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Graphic by Tom Ettel

Program on aging waits for state degree approval

By BILLIE-KAY KREWSON
Of the Emerald

The University will offer a bachelor's degree in gerontology, the study of older people and the aging process, if the State Board of Higher Education approves a recommendation from its instruction program committee.

"Assuming everything is approved before the middle of September, we would begin offering the degree fall term," says Fran Scott, director of the Center for Gerontology. "If it should get hung up, it would very likely be winter term."

The University will be one of the few schools in the country and the only one in Oregon to offer a gerontology degree if a recommendation by the Committee on Instruction, Research and Public Service Programs is approved by the full board next month.

"This will be the first degree program in the state. USC began one in 1977 and that's the only other one on the West Coast that I know of," says Scott.

The University has offered gerontology instruction for 12 years, says Scott. "We were one of the first to offer it."

The committee also recommended that the University's request for a master's program be denied. Members of the committee felt it would be better to offer a bachelor's degree and see how many students are interested in the program before expanding it to the

graduate level, Scott says.

A master's certificate will be offered, but the gerontology department will have to limit the number awarded.

Graduate students have a "requirement on research and need more attention," she adds, "and someone will have to supervise them."

While gerontology is a new field, says Scott, job opportunities have increased in the last year or so.

"An employer couldn't hire someone who had training in gerontology, so they hired someone with a related interest such as social work."

The range of jobs open to gerontology students includes nutrition planning, nursing home direction, pre-retirement counseling, and county services planning for seniors.

It is important for people to try to understand and learn what's normal for older people instead of ignoring them or shutting them off from society, Scott says.

"Old people need to reminisce. Most are retired. They talk in the past because their accomplishments are in the past."

The University expects 100 to 150 majors within two or three years at the bachelor's level, Scott says, and wants to offer the degree now instead of waiting because of the growing interest.

Any student interested in gerontology can call 686-4207 to talk to a faculty member or a peer adviser.

Draft statute faces committee verdict

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

The U.S. House of Representatives Rules Committee is expected to decide today whether an amendment to the defense department authorization act that allows draft registration of 18- to 26-year-old males beginning Jan. 1 will be treated as a separate piece of legislation or left in the authorization bill.

"It's going to be a close vote from what I hear," says Shawn Perry, assistant director of the National Interreligious Board of Conscientious Objectors in Washington, D.C.

If the amendment is left in the authorization act, the House will vote on the bill by the end of July, Perry predicts, adding that the Senate vote will soon follow. But if the amendment becomes a separate bill, Congress won't vote on it until September, he says, noting that schools — and student anti-draft groups — will be back in session by then.

The chances of Congress passing some form of draft registration are uncertain, says John Lawrence, president of the University Veterans.

"They (Congress) may throw it to Carter's lap and give him six months to report back on the feasibility of draft registration," Lawrence says, adding that Congress may be hesitant to approve draft registration until the 1980 elections are over.

But Perry and Lawrence say the military seems to be gearing up for intervention in the Persian Gulf, to protect U.S. oil interests. They feel the recent Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) price hike and an anticipated oil strike in Iran in August may help return draft registration.

"A lot of members of Congress would like to beef up the military in order to be prepared for intervention in the Middle East," Perry says.

The U.S. has been building up the military in several ways, Lawrence says. Among his examples of "escalation" are:

- The recall of 4,060 retired U.S. Army

training instructors to active duty by Oct. 1. "This has never been done in peacetime," Lawrence says.

- Plans for a "quick reaction" unilateral military strike force of 100,000 to be activated in the fall for areas other than Western Europe.

- A defense department request asking Congress for standby authority to draft physicians during wartime.

- A defense department proposal to recall up to 100,000 veterans who have completely fulfilled their military obligations for a troop replacement in the first days of a war. "This keeps coming up over and over. In spite of opposition, the supporters still leave the legislation on the docket," says Lawrence. "It's like a trial balloon."

- Nine bills in Congress that would bring back draft registration.

- Comments by military leaders that allude to intervention in the Persian Gulf, including a recent comment by Defense Secretary Harold Brown that the United States is clearly leaning toward intervention.

"Brown's comment will definitely have an effect on draft registration," Perry says. "It will contribute to the debate and will certainly contribute to that kind of (Persian Gulf intervention) talk."

The military build-up is "a signal that America doesn't want anyone to push it around," Perry says, adding that a lot of people feel the United States should march into the Persian Gulf area and "just destroy everything. It's too bad."

"It's getting awfully close to military intervention in the Persian Gulf," Lawrence says. "It doesn't look good."

"Congress thought all the opposition to the draft died with the Vietnam War," Perry says, adding that anti-draft forces have had a "tremendous impact on Congress, but now pro-draft people are getting organized."

For more information on the draft and draft counseling, call the Coalition Opposing Registration and the Draft (CORD) at 344-0009.

today

Skylab is expected to fall within the next two days, beginning its disintegration over the Pacific Northwest. But a Portland psychic says Oregonians needn't worry, because pieces of the 77.5-ton laboratory debris won't hit anyone. "It will fall in the water or near the mountains," she says. The federal space experts aren't quite so sure where it will hit, however. See Page 3.

Hand-held electronic games are beeping and blipping their way into the hearts of America. Several Eugene toy merchants carry various versions of this most recent computer-age fad and, despite some problems in the overloaded computer chip industry, toy enthusiasts and marketers alike seem determined to insure that these games are here to stay. See page 4.

Revised, more liberal rules for Basic Educational Opportunity Grants will add 70,000 college students to the eligibility list for federal financial aid. Another 600,000 will be able to receive increased BEOG grants for the 1979-80 academic year, says Secretary Joseph Califano of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. To find out about the new qualifications, see Page 8.