



Photo by Bill Wack

Dorm rates increase 11.5; demand exceeds supply

By STEVE KNIGHT
Of the Emerald

Students planning to live on campus during the 1981-82 academic year will face an 11.5 percent increase in dorm rates.

That's the news from the University housing department, which acts as the landlord for all University-owned housing, including residence halls and off-campus facilities.

Housing director Dan Williams says "typical inflationary influences" — particularly cost-of-living increases for housing employees and the high cost of food — are the cause of dorm rate increases. The housing department has projected a 12 percent increase in its 1981-82 operating budget, he says.

Single dorm rooms will increase from a yearly rate of \$2,262 to \$2,522. The cost for a

single room at the University Inn — a high-rise 10 blocks west of campus — will go from \$2,940 to \$3,279.

Rental rates for married students living at the Amazon and Westmoreland housing areas will rise \$9 and \$13, respectively.

In spite of the residence hall increases, Williams says he still believes dorm residents are receiving a good deal.

"Students can't go off campus and maintain the same standard of living," he says.

"Part of the cost of living in a dorm is having other people cook the meals, wash the dishes, take out the garbage and do the laundry."

Yet, with inflation eating away at student dollars, dorm demand is exceeding supply, Williams says.

"Students still want to live here because we haven't priced

ourselves out of the business. We're still competitive."

Unlike the rest of the University, housing is totally independent of the state Legislature, receiving the bulk of its revenue from dorm rates.

Williams says it's "nice not to be dependent on tax dollars" and that he feels confident that on and off-campus housing for students will be around in its current form indefinitely.

Meanwhile, Williams says his department is planning for the day when there are fewer students on campus.

To make dorm life more attractive to students, housing will offer coed and mixed-class dorms this fall, where freshmen will have the opportunity to mix with upperclassmen, he says.

In addition, an "environmental hall" will be offered to students interested in ecological issues and activities.

Athletic committee awaits administration approval

By GINGER BARNES
Of the Emerald

Plans for an athletic committee designed to consolidate information and provide student opinion on athletic decisions are currently awaiting the go-ahead by university officials.

ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins says the committee — including two faculty or staff members, two community members and three students — may be operating by fall.

A student voice in athletic program decisions is important because of the department subsidy paid with student incidental fees, Wilkins says.

The mandatory subsidy is dropping from \$17 to \$12 a term per student, but under the new pay system, students will pay \$2.50 for admission into athletic events such as football and basketball games.

"Those that go to the games,

carry the burden," says ASUO Vice Pres. Jim Edmunson. "If we can sell approximately two games to each student at \$2.50 a ticket, we can break even. If students buy tickets, we'll be in a better bargaining position next year."

The idea for the athletic committee is not new, but athletic department problems and a busy ASUO have prevented formation until now, Wilkins says.

Wilkins says the committee will give students and community members a say in the workings of a program they support.

"With this idea for an athletic board, people are involved and become more supportive. Right now, the students don't feel involved."

The board will have three main functions according to Wilkins and Edmunson. The seven members will serve as advisors to the athletic director, will help prepare budget

recommendations, and will serve as a primary selection committee to the president as athletic positions are filled.

Currently, the athletic director answers to the University president concerning such issues. "No new power is being created," says Edmunson.

Using the athletic board as a selection committee would streamline the search process from the five or six panels now used.

"A primary board would serve as a consolidating tool," says Edmunson, "and would help make the athletic department a more efficient and visible operation. How the athletic program operates is how many of the people of Lane County see the University."

Under the plan, the University Senate will appoint the staff members, Pres. Olum will appoint the two community members and Wilkins will appoint the three students.

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