

\$10 fee initiated P.E. dept. charges users

By ALICE O'CONNOR
Of the Emerald

Whether you spend one buck or ten, a new user fee at the University's physical education facilities is bound to surprise some students this summer.

A mandatory \$10 fee has been levied for anyone using the facilities summer term.

Norval Ritchey, assistant dean of the physical education department, says the new user fee is only one of several alternatives for dealing with budget cuts. Other alternatives depend on decisions by the Legislature, and are expected in the next few weeks.

The Legislature currently is considering a recommendation to completely eliminate the \$200,000 budget for "gym suit services" that provide the necessary staff to keep the physical education facilities open.

"Until we know what our fiscal picture is, we are at their (the Legislature's) mercy," Ritchey says.

Esslinger Hall, Leighton Pool, the covered tennis courts and outside racquetball courts will remain open for both classroom and recreational use for the remainder of the summer, but hours have been limited.

The \$10 user fee applies to

individuals from the community who wish to use university facilities as well.

Diane Baxter, head of physical education service programs, says "community people have been using University facilities for a long time, but there was never a systematic way of checking before. Now they will have to share the cost."

The \$10 fee doesn't include an extra dollar fee charged for people who use the pool facilities on the weekend.

Ritchey and Baxter both agree that the fee has not discouraged students from enrolling in any of their programs. In fact, this summer's enrollment figures are only 50 less than last summer.

So far Ritchey says he has received no complaints about the new fees. "Students have been very understanding," he says.

Besides closing some facilities and charging user fees, "Operation Enterprise" has been initiated to promote income-producing activities, including expanding laundry services beyond the athletic department to possible contracts with the EMU and dormitories.

Outside user contracts are another possible source of revenue. Ritchey says groups

never have paid user fees before, but now University groups like sororities and fraternities, along with non-University groups will be charged.

The pool rental fee for a University group will cost \$25 per hour. Non-University groups will pay \$50 an hour or \$200 per day.

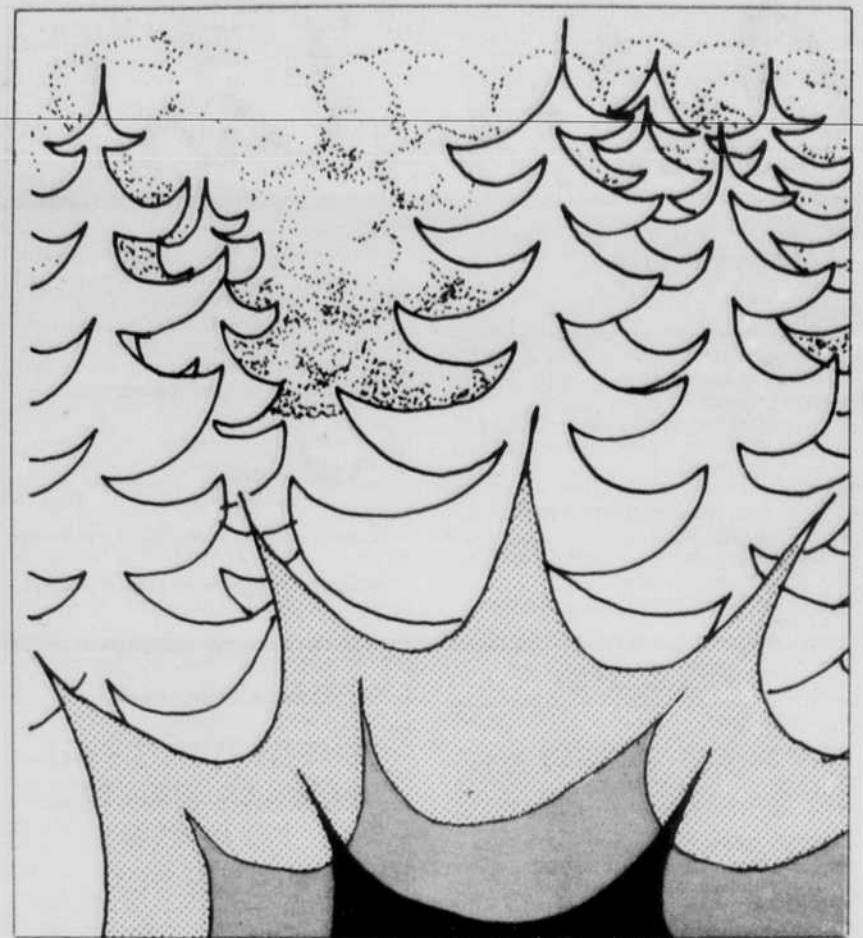
Depending on budget cuts, Ritchey says the worst possibility is that the entire gym suit services budget will be axed, physical education will be dropped as a requirement and all one-credit service courses, such as badminton, bowling and tennis will be dropped.

