

New policy causes problems

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

A new requirement for fifth-year architecture students has caused some scheduling problems, so implementation of the requirement has been "relaxed" for a year, says department head Charles Rusch.

The new class was originally intended to give advanced design students an opportunity to join other students at their same level of "sophistication" for a final in-depth project before graduation.

But as one Arch 480 student commented, "We didn't stop to think about the problems it might cause." Students close to graduation under the old requirements suddenly found themselves locked into a two-term sequence with a limited choice of teachers and design projects, the student explained.

The 480-eligible architecture students had been exposed to a wide variety of design projects and professors available in the Arch 380 design studios, says Rusch. "This department prides itself on giving students a lot of choices, so they are expected to have a choice in their last year," he adds.

Rusch says that even though the curriculum committee is open to students, the requirement change was communicated to them. "A lot of students came back this fall thinking it was going to be the same," he says.

In order to resolve the confusion, it was decided to relax the Arch 480 requirement for another year, says Rusch. At a meeting of concerned Arch 480-eligibles at the beginning of the term, students who had been hoping for a favorite professor or project in a Arch 380 design class were allowed to "preference" for them. These students will substitute two Arch 380 projects for the graduation-required Arch 480 project.

Architecture 480 design projects include Dan Herbert's downtown Eugene commercial-transit-residential complex design. The design site has been described as "the focus of study and controversy in local planning politics," where students will be able to "observe real-time political influences on downtown development."

Fall-spring options such as this one are unpopular with students trying to graduate during the winter or fall

