

Photo by Mark Pynes

The off-campus housing office's referral board draws daily crowds of bargain-hungry student renters.

Housing office:

Empty rentals exist; prices hold steady

By ANN PORTAL
Of the Emerald

It's a buyer's market for rental housing right now, but that doesn't mean rent is any cheaper than last year.

Landlords who call the ASUO's Off-Campus Housing Office say they are having problems filling vacancies, says director David Lesser.

But inflation is keeping rents at the same level as last year, he says, although the absence of the rent increase that normally accompanies the beginning of the school year is significant.

The housing turn-over rate — which in previous years has been less than 1 percent — finally is increasing because Eugene residents, including students, are leaving the area, Lesser says.

To help students find vacancies, off-campus housing is offering a new service this year, in conjunction with the University housing department. A housing referral center, located on the ground level of the EMU (at the 13th Avenue and University Street corner) will operate through Sunday to help students find landlords — and vice versa.

In addition to lists of available

roommates, apartments, trailers, duplexes and houses, the resource center also has tips on locating off-campus housing, information on landlord-tenant responsibilities and general information about the campus community. Free telephones also are available.

The center's hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Lesser says the housing office is "more on top of it (finding students accommodations) than in previous years." The center already has received 350 new listings, compared to 290 listings during a similar period in 1980, he says.

The potential tenant must take an active part in finding housing, Lesser stresses — the staff is only available to make the search easier.

Those who need a place to stay while searching have a couple of options, Lesser says. A "Housing-Search Hotel" has been set up at Spiller residence hall on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Students can stay for a maximum of three nights after showing either a letter of ad-

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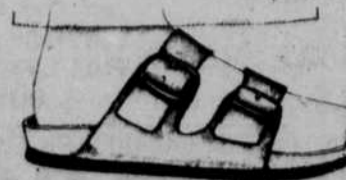
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