

'It's elementary, my dear chemistry student'

Element samples shown as periodic table display

By CLARK WALWORTH
Of the Emerald

Students who take beginning chemistry classes hear all about the "elements," the fundamental substances that make up all matter. But when lab time comes, they handle mostly compounds — they rarely see the elements themselves.

The situation, however, is changing. A showcase containing actual samples, arranged like the periodic table common to chemistry textbooks, now adorns the wall of Science II directly across from the chemistry department office, Room 91, and students can look at the substances in their simple elemental form.

The display is the brainchild of Ralph Barnhard, director of science services. Barnhard got the idea several years ago, when a poster showing photographs of the elements inspired him to go one step further and use the real thing, he said.

Funded by a grant from the Oregon Education Council, he and Dave Senkovich, a staff member in charge of the chemistry teaching labs, worked on the project for about two years, isolating the various elements in their spare time and sending away for elements too costly or difficult to obtain themselves.

The University Physical Plant built the case and two draftspersons from Science Services did the lettering, he said.

The display went on the wall in October, with samples of 85 of the 103 "natural" elements, including arsenic, gold, a one-carat industrial diamond and uranium 238.

An added attraction is a set of four electric discharge tubes that contain samples of inert gases and light up when a key-operated switch is turned on.

The samples by themselves have no monetary value, according to Barnhard, because they are so small, but he considers the display quite valuable, especially as a teaching tool.

"The general student population could care less," he says, "but for someone just starting out in chemistry, with no concept of the elements in the elemental state, they'll be able to look at this and make some sense of what they're hearing in their lecture classes."



Photo by Kurt Krasne

Many avenues open for student Legislature activity

By DAN WEBSTER
Of the Emerald

Students who want to get involved with the Oregon Legislature this session have several avenues open to them at the University, some of which offer credit.

• **SEARCH Classes** — The SEARCH program offers several classes that, depending upon the interest of the student, carry credit and require "action-oriented term projects" that can be targeted toward specific legislative interests. For example CSPA 400, Oregon's Environmental Issues, one such "action-oriented" class offered this winter, could conceivably involve a project aimed toward the passage of an expanded bottle-deposit bill that is expected to be one of this Legislature's chief issues.

Other classes offered deal with Oregon's future energy plans and recycling methods. Questions concerning SEARCH classes should be directed to the SEARCH office, Suite 1, EMU, ext. 4377.

• **ASUO** — The ASUO needs part-time workers to make phone calls, write letters, or make trips to the state capital.

"We're trying to train a responsible constituency that will benefit from its own actions," says Mark

Cogan, ASUO vice-president for state affairs. "Basically, we're trying to help students help themselves."

The ASUO hopes to maintain a mailing list of 300 to 400 students. Those on the list will receive a newsletter every two weeks outlining the upcoming subjects of interest on the legislative agenda. Questions should be directed to Mark Cogan or Linda Chapman, ASUO office, Suite 4, EMU, ext. 3724.

• **Survival Center** — Besides sponsoring the SEARCH classes mentioned above, the Survival Center does some lobbying of its own. Similar to the ASUO pro-

gram, the Survival Center provides an opportunity for students to lobby; unlike the ASUO, the Survival Center is interested primarily in environmental issues.

"We offer ideas dependent upon each student's particular interest," says Dave Brown, assistant director of the center. "We explain how specific issues are related to the Legislature, and then we teach the students the skills they will need to do an effective job."

For further information call Bruce Walker or Dave Brown, Suite 1, EMU, ext. 4356.

• **CSPA, Urban Planning, Political Science** — These depart-

ments offer students the opportunity to earn credit by working directly with individual members of the legislature.

The political science department offers a "Salem Seminar," taught by Larry Pierce, that entails one in-class session a week plus a study session at the state Capitol building. In a program coordinated by Maradel Gale, part-time and full-time internships are available for credit through these departments. A full-time internship would require working full-time in Salem and would be worth a total of 12 units. Although all internships for the 1976 Legislature have been filled, anyone interested in the program should

contact Maradel Gale, ext. 3879 or ext. 3632.

Other University agencies providing lobbying opportunities for students include: Student University Affairs Board, Suite 4, ext. 3728, ALERT, Suite 1, EMU, ext. 4383, Child Care and Redevelopment Center, 1511 Moss, ext. 4384, Drug Information Center, 1678 Columbia, ext. 5411, Friendship with the Elderly, Suite 1, EMU, ext. 5131, Gay People's Alliance, Suite 1, EMU, ext. 3360, Gerontology Association, Suite 1, EMU, ext. 5131, Off-Campus Housing, Suite 3, EMU, ext. 3731, OSPIRG, Suite 3, EMU, ext. 4073 and Women's Referral and Resource Service, Suite 1, EMU, ext. 3327.

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