



Photo by Dave Johnson

Kevin Kouns, ASUO vice president, defended the SEARCH program as having the necessary "checks and balances" to ensure academic standards.

SEARCHing for open mike

By Paul Ertlet
Of the Emerald

Several students defended the University SEARCH program at an open microphone (or open mike) meeting in the EMU courtyard Wednesday.

The students responded to criticism of the program by Paul Holbo, vice-provost of student affairs. Holbo called the program a "persistent problem" in a recent interview in the Emerald.

SEARCH was started in 1967 to supplement existing curriculum and provide an opportunity for students, faculty and community members to develop and teach their own classes. The program offers credit classes and non-credit workshops.

Steve Myer, SEARCH director, said in his opening comments that Holbo had been invited to the meeting but said he was not able to come.

Bill Snyder, ASUO coordinator of student events, accused Holbo of elitism, saying he wanted to cut back students' control of their education.

Kevin Kouns, ASUO vice president and former SEARCH instructor, said that the process of developing SEARCH courses has many "checks and balances" to ensure academic standards.

He also defended students' ability to teach classes. "You don't need alphabet soup behind your name in order to know something," he said.

Holbo claimed he has received many

letters from students criticizing the program, but he has not produced any of them, Kouns said.

Kouns likened Holbo's failure to substantiate his claim with the tactics used by the late Sen. Joe McCarthy.

"Paul Holbo is the only person to come up with a voice in opposition," said Snyder.

Doug Groothuis defended his SEARCH class, "Twilight of Western Thought: A Christian Response," which has been singled out by Holbo because of its religious overtones.

Groothuis said his class has never been challenged on academic grounds, but has come under fire as a violation of church and state separation. He called this a "false issue" since his class is not evangelistic in nature.

Groothuis said it was important to present this alternative world view because public universities tend to be "monolithic."

"They exclude viewpoints that don't go along with the administration's viewpoint," he said.

Widmer said that Holbo's emphasis on Groothuis's class was unbalanced since it is only one of several classes in the program.

No one took the mike to criticize the program. Meyer said this may have been because of the lack of advanced notice of the meeting, but he said he doubts there is any real opposition to SEARCH by students.

City opposes incorporation of Santa Clara-River Road

By Michele Matassa
Of the Emerald

The Eugene City Council acted unanimously Wednesday to discourage incorporation of the Santa Clara-River Road area into a separate city.

After a presentation by Jim Harah, city planning department head, the council approved a resolution urging denial of the proposed incorporation by the Lane County Boundary Commission.

The boundary commission will hold two public hearings on the issue Nov. 3 and Nov. 17, then make its final decision by Nov. 23.

The City Council has been receiving feedback from the planning department, which analyzed an economic feasibility study of the proposed city. The group pushing for incorporation conducted that study.

In its resolution, the council claimed that the feasibility study does not provide adequate funding for the city and that incorporation would "severely alter the directions of the (Eugene-Springfield) Metropolitan Plan."

As a result of that plan, the Eugene-Springfield governments are developing their own methods of delivering full-range services to the area, according to the planning department.

"This proposed incorporation will not provide solutions to River Road-Santa Clara problems, and will result in a long-range negative impact for both the River Road-Santa Clara area and the entire Eugene-

Springfield metropolitan area," the resolution stated.

With a projected property tax rate of \$4.63 per \$1,000 of value, the city would not be able to efficiently deliver urban services to its residents, the resolution claimed.

Services such as sewage, fire protection and prison facilities would not be adequately provided, according to the resolution.

The resolution also said the feasibility study "does not correctly or adequately address the impact of the proposed incorporation on existing governments."

Emily Schue, council president, sup-

This incorporation will result in a long-range negative impact to the Eugene-Springfield area.

ported the resolution. "It lays out all the reasons... as to why we oppose it. It isn't that we just don't like them," she said.

In ruling on the Santa Clara proposal, the boundary commission probably will not put much weight on the council's resolution, according to commission staff member Steve Gordon.

"The boundary commission attempts to be impartial," Gordon said. But in the past, it has tended to "favor annexation to existing forms of government," he said.

During the past year, annexation to Eugene of land in the River Road-Santa Clara area has increased, Gordon said.

ROTC ties enrollment rise with job security of corps

By Doug Nash
Of the Emerald

University Reserve Officer Training Corps officials say the prospect of job security is a major reason enrollment in the program is up 50 percent this year and more than double what it was two years ago.

The program has 125 students enrolled, compared to 86 last year and 56 in 1981-82, according to Maj. Philip McManus, University assistant professor of military science and enrollment officer for the campus ROTC unit.

Indeed, the huge enrollment increase puts it on a par with Oregon State University's ROTC program, traditionally a larger unit, says Col. Steven Wolfram, head of the University's Military Science Department.

"The Corvallis program has been much larger than the one here and we've grown to about that size," he says.

To explain the huge increase in popularity, Wolfram points to the career opportunities offered by the program's three and four-year commissions in the military.

"I think there's an awful lot of concern

about 'What am I going to do,'" Wolfram says. "While I can't guarantee a job after school, I can offer them a damn good shot at it."

McManus agrees.

"More people are realizing that being commissioned through ROTC isn't necessarily linked to a career in the Army," he says. "The leadership training is a benefit whatever careers people choose. It may give them a competitive edge."

About a fifth of the cadets have won scholarships that cover tuition, fees and books plus a tax-free, monthly allotment of \$100, Wolfram notes. Those receiving ROTC financial assistance include 11 sophomores and juniors who successfully competed for two and three-year scholarships and four freshmen who were given full four-year awards.

"The competition (for the scholarships) was very keen and UO students did very well," he says.

Eight of the cadets are from Lane Community College and one is from Northwest Christian College. Women comprise 23 of the ROTC students, McManus says.

State's jobless rate at lowest

SALEM (AP) — The jobless rate gained slightly last month, but the total number of unemployed Oregonians was the lowest in three years, the state Employment Division reports.

The September rate rate of 9.9 percent was about one-tenth of a percentage point higher than in August. The number of Oregonians who were out of work was 115,000, which the division said was the lowest during the past three years.

Total employment was 1.2 million in September, the division added in its report Wednesday.

"The state's economic picture showed little change in September," said Libby

Leonard, deputy division administrator.

The department's assistant administrator said he didn't expect to see an improvement until spring.

The national unemployment rate last month dipped to 9.3 percent from an August rate of 9.5 percent. All of the rates are seasonally adjusted.

Don Steward, assistant administrator of the division, said part of the reason for the slight jump in the Oregon jobless rate was that seasonal gains that normally occur in September didn't materialize.

"This is certainly not a doom and gloom news release, but it's not an optimistic one either," Steward said.