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Committee weighs insurance options for upcoming year

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Associate Editor

Members of the Student Health Insurance Committee are working to come up with a definite insurance plan to present to students before the end of spring term.

The committee is ready to submit bid specifications — based on the University's claims history — to different insurance companies, which should make proposals to the University in a few weeks, said SHIC Chairman Scott Wyckoff.

"We will be able to tell students what company, what kind of coverage they'll be getting and how much it will cost by the end of the term," Wyckoff said. The plan would be for the 1990-91 academic year. "Those are things students need to know before they go home for the summer."

Besides requesting bids from standard insurance carriers, the committee is also considering a managed care program, similar to health maintenance organization plans offered by many employers, Wyckoff said.

In a managed care program, the insurance company negotiates contracts with local hospitals and health care providers for services to program members.

Under such a plan the University's Student Health Center would probably be the primary care provider; students who require services not offered at the health center would be referred to local hospitals or clinics.

"It's a cost containment plan," Wyckoff said. "The cost to students would be similar or lower to what it is now."

In a managed care plan, the insurance company would pay a flat fee to providers; the costs of the services would be shared equally among all the participants in the program. A nominal fee would be charged for such things as prescriptions.

The committee is in a "pre-proposal" stage of negotiation with a company called Landmark International, said insurance coordinator Cathy Curran.

Landmark was originally formed to provide insurance coverage to international students. The company has negotiated managed care plans for Chemeketa Community College in Salem and for the University of Washington.

Landmark is currently working with Oregon State University to create a plan for international students

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"Crazy War"

Michael Woroniecki of Thornton, Colo. delivered his message of winning this "Crazy War" of life to a large crowd of students outside the EMU Wednesday. Woroniecki handed out pamphlets titled "How to Win a Crazy War" and claimed that students are driven by peer pressure in a world that wants people "to be superficial, phony, and just another rat running the race," when actually they just need to be true to themselves.

In his pamphlet, Woroniecki warned students that their lives are passing them by. He said he has learned life means more than "the phony games and empty pursuits of the world."

As for the heckles that passers-by targeted him with, Woroniecki's pamphlet said "I would rather be alone with the truth than with many people in deception. I would rather be rejected by sinners now than by God for eternity."

Photos by Mark Ylen

University gets 30-day notice on recycling plan

Business overrides environment

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

Just barely a week after Earth Day's 20th anniversary, the University finds itself with a soon-to-be defunct recycling service and no options on the horizon to continue the program.

Pearl Buck Recycling, which currently heads the recycling effort, gave the University notice last week that they are pulling out of their contract in about 30 days.

The University's Physical Plant will now be called upon to operate the program again, which is leaving some recycling proponents with uneasy feelings.

"I don't feel like the Physical Plant has the dedication to recycling that Pearl Buck had," said Karyn Kaplan, the Survival

Center's recycling coordinator.

The Physical Plant, which provided the recycling service before Pearl Buck, was highly criticized for running a poor program.

The service mainly consisted of unmarked barrels at the end of hallways. These barrels often collected more unrecyclable materials and other garbage than recyclable paper.

With the Survival Center's help, a Pearl Buck official approached the Physical Plant last spring to negotiate a contract to provide a more vigorous recycling program.

Pearl Buck assumed the program in August with the agreement that the only revenue Pearl Buck would receive would come from selling the recycled material.

Since August, the official who negotiated the contract

with the University left Pearl Buck, and the new recycling manager determined the program is too costly to operate without compensation.

"The problems are not being able to pick up enough material to be recycled and no central location at the University to pick up the material," said Pearl Buck recycling manager Ron Pierzina last week.

"It made it real costly for the program to operate," he said.

Pierzina said he decided to give 30-days notice after recent discussions with the Physical Plant did not produce results.

Pearl Buck would need compensation from the University to help offset \$600 to \$800 monthly losses the company has incurred since they took over the program, Pierzina said.

"We're still trying to come up with a way to get things

done," he said. "The question is, 'Who's going to do it?'"

John Evans, Physical Plant coordinator for the Pearl Buck program, said the University would run the program at the same level until officials discuss their options.

financial situation, but on the other hand we cannot ignore it," said University Vice President Dan Williams.

Williams said the University, which is required by state law to run a recycling program, will have to set the program's

'I don't see (the program) as a problem from my perspective, but I'm not looking at the problem from a business point of view.'

— John Evans

The University needs to evaluate the financial and logistical aspects before the program can be expanded or reduced, Evans said last week.

Becoming more efficient means a heavier financial burden for the University, Evans said.

"There's more to it than the

scope based on financial realities.

All this talk of money, however, has left recycling advocates with the feeling a business perspective is prevailing over environmental priorities.

"I don't see (the program) as

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