

# Need a place to sit or sleep? Help yourself!

By Scott McFetridge  
Of the Emerald

Do you find yourself looking around a bare room? Maybe a table from mom and a poster that you bought in eighth grade are all you see. Does your voice echo inside empty walls when you talk on your telephone?

Buying new furniture to outfit your home can indeed be expensive, but don't give up hope; there are options.

A drive around the area on most Saturdays will reveal that Eugene is the garage sale capital of the world," says Carl Falsgraf, a University graduate student.

Falsgraf moved into a vacant house in Eugene from Japan this fall. He says he found a cabinet, clothes, kitchen utensils and chairs at garage sales. His best buy, however, was a \$25 Panasonic stereo.

"You can find anything in a garage sale," Falsgraf says. "And it's a lot nicer than Fred Meyer. You get to talk to people," he says.

But Falsgraf has a backup approach to furnishing his home when garage sale merchandise doesn't appeal to him.

"I built a lot of my own furniture," he says. "It's actually very easy in Eugene to make your own furniture because of the cheap lumber."

Torkjell Djupedal, a graduate student from Norway, also found that building his own furniture could save money. He says he bought table legs at a yard sale for \$2 and then made

the rest of the table himself. And for \$5 he purchased a rocking chair that needed only minor repairs to the seat, he says.

Some people, however, don't have the time to shop at garage sales or the skill to craft their own furniture, and for them outfitting a house may mean paying the price for new furniture or being happy with what they can get.

"My house came with an ugly couch, an ugly chair and a dresser that works," University senior Kelly Hunt says.

Although she isn't especially happy with the decor of her house, Hunt says that for the moment she and her roommate will make do.

Lisa Gates, a resident of the famed Animal House, also is settling for less than the best. She bought a dresser, a bed and wall hangings from home for her room, but for the rest of her living quarters she had to adjust to the furniture that was already there.

"The furniture looked like it might have been left over from the movie (Animal House)," Gates says.

Meanwhile, Stephen Chrisman, a third-year architecture student, moved into an empty, seven-room house last year. With no money and no ambition to buy furniture, he and his roommates did the best with what little they had, he says.

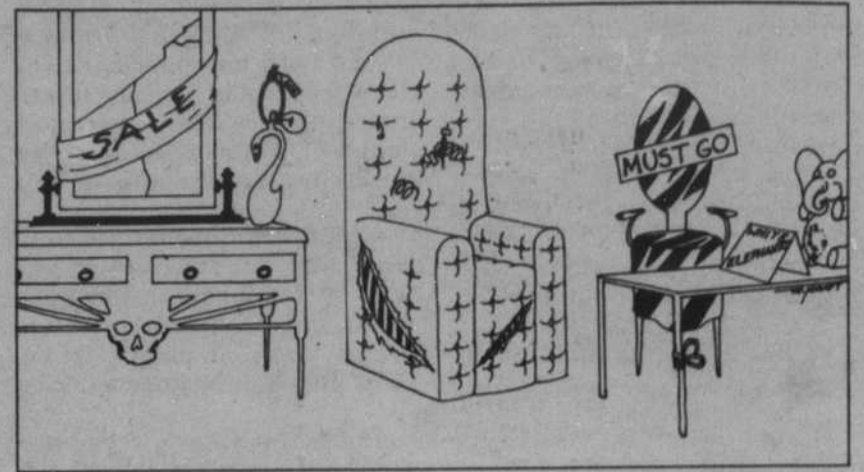
"We all had stuff for our bedrooms, but the rest of the

house was pretty bare," Chrisman says. "One of the guys brought a kitchen table from home, but all we had for the living room was lawn chairs. It wasn't that comfortable, but it worked."

Some people are lucky enough to find furnished apartments, but some household necessities still are required, says Mark Bernheimer, a junior studying telecommunications.

Bernheimer says he bought a couple of plates, a napkin holder and a shower curtain with a matching checkered towel for his apartment. "The formica-topped table came with the place," he says.

However, some furnishings



Graphic by Rob Kraft

— regardless of price — are irresistible, says sophomore Jill Keith, who found a chair she liked at Import Plaza in

Portland.

"It's just like when you see a shirt and buy it," Keith says. "I saw a chair and bought it."

## Gift rekindles humanities study

By Michael Doke

Of the Emerald

Humanities — defined by a University official as the study of human action — is making a comeback at the University, thanks to a three-year, \$300,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

And Humanities Center director Don Taylor says humanities enters into every subject, including science and philosophy.

"Humanities study anything human beings do," Taylor says. "While science studies subjects and laws, the humanities study human action in particular, such as the rise of science."

"The Humanities Center tries to make available for all students what the Honors College offers only a select group," he says.

The center is offering seven courses this term, costing an average of \$3,750 each, Taylor says. Almost 175 students have enrolled, and the average class size is 25 students. The center offered 13 courses last year, the first year of the N.E.H. grant.

Faculty members in political science, English, German, music and history departments will offer seven classes during the winter term.

Between 80 and 90 percent of the work in a humanities course is discussion and analysis, Taylor says. Students have to work harder in the class and take an active role in the education process, he says.

The class size and

humanities' goals mean fewer objective tests, more writing by the student, more class discussion and closer faculty scrutiny of written and oral work, he says. Students have more responsibility to learn in a humanities course compared to the larger lecture class, he says.

"There's very little of the professor-up-here, student-down-there feeling in the humanities class," says history Prof. Ray Birn, who team-teaches a humanities rare-books course with rare-books librarian Martin Antonetti.

"Everybody participates with each other because students make the atmosphere conducive for this."

"We're conducting a course of a high scholarly level," Antonetti says. "The humanities emphasis of education confronts the total person. It seeks to change the person on many levels — socially, intellectually, psychologically and spiritually," he says.

Birn adds that in the rare-books course "not only are we studying books, we're studying a lot about people: who wrote the book, who made it and who sold it. It's the humanistic approach. The grant encouraged us to develop the course. It gave us the inspiration," he says.

Emmeli Adler, a humanities senior enrolled in the rare-books course, says "There is a much closer contact with professors. He's making his point right there in front of you."

"There's the opportunity to take more advantage of their expertise — an opportunity lost in huge lecture classes," Adler says.

Studying the humanities and having a broad education is the only way to get the entire experience out of college, she

says.

"What else is there? That's what education is," she says. "What is it you come to college for? Job training seems to be the case more and more, but you come to get an education."

Teaching the humanities is at least as expensive as teaching in science and professional programs, Taylor says. For every dollar available for humanities research from public and private sources, about \$100 is available to the sciences and social sciences, he says.

"You can't put a dollar value on the humanities like the sciences or computer sciences," Taylor says. "But what would society be like without a humanistic understanding?"

Citing an example, Taylor says the scientist, as a professional, is not expected to think about the consequence of his action. As with Los Alamos and the Manhattan Project, the scientists' goal was to develop the atomic bomb. The consequence of this was not discovered until the explosions on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Scholars of the humanities try to understand and discover what men and women have done, Taylor says. They raise the understanding and value of such actions by adding the component of interpretation and analysis to help form opinions for the individual, he says.

"Education may be professionally oriented, but humanities generally are the core of the University," Taylor says. "No one here wants to see the University become an institution of technology."

The N.E.H. grant expires in September 1986, Taylor says. But he says he hopes the program will be successful enough by then to be maintained.

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