"We stand to lose up to 15 or 20 staff members besides losing our number five ranking of physical education departments in the U.S."

Ritchey says the physical education department won't be able to attract graduate students into the program because they are used heavily in teaching the one-credit service courses.

If you want to skip the \$10 fee, there is an optional \$1 per day user fee.

For more information call 686-4103, 686-4106 or 686-4121.



Graphic by Max Derungs

Fire awareness lowers danger

By HEIDI SWILLINGER
Of the Emerald

Last summer, forest fires cost Oregonians \$10.7 million in damages and suppression costs, according to Jim Fisher, public affairs director for the Oregon State Department of Forestry.

The Forestry Department, in conjunction with various forestry and land management groups in Washington and Oregon, is sponsoring Fire Awareness Time, which began June 27 and will extend through the fall until outdoor fire danger is reduced.

Fisher says the Awareness Time has two purposes — to draw attention to man-made fires and to reduce damages to natural resources in the region.

Two-thirds of the 1,880 fires in Oregon last year were man-made, Fisher says. The rest were caused by lightning.

"This is the time of year to be extra careful," he warns.

Fisher says fires can be caused by anything from a careless smoker to a back-firing truck.

"If you live, work or vacation in the forest and you're careless just for a second, you can start a fire."

Fires in the Willamette National Forest area — a 100-mile-long strip of forest that

includes Lane County, Linn County and part of Douglas County — cost taxpayers \$1.6 million in 1980.

According to Woody Williams, an assistant fire staff member, of 66 area fires last year, 42 were caused by careless cigarette smokers or abandoned campfires.

"In recent years, there's been an alarming number of abandoned campfires," Williams says.

Many campers simply cover a campfire with dirt and assume the fire is out, he says. However, embers can smoulder under dirt for up to three days and then erupt into flames.

Williams suggests that campers make a mixture of dirt and water and stir it among the embers. As a precautionary measure, he says to search the surrounding earth to make sure it's cold to the touch.

Next to abandoned campfires, careless cigarette smokers are responsible for most forest fires caused by people.

"People go into the forest, sit down to have a cigarette and then throw it away when they're done," Williams says.

Williams warns that anyone found guilty of starting a fire is liable for both civil and criminal damages, including fines and the cost of putting out the fire.

Bach Fest continues

There's still a little time left to catch some of the 1981 Oregon Bach Festival. Tickets still are available for the following performances:

- Today's last cantata performance at 5:15. The choir and orchestra are conducted by guest conductors studying under music director Helmuth Rilling through the master classes and Rilling provides informal commentary. Tickets are \$2.50.

- Tonight's 8:30 recital of Ingo Goritzki, oboe, and Joachim Erhard, harpsichord. All tickets for the performance are \$5.

- The Bach's Supper, a special benefit picnic this evening at 6:00. This event offers a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the musicians of the Bach Festival while enjoying food and wine prepared by some of the finest restaurants in Eugene. Tickets cost \$12.00 and include dinner and wine for the ticket holder and a festival musician.

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