

Oregon gears up for conversion to metric

By LORI PETERSON
Of the Emerald

Liters, meters, centimeters...terms from Greek mythology?

For many who have not been "metricated" yet, that may sound just about right, but it is only a matter of time before many Oregonians will be quite familiar with the new system of metric measurement.

The Oregon Department of Education recently received a \$24,000 metric education grant from the United States Office of Education.

Ray Theiss, specialist in science education and chairer of the Metric Coordination Committee says the grant will fund the project "Cooperative State-Wide In-service Program in Metric Education."

"We live in a metric world...If we don't go metric, we may have a severe problem ahead."

Money from the grant has helped train over 56 district-regional education specialists in the area of metric education. The specialists attended an intensive one-week training session at Marylhurst Education Center this summer, headed by Bill Lamon, associate professor of teacher education.

The specialists were identified by superintendents at local and regional levels in the public school systems and are responsible for conducting six hours worth of in-service workshops for school staff members, as well as a two-hour workshop for the public.

Theiss states "the specialists should be done by Jan. 22." This deadline is scheduled so on Jan. 24, when Oregon Educational and Public Broadcasting System starts the 12-show series "MeasureMetric," teachers across the state who have been involved in a in-service

workshop can begin instruction in the classroom and the program series on video tape or 16 mm film can be used as teaching aids.

Specialists have a pre and post testing, according to Theiss. That testing is done by Lamon and confirms that in-service workshops were held as well as orientation sessions for the public in the different areas in the state.

Lamon also teaches a class dealing exclusively with metrics at this University. "Metric System of Measurement; It's Theory and Practice (CI 4076) is offered this term.

Outside the classroom, Lamon offers workshops in metric education all over the state of Oregon. The 25 workshops are open to any interested teachers. Lamon claims he's been to every major city in Oregon over the last two years.

According to a resolution passed by the State Board of Education, all phases of school operations will be metric by 1983. Lamon believes "the state has to metricate."

"We live in a metric world," he contends. "If we don't go metric, we may have a severe problem ahead."

Lamon has been overseas to discuss metrics and comments that Europeans have learned our non-metric system "since it's beginning," as well as utilizing the metric system in their daily lives.

"We formed a habit," he adds. "We have to undo this habit and learn a new one."

Lamon recommends his workshops to students in his teaching education methods classes and has also coordinated a handbook for teachers that is expected to come out next year. Canadian and American teachers helped produce materials for the book.

"We have no choice" he believes, but to convert to the metric system and already many public schools are attempting to introduce metrics to children.

Designing tasks and exposing people to metrics is one way of introducing metrics to people says Lamon, and he predicts "we will make it in the metric system."



Drawing by Linda Tourney Johnston

Home design cuts energy \$\$

By LINDA CHAPMAN
Of the Emerald

Looking for a house that consumes less natural resources and will cut future energy bills to a minimum? Impossible? Not any more.

Homeowners can expect to save up to two-thirds of their heating bill if they purchase a house recognized by Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) as "energy efficient" under the stipulations of a new award program. The first Energy Efficient Building Award went to Trans-Western Investors this August, builders of "Modena" homes, for their building at 154 Lawrence St. in west Eugene.

In order to qualify for the award, new buildings must be built ac-

cording to the "Arkansas Plan," a series of construction specifications which "design" energy savings into new buildings. Glen Stadler, former community services coordinator and currently a consultant to EWEB, outlines the utility's qualifications for the conservation award.

"Two-by-six inch boards should be used in place of the conventional two-by-fours in frame construction" Stadler states. "This allows for a two-inch increase in insulation. In addition, six inches of insulation under the building and 12 inches in the roof are required to meet "Arkansas plan" and EWEB standards."

Under EWEB's energy conservation regulations, windows must be of double-glazed glass and must not exceed in total area ten

per cent of the building's floor space. Windows must be secured with wood frames coated with double thermal paint. Metal framing draws moisture into the building, according to Stadler.

An energy efficient building must also be equipped with a humidifier which maintains a 50 per cent level of humidity.

Increased purchase price of an energy efficient dwelling was estimated by Stadler at \$1,000. A house built according to the "Arkansas plan," however, should consume \$100 less energy per year than a conventional home.

The resale value of an energy efficient home should increase more rapidly as utility rates increase Stadler indicates. Stabilized temperatures enhance the dwelling's comfort and livability. Stadler intends to build a house for himself (when he moves to Salem) which complies with energy efficiency standards, including a basement solar energy unit.

The Energy Efficient Building Award Program is part of EWEB's ongoing project of energy conservation. In 1971, EWEB ceased all promotion for energy use, including the "Gold Medallion" Award. The utility now rewards cutbacks instead of consumption of energy resources. According to EWEB's Glen Stadler, the purpose of the Eugene utility's energy conservation program is to encourage the "wise and efficient use" of available energy.

EWEB conducts research in solar and thermal resources and subsidizes windpower research at Oregon State, in addition to staff projects in conversion of wood waste and the use of Weyerhaeuser's closed cycle steam system to supplement Eugene's Energy needs.

Program accredited

The University's interior architecture program recently became the first interior design department on the West Coast to receive full accreditation from the Foundation for Interior Design Research Education (FIDER) in New York City, the only accrediting organization in the nation for interior design education programs.

Only about 25 schools in the country have accredited programs in the field.

According to Lyman Johnson, professor of interior architecture, an evaluation team from FIDER visited the campus in spring, 1974, and granted a temporary, two-year accreditation at that time. A FIDER team returned to the University last spring and recommended full, five-year accreditation for the program last month.

The department, part of the Oregon Daily Emerald

School of Architecture and Allied Arts, offers a five-year program for undergraduates culminating in a Bachelor of Interior Architecture degree. Graduate study in the field generally leads to a Master of Architecture degree with a special emphasis in interior architecture.

Johnson said there are approximately 100 students enrolled in the program which, he explained, "is concerned with our approximate or intimate environment. Our concerns range from the spatial relationships inside a building to designing the furniture within it."

The department is currently staffed by one half-time and three full time faculty members, plus a graduate teaching assistant. Johnson said one goal of the department is to increase staffing so that it will be possible for the faculty "to engage in more research related to the approximate environment."



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