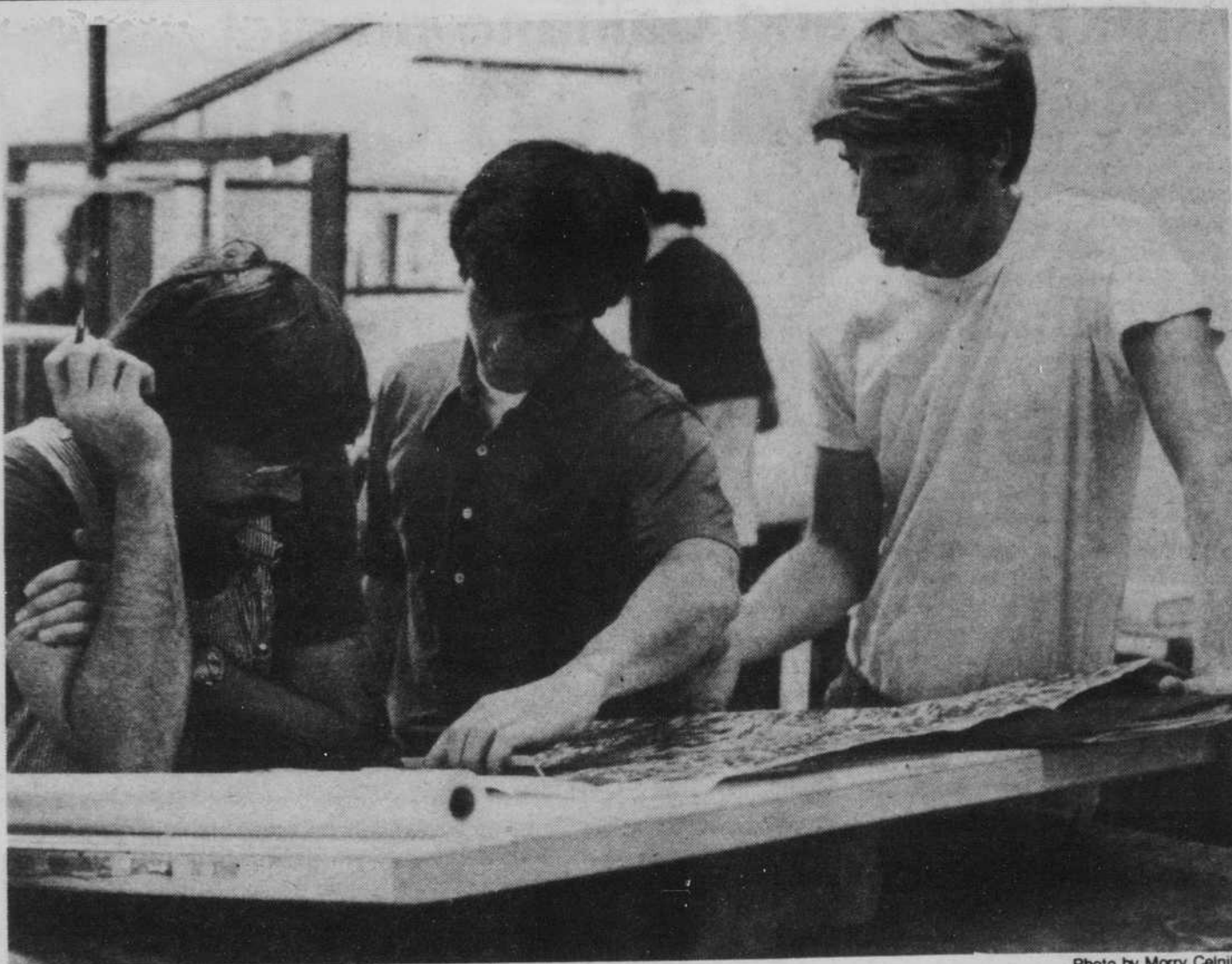


Photo by Marry Celnik

Architecture students look over a project in a Design 380 class. A new requirement for classes in the School of Architecture has caused scheduling problems, so the requirement is being "relaxed" this year. School officials cite a lack of communication as part of the problem and hope to work out a solution this year.

terms, but a department release says that informal discussions for Winter term may make this option more worthwhile. Signs offering to trade term options for cash are not uncommon on Design class bulletin boards.

Design 380 offers students of all levels a choice of 14 different projects and professors, compared to five sections of Arch 480. Projects include Phillip Dole's Building in an Historic and Neighborhood Context, and Solar Energy Design with Reynolds.

Other examples are Rosaria Hodgson's "Urban Multiples" and Pasquale Piccioni's project for renovating St. Thomas More, a Roman Catholic parish which serves as the University's Newman Center. This studio involves "the redesign of symbols of worship, vestments, research on the historical relationship between Catholic liturgy and architecture, and the use and meaning of symbols as an expression of religious experience," the course description says.

Piccioni says that a two-term project gives the stu-

dents an opportunity to demonstrate to themselves that they can make it in the real world of professional architecture.

"A lot felt they had no way of knowing under the old system," says Piccioni. Students take eight terms of 380 studios, which mix all levels and experience on the same project. Piccioni says that everyone agrees that Architecture 480 is a "way of marking the transition" for advanced students.

But not enough thought that idea through, says Piccioni. "It's a closed system. We can't add personnel," he says.

"Our intentions were admirable," says Rusch of the requirement. "We ran into problems because our intentions were not clearly transmitted." Rusch hopes to work on developing better departmental communication with students.

"The whole thing could have been avoided with more communication last spring," Rusch says, "so that their (the students) expectations could have been real."

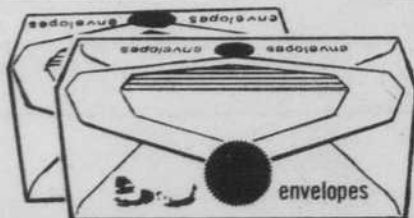
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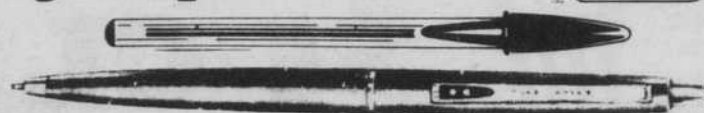
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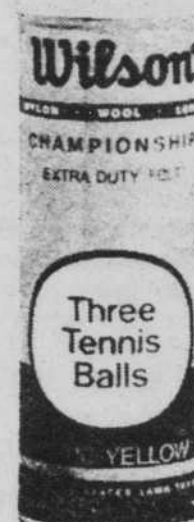


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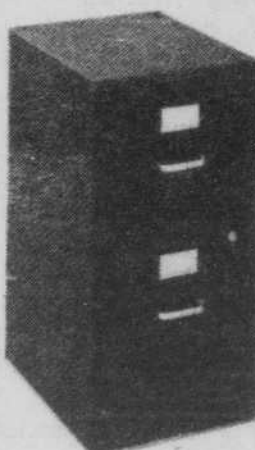
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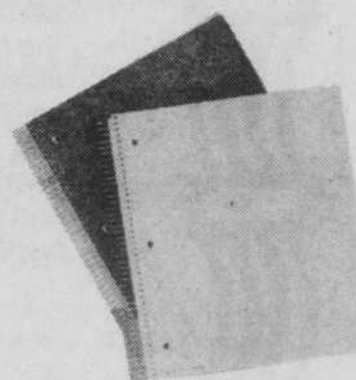
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