

Koinonia evicts anti-draft groups

By HEIDI SWILLINGER
Of the Emerald

Clergy and Laity Concerned and the Coalition Opposing Registration and the Draft have been asked to move out of their offices in the Koinonia Center, at 1414 Kincaid St.

According to John Skillern, a board member of University Christian Properties — an interfaith group that owns the Koinonia Center — CORD and CALC have been asked to leave because "the Methodists are leaving the Wesley Center (1236 Kincaid St.), and they need the space."

However, CORD member Christina Cowger says, "A large motivation for (University Christian Properties) to evict us is political."

"The draft is going to be more of an issue in coming months," she says. "The CORD office will become a center of activity again."

Cowger says Skillern told her that "philosophically, your activities don't meet with the purposes of the building."

Skillern does not deny making the statement and says, "The purpose of the (Koinonia Center) is to provide space for Christian ministries on campus."

"CORD is not a church, CALC is not a church. (Koinonia) was formed to get all denominations on campus under one roof," he says.

Cowger says that while the Methodists may move into the vacated CALC offices, no other group has shown an interest in renting CORD's basement office.

"It's highly unlikely they'd

ever find anyone to rent this space for an office," she says.

Cowger says the Campus Interfaith Ministry invited CORD to use the basement free of rent about two years ago. However, she says the move never was officially authorized by University Christian Properties, who voted last month to evict the two groups.

"The Campus Interfaith Ministry didn't struggle very hard against UCP's decision."

"It makes life hard," she says, adding that until August 15, CORD will share office space with CALC — scheduled to move from the building on that date.

CALC staff member Doug Barber agrees with Cowger that CORD's eviction is politically motivated.

However, in CALC's case, Barber says he believes the original decision was made based on space problems.

"It was a priority use of space," he says.

Neither group knows yet where it will relocate.

"We'd like to stay on this side of town," Barber says. "We've been here seven years now, and have developed ties to the faculty and students we'd like to maintain."

Cowger says CORD is planning a fund raising dinner for July 14. The benefit will be held at the Keystone Cafe, 395 W. 5th Avenue and begins at 5:30 p.m.

"We're also asking anyone who knows of space for low rent or no rent that is preferably centrally located to let us know."



Photo by Bill Wack

Christina Cowger, member of CORD, hauls boxes out of the Koinonia Center after being evicted from her office.

Cop lab finds LSD in body

Traces of LSD have been found in the stomach of a man who was killed by an off-duty state trooper in Cottage Grove last week when the man threatened to hit a small boy with a hammer.

A medical examination by state police lab technicians Tuesday confirmed that small pieces of paper found in Todd Schiesz's stomach contained LSD, according to Lieutenant Chuck Vaughn of the Eugene criminal investigation lab.

LSD that "leached out" of the papers also was detected in stomach juices, but it is impossible to tell if the LSD was in the man's bloodstream or affected his actions, Vaughn said.

"All you can do is assume it had time to get into his system," he said.

The papers in the stomach match LSD-saturated papers found in a small container Schiesz reportedly threw during his erratic behavior Friday after he attended the Oregon Jam concert in Autzen Stadium.

According to Cottage Grove police, Schiesz rammed another car on Interstate 5, then jumped out of his car and ran into a residential neighborhood in Cottage Grove. He then ran into four houses, demanding guns and explosives. The last house he ran into belongs to trooper Ronald Nelson.

After Nelson chased him with a gun, Schiesz scooped up a 2½-year-old boy, apparently as a hostage. Nelson identified himself as a policeman and fired a warning shot after Schiesz threatened to hit the boy with a hammer. Schiesz then raised the claw end of the hammer, and Nelson fired, killing him instantly.

If Johnny can't write, at least he's trying

By ANN PORTAL
Of the Emerald

Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series examining a renewed emphasis on student writing abilities.

Can Johnny write yet?
No, the statistics say.

As well as before, some scholars say.

Five years ago, the identification of an American literary crisis caused many schools to re-examine their curriculums.

Overloaded with "relevant" courses — such as citizenship, home economics and health — schools abandoned the value judgement approach and began to sift through the educational debris to salvage the basics.

"A large group of students were not learning anything but

how to get in touch with themselves," says University English prof. Kathleen Dubs, director of composition.

Today, educators acknowledge that schools still are producing functionally illiterate students — the statistics spell it out:

- Performance on the verbal section of the SAT has declined alarmingly.

- A recent National Assessment of Educational Progress study indicates that the writing abilities of pre-college students have improved little since 1970.

- Albert Joseph, president of the International Writing Institute in Cleveland, estimates that "at least two-thirds of the people who pass through the educational pipeline come out unable to write a simple letter or

report."

However, some professors say the problem may be due more to increased expectations than decreased skills.

University English prof. John Gage says that he feels writing has not gotten any worse.

"Freshmen writing has always been awful," but now tests can objectively measure that awfulness, he says.

The real literacy test today is not how well Johnny compares to his forefathers, but whether he is learning the skills necessary to survive in a world of increasing technology.

Students may feel that the widespread use of telephones, televisions, radios, computers and video display terminals is smothering the need for writing abilities, but an electronic society will demand even

greater writing fluency and proficiency, according to communications experts.

Edward Corbett of Ohio State University said in a May article that students should consider the written word a means of access, a tool and — when needed — a weapon.

"Business, industry, education and the professions are consuming more paper and using more writing every year," he said.

"As an information storage system, language is cheap, stable, readily available and indispensable."

The cry for better writing skills has not gone unnoticed by the American educational system.

Writing, once considered the bastard child of university English departments, has become the legitimate study of rhetoric

and communication.

The combining of educational theory, psychology and linguistics has produced an explosion of different techniques for teaching writing — and the University English department is feeling the shock waves.

Gage says that "all these new solutions to old problems haven't accomplished very much." Competing theories and approaches have destroyed the homogeneity once characterized by primers and compositions.

But the new practices are revitalizing English departments, stirring up the muddy waters of grammar and usage, and pumping energy and optimism into the struggle to teach Johnny to write.

"No assumptions are sacred anymore," Gage says.