

Support center finds new home

By Mike Duke
Of the Emerald

The University Counseling Center is on the move — to the second floor of the Student Health Center.

In early April the center will move from its current location in Room 311 Susan Campbell Hall, into the abandoned — and remodeled — student infirmary. The infirmary was closed last year when health center officials decided it wasn't being used enough to warrant funding.

"We are moving primarily for the location," says Bill Kirtner, director of the center. "We are not becoming part of the health center, and we do not want that stigma. We are simply trying to become more accessible to students."

The counseling center is a state-supported program that offers a variety of services to students.

Students suffer from many emotional problems, says Lee Doppelt, a graduate student who interns at the center as a counselor.

"We see distress over school, problems with peers," Doppelt says. Counselors meet with students on a one-to-one basis or in group therapy.

The counseling center also includes the crisis center, a telephone contact service that operates during the evening hours and on weekends for students who need immediate help.

Five full-time professionals along with four interns make up the center's staff. Each provides from 10 to 25 hours of clinical help each week.

Budget cuts have stopped the center from hiring any more professional help, Kirtner says. If someone leaves a job, someone else cannot be hired as a replacement.

"It is a Catch-22 situation," Kirtner says. "As the economy gets worse, things get worse for students."

Kirtner says there is often a waiting list for many of the center's programs and that interested students should contact the center soon.

All counseling services are confidential, Kirtner says, adding that "any student who comes to us should feel no embarrassment."

The counseling center provides the following services:

- Individual and couple counseling regarding personal and academic concerns, career



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choices, problems in relationships and premarital counseling.

- Therapy groups that help the student achieve personal growth and deal with personal problems.

- Groups that focus on self-concept as it is related to weight control.

- Groups that discuss the physical and psychological aspects of genital herpes.

- Anti-stress groups for individuals who would like to identify what is causing stress in their lives and find techniques for coping with pressure.

- Testing. The center coordinates most of the national testing programs such as the College Entrance Examination Boards, the Graduate Record Examinations and the Miller Analogy Test.

The counseling center, open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the crisis center, open whenever the counseling center is closed, can both be reached at 686-4488.

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ODE PERSONAL

Payne to fill IFC position

Reversing an earlier decision, the Student University Affairs Board (SUAB) Friday approved an appointment to the Incidental Fee Committee.

In a unanimous 7-0 vote, Robert Payne was approved to fill the IFC position left vacant by Pam Jordan's resignation last Monday. The vote reversed a Wednesday rejection of Payne, 4-1, with three abstentions.

Payne's experience as an IFC administrative assistant for more than two months familiarized him with ASUO-funded organizations although he didn't make decisions, Payne said before the vote Friday.

Only three people at the University are qualified for the IFC opening, ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins said on behalf of Payne.

"Two are on my staff and I'm not going to give them up, so it is only logical that, being an administrative assistant, Robert is the best

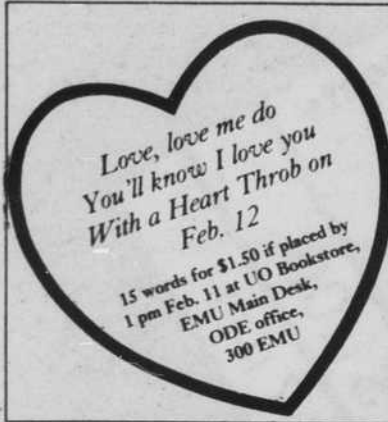
person for getting the job done," Wilkins explained.

Wilkins said he did not attend the Wednesday meeting because of a time commitments and because no problems had arisen with past appointments.

Any other appointee would probably be awed by the IFC situation, IFC Chairer Karsten Rasmussen said. Payne represents a "tremendous advantage" because his late arrival into the budget process will ensure objectivity, he said.

"He is less likely to be awed by us personally and less likely to be awed by the process," Rasmussen said.

Alan Contreras, acting ASUO vice president of program administration, said he also had only two months involvement in ASUO when he was selected to an IFC position.



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