The matter will then be debated before the University Senate, March 31, and will be returned to the General Faculty for their final ruling on April 7.

States unemployment level shows gradual improvement

By FRANK JAFFE
Of the Emerald

The unemployment crisis plaguing Oregon is gradually improving, according to Dennis Minor, state manpower economist.

Ranging as high as 12 and one half per cent a few months ago, Lane County unemployment has eased to around 11 per cent, well above state (9 per cent) and local (7.8 per cent) averages.

"The situation in Eugene is better than last year, but still not good," said Minor, "although last year was nearly hopeless."

The young and inexperienced have the toughest time cracking the job market. State figures show the 25 to 34 age group to be the hardest hit.

"We have a 'Banana Republic' economy in Oregon," explained Minor. "It is closely tied to the lumber industry. Because it's not well diversified, it's very cyclical."

Lane County has a staggering dependency on lumber and wood products—75 per cent of all manufacturing is in this area, according to Minor. Much of the remaining manufacturing is devoted to machinery used by the lumber industry.

Because the demand for wood products has been weak, Oregon's economy has suffered. The productivity per worker is steadily increasing in this industry, which Minor says will cause the job market to further contract in coming years.

An increase in housing starts would provide a shot of adrenalin for Oregon's sagging economy. Housing starts are crucial to the lumber industry, Minor emphasized, while interest rates are crucial to housing starts.

"In the housing industry's heyday, there were 2.4 million starts per year. Last year there were only a million," Minor said. "An average house costs \$40,000 now. Not many people can handle it."

Despite the adverse conditions, student jobs are available, according to Earline Curtis of the University's student employment department. "We're happy and busy over here," she reports. "A wide variety of jobs are available right now. The economic outlook seems to have improved."

The summer employment outlook remains uncertain. "Employers won't talk about summer yet," Curtis said. "I couldn't even hazard a guess."

