

oregon daily emerald

Vol. 80, No. 68

Eugene, Oregon 97403

Thursday ~~Friday~~, December 7, 1978



Photo by Keith Allen

Spruced-up Spirit

It's hard to imagine anything to sing about this week, but a group of senior citizens had no trouble getting decked out to warble "Tis the Season to Be Jolly" and other cheerful yuletide carols in the EMU Wednesday.

The Willamalane Kitchen Band from Springfield, wearing red and white gingham and playing home-made instruments, entertained as part of the Christmas Crafts Fair.

Evaluation access chances killed

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

The University Assembly ended the possibility of student access to course evaluation data Wednesday, despite recent recommendations by the University Senate to allow limited student access.

The Assembly voted instead to adopt a proposal which fails to make any provision for student access.

The proposal, sponsored by English professor Stanley Greenfield and History professor Paul Holbo, replaces all previous course evaluation legislation.

"The faculty has made a sound and sensible decision," Holbo said. "It came out just as I thought it would."

Holbo, a past chair of the faculty personnel committee, said the proposal was intended to improve the process of faculty

evaluation. "It did not focus on the student access issue," he added.

Harold McLean of the Student University Affairs Board, however, was disappointed at the outcome. "It was a mistake not to recruit those faculty members who are philosophically in support of student access," he said.

The Greenfield-Holbo legislation eliminates the Senate-approved concept of a standardized University-wide evaluation form, leaving questionnaire format up to individual departments.

In addition, student evaluations of an instructor are limited to two "representative" courses taught by that teacher each year.

It restricts evaluation data use to promotion, tenure and review decisions, as well as for the personal use of the instructor "in improving the effectiveness of teaching."

In defense of the Senate's

recommendations, McLean said that the question before the Assembly was whether the faculty would take the initiative to limit student access while recognizing the privacy rights of instructors, or go on record as opposing all access, forcing the State Legislature to intervene for an idea whose time has come.

McLean added that a continued program of secrecy is not consistent with academic freedom.

Ronald Rousseve, speaking in favor of the Greenfield-Holbo motion, warned the Assembly that their decision could have a "far-reaching impact in the State legislature." He called the move for student access and standardized evaluation forms a "possible wedge to induce conformity" in teaching methods, and "subtle manipulation" with a potential impact on teaching diversity.

Greenfield said the committee's motion was complicated, while his motion was "simple and clean," which he hoped would appeal to the Assembly. He referred to the publicity which focused on the student access issue like "the tail wagging the dog," since the motion was directed at personnel committee use, not student use.

Though open-ended comments or "other appropriate evaluative material" may still be solicited under the new legislation, only the use of a two-part statistical survey form with questions designed to elicit "student perceptions on course quality and teaching effectiveness," is specified.

ASUO President Ramon Herrera says it's sad that in 1978 the faculty would choose not to approve student access to student evaluations of courses. "This definitely becomes our legislative priority," he says, for student lobbying at the 1979 state legislature.

today

Alpha Phi Omega service organization is conducting its "textbook exchange" referral for students who look ahead to saving money next term. See Page 3.

The Emerald People's Utility District board met Wednesday night to elect officers and adopt resolutions. Students in outlying areas have a chance to serve on the EPUD committees. See Page 5.

A new album created by local musicians, poets, artists and photographers for neighboring residents has recently been released. In Eugene, Sally Hodgekinson examines Lane County's Greatest Hits, on Pages 12 and 13.