

INTOUCH

with the EMU Recreation Center

Find more than a bargain at EMU Lost and Found

Manager tries to reunite items with owners

Did you lose your mind over finals last term? Well, your mind is about the only thing that hasn't turned up at the EMU lost and found in the EMU Recreation Center.

"We get it all," says Recreation Center Manager Susan Pedersen, and goes on to explain that one person's trash is another's treasure.

Take for example the floor model dome-shaped hair dryer reminiscent of the beehive hair style of the 1960's.

At the end-of-term clearance sale, an imaginative person bought this period piece with the intention of converting it into a smart floor lamp.

Pedersen, who inherited the lost and found five years ago when she became the Recreation Center's manager, explained that a "marketing problem" exists in promoting the lost and found and its location in the EMU. Apparently people don't understand that the service serves the entire campus and not just the EMU.



Land of the lost: Lost and found employee Robbie Petelit displays just some of the abandoned items to be claimed.

"I guess it's because here we have the biggest closet available," she said.

The closet she refers to is a blue shelved bunker of a closet, resembling a mini Salvation Army outlet and containing an even wider assortment of stuff. Surprisingly, two shelves hold unidentified and unclaimed textbooks and notebooks.

The system is simple and works well when departments and people cooperate

and promptly return lost articles through campus mail or in person.

Upon arrival, the names of the items are dated and entered according to categories in a logbook. This logbook provides a quick reference without having to sort through the complex closet. The Knight Library's weekly delivery is usually the largest received.

If identity can be established, owners are notified.

Usually owners' names can be found in a phone book or through campus information, but sometimes investigative techniques are required.

Recently, Pedersen attempted to locate and inform the owner of a wallet that was returned through campus mail. The wallet had been found in the hall of another building. There was a name in the wallet but no other identification except a

'I always thought that our lost and found closet would make an excellent modern archeology study of human beings and their things.'

-Susan Pedersen, Manager, EMU Recreation Center

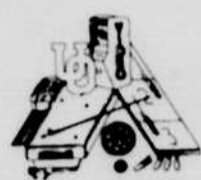
telephone number on the carbon copy of a bank loan application that was not legible.

As an alternative way of reaching the owner, Pedersen attempted calling the person listed as a reference on the application.

Because the reference person was not at home, Pedersen left a message on an answering machine saying, "Please tell 'Betty Smith' we have her wallet at lost and found." From a table near the desk phone from which Pedersen was talking, a voice chirped, "I'm Betty Smith and that's my wallet you're talking about!"

As it turned out, "Betty", had had her wallet stolen from her office, thrown

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