



Jason Caughey, a lifeguard at the local YMCA, assists children in the facility's swimming pool. The Eugene YMCA aims to increase the involvement of University students as members and volunteers.

'Y' invites University members

Local YMCA offers fitness, human services

By Nicole Sagen
Emerald Contributor

What once was regarded as a University student union and teen hangout has evolved into the Eugene Family YMCA.

Now, more than 100 years after its creation, the local YMCA wants to attract the University population once more.

Beginning this September, the YMCA will cater to college students with a special "Seasonal College Membership," said Mike Kelley, Eugene YMCA director. The organization realizes students are often hesitant to purchase a 12-month membership because of the three-month summer break. Now, an eight-month membership will be available.

A \$40 initiation fee will be charged for an eight-month student membership, in addition to a \$75 per term charge. 12-month membership runs \$30 a month in addition to the \$40 initiation fee.

During the school year, recreational basketball and volleyball teams are organized, in which university students can participate. The YMCA also invites students to volunteer for teaching aerobic classes, help-

ing with the pre-school or child care, or even serving as youth basketball coaches and officials. Several internship positions are available each term.

The YMCA's ties with the University and its students date back to 1887, when a dozen University men gathered in a professor's office in Deady Hall to discuss the creation of the Young Men's Christian Association on the campus of "State University," later known as the University of Oregon, in "Eugene City." At the time, the University campus was composed of Deady and Villard Halls and a dormitory.

In 1918, the YMCA "Y-Hut" was constructed on campus to serve as a student union for 32 years until 1950, when the Erb Memorial Union was completed. The Y-Hut consisted of a library, recreation room, lounge and two sleeping rooms.

After absorbing the University branch, the Eugene YMCA moved to its present location at 2055 Patterson Street.

A recognized leader in the area of health and fitness, the YMCA is "a very complete recreational facility for all ages of men, women and children," Kelley said.

However, he added that the YMCA is not only a fitness center, it is also the largest human service organization in the world. The YMCA boasts 25 million members worldwide, with international organizations located in 98 different countries. Eugene is one of 1800 national YMCA facilities.


Over 80 varied services and programs are offered at the Eugene facility to people representing every age group and skill level. Members can begin the fitness programs at the age of six months and continue for the rest of their lives.

Approximately 4,000 Eugene members have access to pools, racquetball and squash courts, land and water aerobics, indoor tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts, weight rooms, exercise bicycles, child care and a number of lessons and community programs.

Additional programs range from fitness testing to personal weight training programs. An on-site dietician is available to offer Computerized Diet Analysis, menu planning, individual and group diet instruction and

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