

Computer lounge gets new owners, new hours

By Julie Swensen
Emerald Contributor

Students will now be able to use the computer lounge in the EMU for more hours at a lower price, but the lab's hourly service has been eliminated.

Term passes at the lab, which used to cost about \$30, now cost \$10, lab employee Helen Phan said.

Law students will be charged \$15 per semester.

Phan said the lab is now open 100 hours a week, up from 48 hours when the lab was run by the EMU.

The changes result from a transfer of ownership. The lounge, which used to be controlled by the EMU, is now owned by the Computing Center. Its new name is the Computing Center EMU Microcomputer Lab.

"(The former lounge) used to be financed by just user fees, but the user fees couldn't hold up the costs of running the lounge," Phan said.

Roy Singer, manager of the former lounge, said it was the only lab on campus not paid for with tuition money, resulting in a financial loss. The result, Singer said, was the EMU covered the costs.

"The EMU decided they didn't want to cover the costs," Singer said. "They decided they'd sell out to the Computing Center, which uses tuition money to cover the costs. That's why (the new lab) can now offer a lower-priced pass."

For the same reason, laser copy costs have decreased from 30 cents to 20 cents a page.

Lab employee John Harrison said the

elimination of the hourly service would probably alienate some students. Those who ask to use the lab for only an hour are "denied."

"If they want to use it, they'll have to buy the term pass for 10 bucks," Harrison said.

Although the rates are now cheaper, lab employee Eric Wallace said he believes computer services should be free. He compared the University of Oregon to Oregon State University, which offers a free, 24-hour computer lab with free laser printing.

"Everyone should have free computer access at the University because the UO has all your money already," Wallace said.

The CC-EMU lab is now open Saturday and for an additional two hours on Friday. However, the benefits have resulted in a cut in some services.

"We no longer offer services by the hour to simplify things," Phan said. Also, fax services were moved to Footnotes.

The CC-EMU facility will be upgraded with more advanced computers, including the Macintosh IIsx. Also, there will be a greater number of computers than is currently available.

To allow for these improvements, the CC-EMU lab will be closed this summer.

Summer session students will have access to other computer labs in Room 220 Pacific and Rooms 16 and 175 in the Computing Center Building.

The CC-EMU Microcomputer Lab is now open from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

LECTURE

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"They're bored out of their heads unless you entertain them," he said. "With 300 people, how are you going to do that unless you put on a clown suit and jump up and down and blow bubbles?"

Although Young's teacher doesn't use those tactics, she still attends her geology class because she says the lectures help her understand the material.

And it is because of students like her that the vast majority of professors say large lecture classes are still valuable educational tools, despite their problems.

Marvin Gordon-Lickey, another psychology professor who banned Footnotes last term, said his commitment to the lecture format has not wavered.

"I don't think television sets are the answer," he said. "We need to take steps to improve the students' involvement in the classes."

Gordon-Lickey said he is experimenting with giving students more pop quizzes and assigning more homework to improve attendance.

While associate history professor Alan Kimball admits that he is "no fan" of large lecture classes, he said he believes lectures are an essential part of the learning process because they allow students who do attend to ask questions.

Kimball said students should not just absorb information that the teacher tells them.

"That's not the model of what education is," he said. "It's not one bucket emptying into little cups."

Kimball said he tries to make things easier on the students in his class by having them also participate in small-group discussions and trying to make his lectures interesting.

Although only 60 percent of Robert Chaney's Anthropology 103 class typically attends his lectures, Chaney said he also believes his speeches are important.

"Lectures have a function of bringing out the significance of what (students) are learning," he said. "The people who are doing extremely well are going to the lectures."

Chaney said he tries to encourage more students to attend class by being an exciting lecturer.

"I want to be a little entertaining," he

'Lectures have a function of bringing out the significance of what (students) are learning. The people who are doing extremely well are going to the lectures.'

— Robert Chaney,
University professor

said. "If I don't get them enthused about it, they're not going to be spending a lot of time at home."

His strategy has worked on at least one student. Junior Joe Fitzgibbon said he attends about 95 percent of Chaney's classes because he likes Chaney's sense of humor and he thinks he's a good lecturer.

Most students and professors may be resigned to put up with large lecture classes because there are relatively few of them. Out of the 3,500 courses the University offered fall term, only about 100 enrolled more than 100 students.

And contrary to what one might expect in the era of Measure 5, the University administration has made no conscious decision to offer more large classes, said Paul Holbo, vice provost of academic affairs.

Actually, if the University's budget problems get worse, the college will probably offer fewer large lecture classes, he said. But there won't be any smaller classes to replace them. Fewer students will be able to take the courses.

Holbo said he has no idea what will happen to the University's student-teacher ratio in the future. "It depends if the state keeps hammering the University on the head."

Many students and professors also tolerate large lecture classes because they believe they are necessary vices of public universities.

While Kimball said he would prefer that the University offered only small classes of three or four students, he said he knows the University cannot afford to either hire more professors or to admit fewer students.

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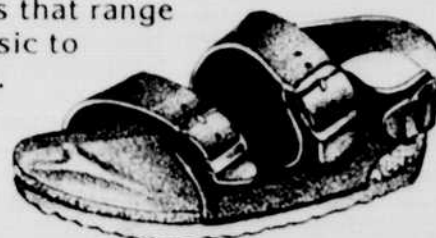
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