

Books too hot to handle

Students simmer over study swelter

By Michael Duke
Of the Emerald

If you're in the University library and find yourself getting hot under the collar, it may not be tomorrow's exam that's got you steamed. The answer may lie in a long-standing problem.

That the library is stuffy is not news — students and staff have had heated complaints for quite awhile, University Librarian George Shipman says.

What is news is that people are not the only ones sweltering in the heat, he says. The library's \$50 million stock in materials is also on the burner.

"Preservation of library materials bought in the 1930s is now at a crisis point. The paper found in books breaks down faster as the temperature increases. And there is a real possibility that books read by students now won't be available for their grandchildren," Shipman says.

Between 25 and 50 percent of library materials cannot tolerate another circulation because of deterioration, Shipman says.

The problem lies in the library's heating system itself, says Physical Plant Director Harold Babcock. "Then if something goes wrong, things just get worse."

"I'm not convinced that the system was adequate at the time it was built," Shipman says. "It's like starting a fight with one hand tied behind your back."

The library is basically one building, built in 1937, with two additions which were built in the 1950s and 1960s. The additions resulted in three different systems, all reflecting the technology of their respective eras, Babcock says.

"But it's easy to blame the design of the building then just say 'there's nothing we can do about it,'" he says.

One problem is the volume of air that comes out of the air vents, says George Bynon, director of administrative services for the main library. The entire system must be rebalanced so that hot air flows where it is needed.

The system's age is also a problem, Bynon says. "Technology from 1937 is being called on to heat part of the building. You can no longer buy parts for it. Once a repair crew came in to look at the system and one of them said, 'I've only seen that in a textbook,'" Bynon says.

Additions and remodeling the building have also caused problems, Babcock says.

"As we remodel we change heating needs. Distribution problems occur and the entire system needs to be balanced again," he says.

Rebalancing a heating system is expensive, Babcock says. All heating vents and control boxes would have to be monitored and brought in line with one another. This would take time and quite a deal of money, he says.

"To originally balance Oregon Hall it cost \$25,000. And that building is much more sophisticated than the library," he says.

"Given that, you can understand the cost of rebalancing the library."

Buildings older than the library, like Deady Hall, have the worst heating problems at the University, while newer buildings like the law school and the EMU are easier to control, he says.

And people are another source for the problem, Babcock says. "They open the windows and adjust the thermostats. They don't understand that the system can regulate itself if they would leave it alone."

"When the windows are opened it defeats the whole ventilation system."

"You can't blame people for opening windows when it's so hot in the library," Bynon counters. "It's a real problem when you have somebody who needs to do research but can't because of the heat."

In the final analysis, it seems money is at the heart of the issue.

"The fault doesn't belong to the physical plant, I think they do a tremendous job," he says. "The main culprit is funding."

But there are other avenues that can help, at least.

One is to complain, Bynon says. "We go through our suggestion box every week so if there is a problem we can be aware of it."


Clothing is another adjustment that can be made to control the heat, Babcock says. If students think it is too hot in the library, they should dress accordingly, he says.

"If someone could show me a way to help the problem, I'd like to hear it," Shipman says. "The heating problem does not reflect our standards in scholarship and it is not fair to our students."


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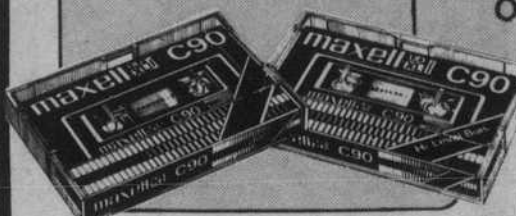
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Rutan to vie for council post

University graduate Roger Rutan announced Tuesday he will run for the Ward 8 position on the Eugene City Council, an area covering part of the West Eugene area south of Royal Avenue and west of City View Street.

The position will be vacated by council member Brian Obie, who said last week he will not seek reelection when his term expires Jan. 7, 1985.

Rutan, vice-chair of the Eugene Planning Commission and a member of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, said in a news conference "My strong desire to serve and my extensive background of community service qualifies me as a councilor."

"My three years on the Eugene Planning Commission have given me an excellent education in land-use planning and on the Metropolitan Area General Plan, topics that take some time on the council's agenda," Rutan said.

He stressed fiscal planning and budgeting, economic development, the River Road/Santa Clara issue and leadership as areas relative to the council's role in the future.

Rutan expressed the need "to strengthen and revise our economic development programs, not just those run by the city." He called for continued close liaison with other programs.

The River Road/Santa Clara area probably will become part of the

city of Eugene, despite efforts by residents there to incorporate their own city, Rutan said.

Annexing the area "in an orderly, friendly, cost-effective fashion will take strong leadership from the council. I know the problems, the issues and the challenges. And I'm ready to face them," he said.

Rutan, who lives in Eugene with his wife, Karen, and his daughters, Jill, 11, and Stephanie, 8, graduated from the University in 1969.

He is a member of the University Masters of Business Administration program and is an adviser to the Lane Community College Small Business Management Program.

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