

# INTO THE

with the Recreation Center

Tuesday, October 23, 1990

Oregon Daily Emerald

Advertising Supplement

## Recreation Center serves as 'campus living room'

Center offers boat rides, TV, lost and found, in addition to other services

The EMU Recreation Center is what manager Susan Pedersen calls "the living room of the campus."

The center, providing facilities for billiards, bowling, a video arcade, foosball, table tennis, darts and other games, has transformed over the years matching the students' interests.

The Rec Center began in the basement of the EMU when the building was built. Pedersen, the manager for the last three years, sees a cyclical pattern to the popularity of certain games and sports.

"There has been a steady rise in pool most recently but bowling popularity is trying to keep up with it," she said.

The Rec Center operates strictly on the fees charged for the services. The center does not use incidental fees and operates under a budget approved by the EMU Board of Directors and the Incidental Fee Committee. The money students and staff pay into the center goes toward maintenance, salaries and new equipment for the center.

For the last three to four years, Pedersen said the Rec Center has been gaining profits and reducing student incidental fees because all profits the center makes go directly into funding the EMU.

In addition to the billiards room, the bowling alley and the video arcade, the Rec Center also operates the Waterworks Canoe Company located at 1395 Franklin Blvd. There students and staff can choose from

24 canoes and four kayaks to rent and use either on or off the Millrace from April through October.

The center's video arcade is its main revenue producer, Pedersen said. The arcade contains 28 video games and three pinball machines leased through Amusement Unlimited. The Rec Center pays for the space and the electricity while Amusement Unlimited provides the games and repairs on the games.

One of the least-known features of the Rec Center is the service of a lost and found.

"It's a service where people just don't know it's there until they need it," Pedersen said. "I want everyone to know that this is the campus lost and found and then more things will get matched to people."

The 25 work-study students who work in the Rec Center catalog and keep track of each item turned into the lost and found. Everything found is kept for six months and during the dead weeks of fall and spring terms the Rec Center holds a garage sale with the items that remain unclaimed. Nothing costs more than \$3, Pedersen said.

Another service the Rec Center offers is a pro shop for bowling and billiards. Staff and students can buy equipment for 10 percent above wholesale price. The Rec Center is also the only distributor of McDermott pool cues in Eugene.

The Rec Center employees are responsible for holding the many tournaments for sports such as billiards, bowling, darts and chess. Two or three employees will work together soliciting prizes from local businesses,

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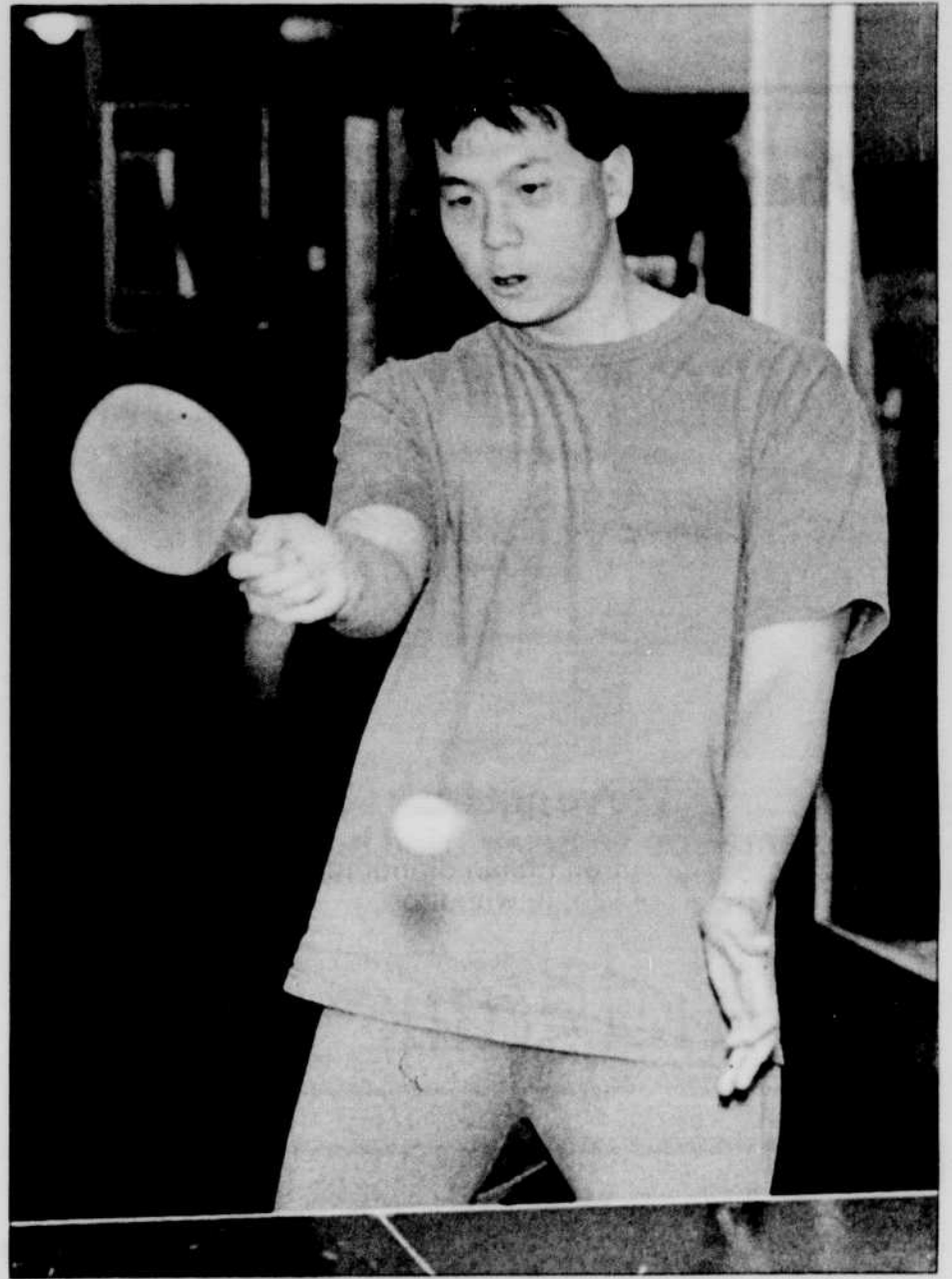
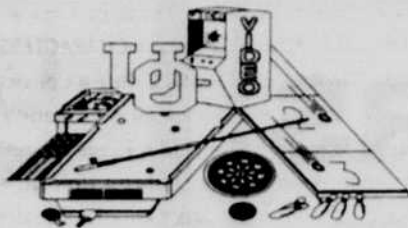


Photo by Sean Poston

Kenya Smith, a senior leisure studies major, takes in an evening game of ping-pong at the EMU Recreation Center.



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campus LOST and FOUND!  
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