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Dorm wait list tide turns; housing expects vacancies

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Reporter

Three years after overcrowding forced University Housing to wait-list 800 students' requests for dorm rooms, housing department officials this term are still trying to fill projected vacancies.

The dorms are now full with 2,988 students, said housing department Director Mike Eyster, who was hired this year. But recruitment efforts continue because rooms will open as some students move elsewhere during the first few weeks of classes, he said.

At this time last year, the *Emerald* reported that 3,028 students were living in the dorms. Last year's number was higher because of a higher rate of shared rooms.

In the past, the housing department solved the vacancy problem by overbooking the residence halls. Excess students stayed in temporary housing such as the Black Angus Inn until openings became available. This year, however, no similar student surplus exists.

Eyster said that early this summer he considered closing Moore Hall because the number of dorm reservations was so low.

"Things turned around after that," he said. "But we never did stop taking reservations this year. It was different than last year."

Now, at a time when housing department officials are accustomed to turning students away, they are trying to encourage students to give Boynton, Caswell, Spiller and the rest a try.

The housing department's quest for students led it to take out a series of half-page advertisements last week in the *Emerald*, an action unheard of a year ago. Headlined "Affordable Living," the notices extolled the benefits of free local phone service, 35-cent washers and dryers and the short distance from classes.

Eyster said the student shortage is not critical and the decision to advertise was an afterthought.

"I wouldn't call (the advertisements) aggressive," he said. "This wasn't a

marketing campaign. We didn't spend a whole lot of time thinking about what we were going to do. It was more like, 'Hmm, this seems like a good thing to do.'"

Eyster said the lower occupancy rate may be due in part to the decreasing number of 18- and 19-year-olds in the general population. Freshmen of this age, who make up 66 percent of dorm residents this fall, are typically more interested in living in the dorms than their older counterparts.

Another possible reason for the decline in residents may be lower total enrollment at the University. Although final totals won't be available until the fourth week of school, University Presi-

'We never did stop taking reservations this year. It was different than last year.'

— Mike Eyster,
Housing department director

dent Myles Brand said he believes fewer than 17,500 students registered for fall term. If this is true, that would mean there are about 650 fewer students on campus this term than at the same time last term (fourth week enrollment for 1990 was 18,141).

Eyster said he doesn't believe increased dorm fees caused the change because the rates went up only 9 percent this year (residents paid \$1,383 for a double-occupancy room this term and \$1,270 fall term a year ago).

"We try to keep our rates as low as we can, so other expenses are more affordable," he said.

Eyster said he doesn't believe this year's tuition hikes have much to do with slower dorm reservations, either because of the difference in occupancy rates at the University and Oregon State

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Ecuadoran serenade

Two musicians from the band Malkuri get set to play in the EMU Courtyard Wednesday afternoon. Members of the quintet from northern Ecuador say their main purpose is to preserve and share their traditional music.

Photo by Jane Ballin

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For Leonard

About 50 people gathered at the Federal Building in Eugene Wednesday to show their support for Leonard Peltier, a Native American man who they say was wrongly jailed for the deaths of two FBI agents in 1975.

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Tibetan experience

Photographer Galen Rowell entertained and informed a capacity crowd at the EMU Ballroom Wednesday night with slides and stories from Tibet.

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Blazer hope

The Portland Trail Blazers open camp this week, and are trying to come to grips with their heartbreaking loss to the Los Angeles Lakers in the playoffs last season.

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Brand 'optimistic' despite Measure 5



Myles Brand

'Oregon Model' planning strategy to begin

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

In spite of Measure 5 budget cuts, University President Myles Brand said Wednesday afternoon he is optimistic about the University's future.

"I see the next two years as ones in which our strategic planning process will come to fruition and we will begin to make progress toward realizing our academic aspirations.

"But these also will be years in which we continue to feel the pain of cuts resulting from a decrease in state support and in which there will continue to be uncertainty about the environment for higher education," he said in his annual "state of the University" address to faculty, staff and students.

One aspect of the plan is a new approach to undergraduate education called "The Oregon Model."

Brand said the plan builds on existing successes in undergraduate education, while stressing small class sizes, strong

disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs, an emphasis on learning in-depth and a curriculum structure that enables academic success.

Brand said Oregon has the advantage of being smaller than most public universities while having better research facilities than most private universities.

Looking at the effects of last year's budget cuts, Brand said that a less visible effect is the cost of continuing phased-out programs.

State support for eliminated programs ended on July 1, yet these programs are being maintained for the 1991-92 academic year, and some for the 1992-93 academic year as well.

"We felt it critical to honor the commitments made in the tenure process," Brand said. "And we must as much as possible give students the opportunity to complete their degrees."

Brand said the cost of maintaining these programs must come from other

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