Counseling Center's funding to be determined by students

By Mary Lichtenwalner Of the Emerald

Things haven't changed much in the 17 years William Kirtner has directed the University Counseling Center students still must wait for counseling.

Despite the addition of three staff positions during the current academic year, there are still more than 100 people waiting for counseling, he says.

Last year, the ASUO Executive sought to remedy the problem by placing a Counseling Center funding measure on the spring ballot, giving students the decision to provide the center with \$85,550 in student fees.

The results of the spring elections revealed the studentbody's concern.

A ballot measure was passed to increase each student's incidental fee by \$2 a term, which is used to pay for additional counseling services.

Wednesday and Thursday, students will vote on whether to continue funding the center with incidental fees. In addition, if the ballot measure passes, the University administration has agreed to add \$60,000 to the center's budget to hire additional staff beginning next year, says University Provost Richard Hill.

The Counseling Center offers services that are invaluable to students, Kirtner says. He says 600 to 1,000 students currently see counselors at the center.

Alternatives to the Counseling Center are available, but Kirtner points out the cost of similar services, which range from \$60 to \$120 an hour.

Although the three new staff members have been at the center for only a couple months, they may be reducing the waiting list by about 40 students.

The real answer to the problem, however, lies in implementing a permanent Counseling Center fee, similar to the current health center fee. Kirtner says.

Such a fee would provide the center with a stable source of funding, Kirtner says.

But ASUO President Lynn Pinckney says a permanent fee is out of the question at this.

"We feel that it's not time vet for a permanent fee," Pinckney says. "The ASUO doesn't have enough information yet on the results from the additional staff at the Counseling Center.'

Ballot Measure 7 was proposed jointly by the University administration, the Counseling Center and the ASUO, Pinckney

"I think it's real important that this ballot measure pass...it's something that is definitely needed," she says.

Rust denounces cutting of old-growth trees

Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust held out a symbolic olive branch on Monday and renounced his earlier call for a boycott of Willamette Industries' products.

Instead of a boycott, Rust called for "a historical transition" from an economy dependent on the logging of oldgrowth trees.

"About three weeks ago I made a fairly divisive statement. I'm here today to say there are more productive ways to use our resources to save what we have left in the Northwest," said Rust, the founder and first president of Hoedads, a local tree-planting cooperative.

Rust, who called old-growth logging jobs "short-term jobs." presented a five-part program to allow for the transition from old-growth cutting to a second-growth industry, which would replenish the 11.5 million acres of timber that already have been harvested in the Northwest.

"I'm not interested in an abrupt change," Rust said: "I want an easy transition. I want people to be retrained. I want the state and federal government to cooperate so that our workers can depend on a stable economy...."

Portland-based Willamette Industries began logging the "Millenium Grove" section of the Willamette National Forest in late March amid protests from environmentalists, who criticized the logging of the forest's Douglas fir trees, some of which are 800 years old.

Rust called for a moratorium on further sales of old growth until a regionwide consensus group could be formed. The group would be made up of "a broad spectrum of interest groups" ranging from woodworkers and mill owners to recreationalists and hunters.

Salvaging old growth would make it possible for tourism and recreation to take a primary place in the state's economy. Rust said.

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