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Squirreling around

A familiar sight on campus, this funky squirrel bags some early spring rays while laying back on a mellow afternoon. Fellow hipster squirrels across campus were getting off on the solar power that glided into Eugene Wednesday.

Photo by Greg Gawlowski

OAA says University complying with Title IX

By GARY LEY
Of the Emerald

Title IX of the 1972 Federal Education Amendment prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally assisted education programs, like this University.

Myra Willard, director of the University's office of Affirmative Action (OAA), says the University is in compliance with Title IX.

"As far as we know, by policy and by official practice, we are in compliance," she says.

Willard says the federal ordinance applies to all aspects of the University's education program and support services. This includes admissions, financial aid and majors, in addition to hiring practices, teaching aids and the conduct of teachers in the classrooms.

As of September 30, 1977, 34 percent of the academic vacancies at the University had been filled by women, according to Willard. She points out that in 1973, 14.8 percent of the full-time faculty members were women. The figure had risen to 16.5 percent by the end of 1976.

Willard says the University's stand on Title IX is similar to other federally assisted schools in the nation.

"The situation is more or less the same

across the country, she says. "We're better than most universities in the sense that our top administration people pay attention to programs of equal opportunity."

To meet the aims of Title IX, Willard says the various schools and departments around the University do not have to abide by quotas in their hiring of women. Instead, they have six-year "hiring goals." Each year, the department sets itself a numerical goal of the number of women it will hire.

Some have made their goals and others have not," Willard says.

Willard's figures show that both business administration and the humanities exceeded their goals. The University library failed to meet its goal.

"If they don't reach their goal, then they look at their goal processes to see if there is a problem," Willard says of areas in the University falling short of the standard.

Willard says goals may not be reached for a number of reasons. For example, the expected number of women might not apply for a position, the goals might be unrealistic or the department might not make the necessary effort to achieve its goals.

Willard explained that in most cases,

goals were not met because of a lack of applicants.

She says, "Our recruitment has not been as fruitful as we expected."

When asked why fewer women apply for the open positions, Willard replied, "I don't know."

Eighteen months ago, the OAA established grievance procedures for students who feel they have been discriminated against. At this time, OAA has received about 10 complaints from students claiming sexual discrimination.

"We feel all have been resolved fairly and satisfactorily," Willard says.

Most of the complaints proved valid. She says the majority of these 10 complaints involved the conduct of teachers in the classroom, but she declined to specify further.

Before Title IX was passed, both the state and University had regulations banning sexual discrimination. Because of this, Willard says the University did not have much difficulty adjusting to provisions of the act.

Willard feels her office has been quite successful in fighting all types of discrimination at the University. She says a major factor for this has been the high accessibility of her office.

Kill-a-watt: emergency curtailment plan set

Computers to decide power use

By KATHLEEN MONJE
Of the Emerald

The printed line on your Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) bill saying your electrical usage is up or down is not there just to encourage you in conservation efforts.

If Gov. Bob Straub decides to declare "mandatory curtailment" or rationing, the computer will use the same line on your bill to explain how much electricity you can use for the next month.

EWEB's plans for meeting a rationing order from the governor were started last June, when the drought's effects led the Oregon Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to direct all state utility companies to create such plans.

"We were lucky it started raining and kept on raining all winter," says John Scofield, EWEB's

Energy Conservation Center manager. "We just barely squeaked by."

In the event of a severe energy crisis, voluntary curtailment by commercial and residential users would give way to stricter measures.

"We're now ready, at a long moment's notice, to put our plan into operation," Scofield says.

Rationing would take place in three stages, according to the severity of the situation. First would be the elimination of all outdoor lighting, "consistent with safety and security," according to the PUC director.

At the second stage, EWEB's computer would go into action, telling each customer how many kilowatt hours of electricity could be used during the coming month.

This amount would be figured on a percentage basis of the individual's previous year's energy consumption.

And that is the whole reason behind telling you what percentage your monthly usage is, year-to-date.

Scofield says the computer's figures have met with unhappy reactions from some customers. One family received a bill telling them their electrical consumption was up more than 11,000 percent.

The year before the family had been living at a different address, while building a new home. The building site had a temporary meter monitoring the average seven kilowatt hours used by power tools in construction of their new home.

When the family moved into

their completed house and began normal electrical consumption, their percentage rate compared to the year before shot up tremendously.

Scofield explains that such figures would not be used in computing the amount of electricity allowed to a household, under rationing. "No one would be held to a figure established by someone else, or under such unusual conditions."

After this percentage cut by all consumers, the third stage could be implemented, if necessary.

This could involve voltage reduction at EWEB's plants, rolling black-outs where the electricity is cut off first to one area and then another, and finally cutting off electricity to everyone except hospi-

tals, fire stations and other priority services.

"If a new resident moved into town, we would base their allowed usage on where they lived," Scofield says.

A customer unhappy with permitted usage under the mandatory plan could have recourse to an appeal system, starting with EWEB's Energy Conservation Center.

The next step of appeal would be to the company's Board of Commissioners, with final resolution at the state level, probably PUC.

The threat of mandatory curtailment has faded now, but it's ready if necessary. As PUC Commissioner, Charles Davis said last summer, "We hope we will never have to implement mandatory electricity curtailment, but in case of a shortage, we must have workable, up-to-date plans."