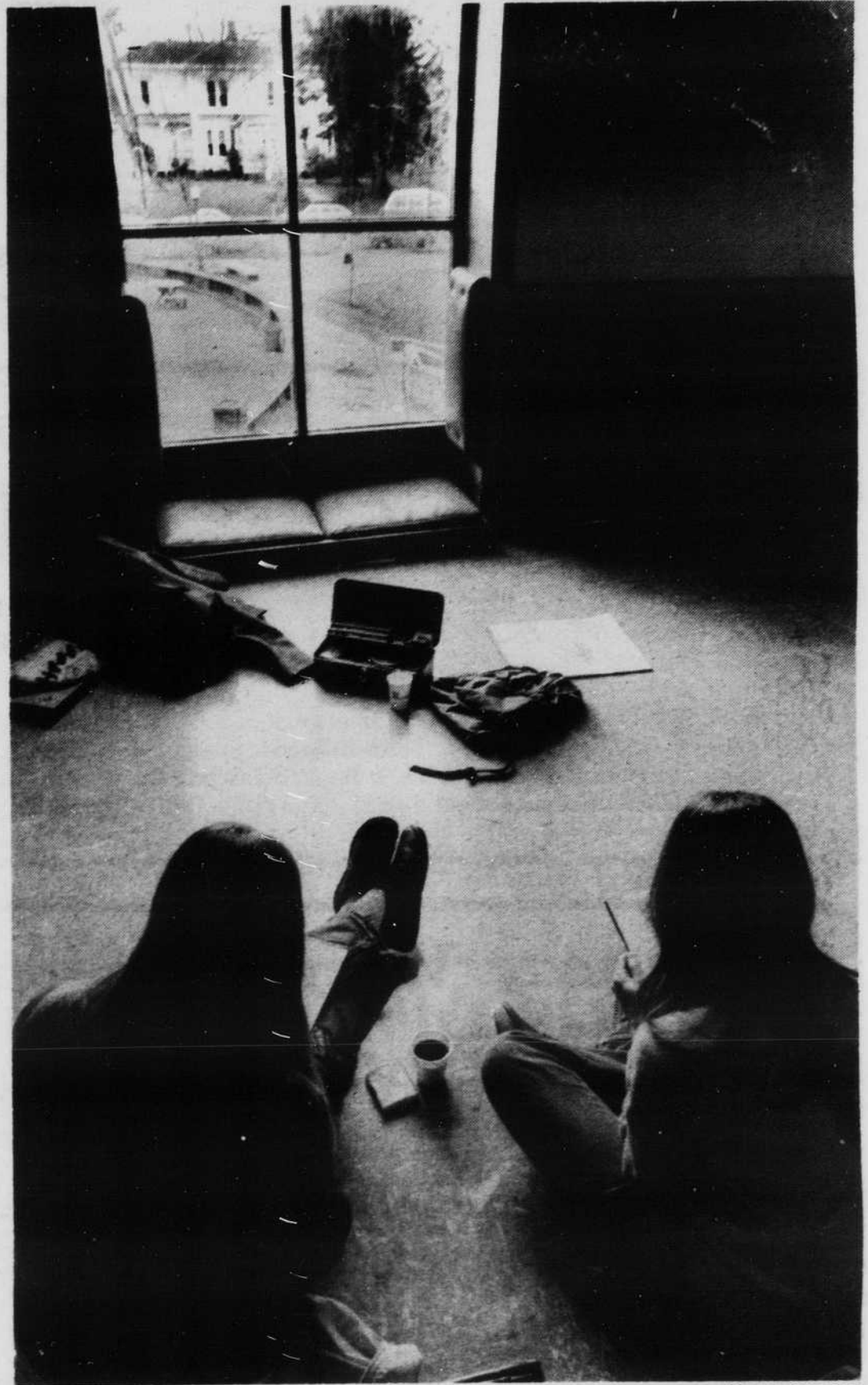


Photo by Greg Clark

Coffee cup and creation

Drawing is one of the better things to do on a rainy afternoon—and it's even better with that handy cup of coffee, as these two students from the University's architectural media class showed Thursday.

Tales of campus life. Part 6

Self-destruct antics em-'blaze'-on dorm life

By BRAD LEMLEY
Of the Emerald

At first I was a little nervous about returning to the dorms. After being gone for three years, living in my little orange-carpeted flat in the Swiss Hacienda Manor, I was afraid I wouldn't be able to slip back into the dorm routine. Maybe as a 21-year-old senior I would be too jaded, too mature to fit in, especially since the only room I could get was in a freshman dorm.

But as time went on and moving-in day grew closer I began looking forward to going back. I knew I couldn't live in the Hacienda anymore— inflation was making my rent bill look like a phone number and three years of my own cooking had landed me a part-time job posing for CARE posters. But even more than that, I was beginning to grow anxious to return to the carefree days of my collegiate youth: days of close comradeship, hilarious practical jokes, and ceaseless, vibrant adolescent energy.

So as I tottered toward the cold brick facade, staggering under the ponderous weight of one-tenth of my

book collection, my heart was light. This isn't going to be so bad after all, I decided. Who could tell? Perhaps by surrounding myself with those who wore the brilliant aura of youthful vitality some of its precious glow would seep into my stiffened old joints, limbering up my arthritic attitudes and teaching me to enjoy...

My pleasant reverie was abruptly cut off by the roar of a mammoth streamer of flame, which smashed through a second-floor window and arched skyward into a thick bank of fog that hid the top portion of the building. Immediately, I dropped my books and raced up to the second floor anxious to discover the source of the blaze.

When I reached the hallway I was greeted by a contingent of about a dozen young men who bore a remarkable resemblance to each other—so remarkable, in fact, that every time I counted them I came up with a different total. They were all white, first of all; a sort of bright, insolent white, and all were beardless, had straight, limp blond hair and wispy little moustaches that only the con-

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