Health center now offers student dental facilities

By Tonnie Dakin Of the Emerald

The Student Health Center will open its doors for the first time today to students seeking dental care.

The dental facilities will be staffed part-time by a dentist, and full-time by a dental hygienist and a dental assistant.

Students who wish to be seen for a dental problem must first make an appointment for a comprehensive examination, said Debra George, staff dental hygienist.

This allows the staff to familiarize themselves with the student's dental needs as well as give students a chance to ask questions, she said.

Although the ASUO does not provide students with a dental insurance plan, fees generally run from one-third to one-fifth of the cost of similar treatments in the community. George said

However, students with difficult dental needs may be referred to a dentist in the community, George said.

"Because there's only one hygienist and 17,000 students, we'll have to make decisions about how to treat students with (time-consuming) problems," she said.

The health center's dental facilities are similar to those available in the community. George said. Students will find the campus dental facilities convenient because of the location and the focus of the treatment, she said.

The dental facilities will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments can be made at 686-4432, and emergencies will be scheduled based on the need of the student.

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Photo by Bobbie Lo

Jeanette Frame, owner and director of the Musical Feet School of Tap, has been teaching tap dancing in Eugene for 14 years.

Eugene woman makes sure tap is not lost in the shuffle

By Janet Paulson

What was once a dying form of dance has experienced a revitalization, at least in Eugene, thanks to the Musical Feet School of Tap, the state's only dance school specializing in tap dance.

Jeanette Frame, owner and director of Musical Feet, began teaching tap 14 years ago at a time when tap dance had been experiencing a decline in popularity. Frame revived her own interest in this uniquely American dance form and began teaching friends.

In 1979, she began the Musical Feet School of Tap, where she now teaches all levels of tap from beginning to performance levels.

Frame began tapping in 1947 at age 5. Before that time, tap dancing had been the mainstay

of the big Hollywood musicals.

"The Hollywood musicals had a tap number every seven minutes on the average. By the 1950s, the public had seen tap for 30 years," Frame says.

The popularity of tap dance began to die out in the '50s. The musical "Oklahoma" featured a ballet scene choreographed by Agnes DeMille. "Oklahoma" marked the first time ballet steps were used in a Broadway production, not merely as entertainment, but to tell the story through dance, Frame says. A new era in dance entertainment began, she adds.

As the national interest in tap began to fade, so did Frame's. She stopped tapping at 15.

Fifteen years later, while taking classes in dance and theater at Lane Community College, Frame's interest in tap was revived. Her husband Scott encouraged her interest in performing and teaching, she says.

"One day Scott said to me, 'We're going to Portland to get you some tap shoes,' " she says.

At that time Frame couldn't

even find tap shoes in Eugene, and in Portland there were no women's tap shoes available, so she had to be fitted with men's shoes, she says.

She taught in her home for two or three years, then began teaching at the WOW Hall as part of LCC's Adult Education Program. She began running her own program at the WOW Hall, acting as the hall's dance coordinator.

Frame taught for a short time at the now-defunct Danceworks before moving to her present location in the Knights of Pythias Hall at 420 W. 12th Avenue in 1979.

Since beginning the school, Frame has studied with the "King of Tap," Charles "Honi" Coles.

Tap is a dance form concerned with rhythm and sound that essentially turns the body into a musical instrument, she says.

"I can dance off the rhythm of any kind of music. I used to carry a board around to dance on to the musicians at the Country Fair," she says.

The school's 50-plus students, ranging in age from four to 60, have an annual production at the Hult Center. Frame and her assistant, Nancy DeHaas, choreograph and arrange all the numbers as well as dance in several. Frame's husband. Scott, who is a theater designer/technician, provides the technical expertise for the production.

"Without him, I don't think I could have gone as far as I have with the shows. I've had the security of knowing he could take care of anything that goes wrong," she says.

Learning tap dancing doesn't require extraordinary coordination or flexibility. Frame says. Unlike most dance forms, it is possible to start tap later in life and still excel, she says.

But for more than any other reason, Frame enjoys tap dancing because it's fun, she says.

ing because it's fun, she says.
"It's happy," she says. "It's
expression with your feet,
besides that, it's a gas to do!"

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