

Housing situation getting better

By Alice Wheeler
Emerald Managing Editor

Every fall as University students begin to flood back to the Eugene area, the housing crunch begins.

In recent years increased enrollment at the University has made off-campus housing harder to find. Fortunately, off-campus housing "looks better this year than it was last year," said Christy Cutting, director of the ASUO, Off-Campus Housing (OCH) office.

"People are planning ahead and coming back earlier. Enrollment has gone down so there won't be as much competition," Cutting said.

Cutting said houses with roommate situations are easiest to find, while one-bedroom houses are difficult to procure. This may be because University students are subletting or keeping their housing over the summer.

There are four main types of off-campus housing in the Eugene-Springfield area: apartments, studios, quads and duplexes, and houses. Rates for these vary from area to area, with lower-cost housing being farther away from the campus.

Apartment rates average from \$195-\$400 a month for a one-bedroom unit; two-bedroom unit rates range from \$250-\$500 a month. Studios rent for \$185-\$350 a month. Quads range from \$160-\$250 a month.

Houses and duplexes cost between \$200-\$350 a month for a one-bedroom dwelling, \$300-\$450 a month for a two-bedroom dwelling, and three-or-more-bedroom houses range from \$325-\$1,000 a month.

OCH, located in the EMU Basement, offers many services to students looking for housing. There are also housing boards located near the EMU Craft Center. These boards have rental listings for houses, apartments, studios, co-ops and "roommates wanted." The office also has free housing handbooks that give information about how to look for a place to live, a map of Eugene and an Inventory and Condition Report.

There are many property management companies in the area and some of them have listings that are not advertised in the paper. A quick flip through the local Yellow Pages to "Property Management" will reveal a long list of companies to call for rentals.

Cutting said there can be some disadvantages to renting from property management companies, such as higher rental rates and a non-refundable cleaning fee.



Photo by Martin Thiel

Student John Goulart beats the housing crunch and moves his belongings into a new place.

Another agency in Eugene is Roommate Referral Inc., 1128 W. Eighth Ave. The agency will try to match you up with a compatible roommate for a \$50 fee. The company guarantees each roommate match for 30 days.

A relatively new idea in college housing is that of students buying houses, usually with the help of parents. Besides the usual rental listings, newspapers have more and more classified ads trying to sell houses to students.

The ads claim purchasing is cheaper than renting, but Cutting doesn't agree.

"There are a lot of disadvantages to buying a house. There are a lot more expenses when you own a house that you don't have to worry about if you rent. If the plumbing needs to be fixed you have to deal with it and pay for it," Cutting said.

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sorts, darkroom supplies for photography students, and six film processing labs.

The Shutterbug, 890 E. 13th Ave., also offers film processing and prides itself of guaranteeing Oregon's lowest price on camera equipment.

Hawaii? Mexico? A tropical vacation to the Caribbean? By the time Christmas and Spring Break roll around you will probably be ready for one of these vacations. If this is the case, look at the travel packages at **University Travel**, 774 E. 13th Ave., or **Eugene Travel**, 831 E. 13th Ave.

Other businesses found on the campus stretch of 13th provide services in drycleaning, compact discs, books, comic books, art supplies, glasses, bikes and shoes. when it comes time to buy books, try **Smith Family Bookstore**, 768 E. 13th Ave., where you can find a variety of new and used books.

Emerald City Comics, 770 E. 13th Ave., carries new and back-issue comic books, with a subscription service and a selection of different games for those who are kids at heart.

Whether you're a serious artist or interested in art just for fun, **Oregon Art Supply**, 776 E. 13th Ave., is an art, drafting and graphics store open every day.

Rainbow Optics, 766 E. 13th Ave., has three optometrists on

staff, their own lab, and over 2,000 frames on display to serve your eyewear needs.

For some transportation you might want to look at **Pedal Power**, 877 E. 13th Ave., for a

selection of assorted bikes and equipment.

Those relying on their own two feet for transportation might visit the **Campus Shoe Shop**, 843 E. 13th Ave.



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