

Summer conferences unaltered

Hilton may aid University

By Ann Portal
Of the Emerald

A new Hilton on Eugene's horizon doesn't scare the coordinator of the University's summer conference program. At all.

Marge Ramey, assistant housing director, says she welcomes the 276-room hotel, hub of the city's emerging conference center.

"It just gives everything a better dimension having that beautiful hotel there. Not everyone wants to stay in a dorm room," Ramey says.

The University's summer conference program brought 76 groups to the University last summer and generated more than \$650,000 for the housing department. The profits are used partially to subsidize dorm rates.

Jaimie Brothers, convention manager of the Eugene-Springfield Convention

and Visitors Bureau, Inc., says she doesn't foresee any competition between the University and the Hilton. Each serves very different needs, she says.

The visitors' bureau solicits state, regional and national conventions for the Eugene-Springfield area, and Brothers says a group's needs dictate where the convention will be held.

Many groups traditionally hold their entire convention at college campuses, while some prefer a combination of hotel housing and campus meeting rooms, she says.

"They'll compliment each other," Brothers says. "It makes for a very attractive package."

The Hilton and its conference center will help solve transportation problems, Ramey says. One group last summer was housed at the University but had to hold meetings at the Lane County Fairground, which has

larger meeting areas than the University, she says.

Penny Shephard, catering manager at the Hilton, says she and Ramey will work together closely. Many will have different activities at both places, she says.

"There's no question in my mind that they compliment each other."

Booking at the University for this summer is "very busy," Ramey says. It may even be a record season for the program, which is entering its seventh year.

One of the biggest conferences scheduled, a management training program for Nike employees, has rented Autzen Stadium, McArthur Court and Hayward Field, and Nike also has made some summer arrangements with the Hilton.

"It really enhances our offerings," Ramey says.

Club plans fundraisers for trip to UN simulation conference

The University's chapter of the Model United Nations of the Far West is gearing up for its main activities of the year, says fundraising chairman Steve Bender.

A Saturday night showing of the music documentary "Woodstock" will be one of the two fundraisers this week and next. Funds will be used to help the club attend this year's annual United Nations simulation conference. The movie will be shown at 5:45, 9 p.m., and midnight in 177 Lawrence, he says.

This year's conference, sponsored by the University of California at Long Beach, is being held April 22-25 at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, Calif.

A second fundraiser will involve a booth in the EMU next week collecting donations for the trip to the conference and other activities. Students who donate funds will be eligible for a drawing of more than 30 prizes donated by area merchants.

Prize-winners, who will win record albums, dinners, plants, and many other things, will be announced Jan. 22, Bender says.

The University Model United Nations, which functions as both a club and a class, will be sending 36 people by chartered bus to the conference at a cost of between \$5,000 and \$6,000, he says.

Even after raising this sum, members still will be required to pay about \$50 and buy all of their own food, Bender says. Estimates of the fundraisers' proceeds are sketchy, but the club is optimistic, he says.

Other activities of the chapter include hosting a one-day northern regional conference at the law school during spring vacation, attending two regional conferences, holding a career day booth this week, and sponsoring speakers, he says.

More information about the club is available in 823 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.

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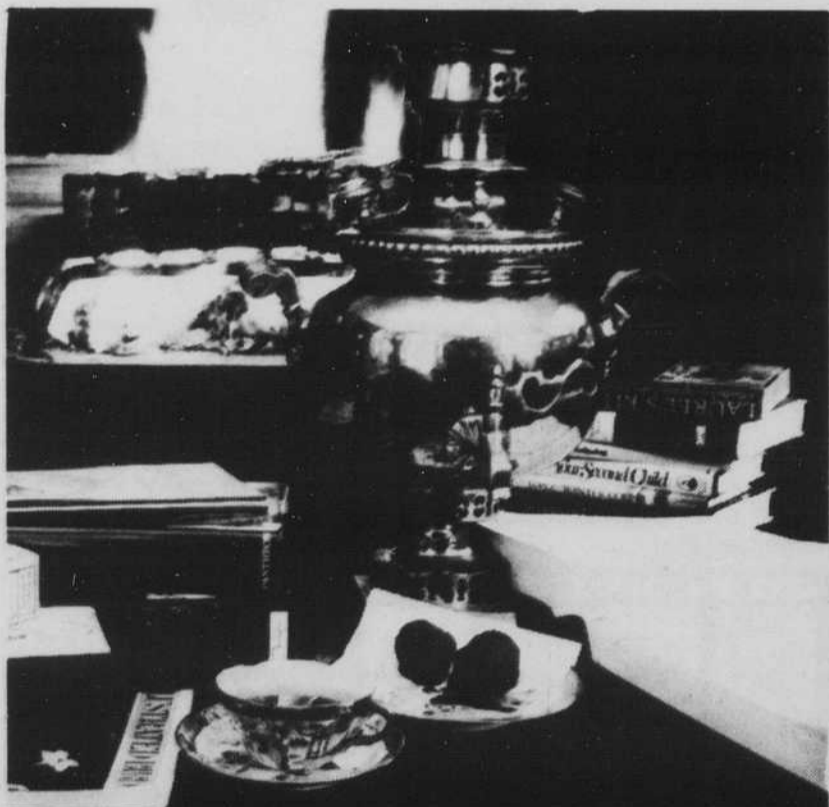
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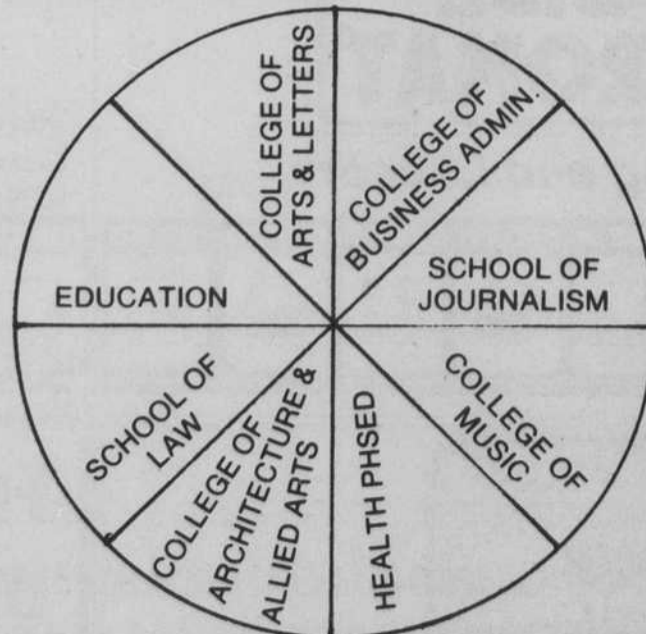
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