

Older students organize group for support, aid

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Associate Editor

Every time one of her professors assigns a group project, senior Juliejohn Knott has to sigh.

Students almost always want to meet at night, but that's difficult for Knott because she has a 5-year-old daughter.

Much of the time, Knott is unable to find a babysitter and has to bring her daughter with her. Although the students usually don't mind, Knott wishes she had other options.

"She steals the show and nothing gets done," Knott, 28, said with a laugh. "If money could be found — and I'm willing to pay up — it would be nice to find child care on campus after five."

Child care is only one of the problems older students like Knott face. Many have trouble balancing their studies with family and work responsibilities. Others feel isolated on a campus that seems to

be dominated by the younger set.

This fall, a group of men and women founded the Returning Students Association to meet the needs of students that fall out of the 18- to 22-year-old age bracket. The organization's next meeting is Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in Cedar Room E.

In addition to working with University President Myles Brand to fight for returning students' concerns, the RSA will act as a resource center for older students who want to know what University services are available for them.

Bruce Lawrence, a 39-year-old student and co-chairman of RSA, said another of the group's functions could be helping junior college transfers make the transition to the University.

A former Lane Community College student, Lawrence remembers feeling a bit overwhelmed when he first came to the University to study sociology.

Lynda Westcott, a senior journalism

student who also works with RSA, said entering the University this fall at age 47 was a major change for her. Previously, she had worked as a consultant in Bend.

"It was a culture shock coming from an environment where I had control of my daily activities," she said. "When I came to campus my agenda was laid out for me."

Westcott was surprised by the amount of homework she had to do. Although in her first term she initially signed up for 17 credits, she soon dropped one class.

Although being a returning student is difficult, Knott, Lawrence and Westcott can all name advantages to being older than many of their fellow students.

They all said their life experience often helps them learn course material better.

"You can see the bigger picture as an older student," Westcott said. "Your life

does not begin and end with an A."

The three hope RSA will be a place where older students can point out such strengths in each other and encourage each other to excel.

Although the group has no money so far, it has used Oregon Hall's services to send mailings for free to other returning students on campus. In July, the group will be able to apply for funds from the Incidental Fee Committee.

RSA Co-chairwoman Mary Ann Fabry said the group's long-term goal is to have a permanent EMU office space where students could come to relax or study, but for now the leaders of RSA are concentrating on getting organized.

"We want to have a real strong foundation all built so in the fall returning students will be able to decide what issues to fight for," she said. "We want to be a political voice heard on the campus."

Chemistry professor says ozone depletion must stop

By Anne Scott
Emerald Contributor

Deaths from skin cancer will increase unless chemicals harmful to the ozone layer are banned, chemistry Professor Paul Engelking said in a speech Friday night.

"The bottom line is that we have got to stop the manufacturing of chlorofluorocarbons," Engelking said, referring to chemicals many scientists believe are responsible for depleting Earth's protective ozone layer.

Engelking, whose lecture was part of the Earth Week celebration, has been a University faculty member since 1978. He has done ozone-related consulting work and has been a prolific science writer.

Engelking displayed several products that contain the chemicals, known as CFCs. Included were a popular water repellent product, a disk drive cleaning solution and an insulating sealer product.

The professor also said refrigerators, air conditioners and blow-in insulation contain ozone-depleting chlorine. In recent years, there have been moves to recycle the CFCs in discarded refrigerators.

In recent years, alternatives to CFC have been studied. These compounds, known as hydrogen chlorofluorocarbons, mimic methyl chloride in the atmosphere. Methyl chloride gases, produced by cows, salt marshes, termites and rice patties are quickly destroyed by ultraviolet rays before they

reach the ozone.

The depletion of the ozone layer has been linked to skin cancer. Engelking said between 30,000 and 100,000 skin cancer cases are reported in the United States each year.

Engelking said the world's highest level of skin cancer is reported in the equatorial region, where people regularly expose their skin to the sun.

A recent study concluded that residents of northern states or regions are less likely to get skin cancer.

However, Engelking said Oregon has shown a higher level of skin cancer than most northern states. He said this is due to a mild climate that prompts people into getting as much sun as they can as fast as they can.

Engelking said many countries have begun phasing out CFC production. About 120 nations have agreed to cut back CFC production by 1995, but many developing nations find cutting back hinders their progress.

After the phase-out, the only CFC products used will be for medical purposes such as asthma inhalants.

But Engelking said this may not be enough, as there are several steps that can be taken now to help repair the ozone.

"I think the major steps are to understand what the problem is and to support efforts to reduce CFC production," Engelking said. "Our culture must learn to live without products harmful to the ozone."

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Pai Chi will have an office election meeting tonight at 6 in Room 154 Straub.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jesus Week 1992 information and book table will be in the EMU Lobby today from 11 to 2. Lauren Holland, candidate for Lane County Judge, will have a conversation and coffee session today at 4 in Room 303 Chapman.

"Jobs — One That You Like" will be the title of a lecture tonight at 5 in the EMU Ben Linder Room.

Cinco de Mayo

Pablo Avila, Circuit Court Judge from Texas, will speak tonight at 6 in Room 16 Pacific. Francisco Garcia, a counselor from Chemeketa Community College, will speak today at 2 in the EMU Maple Room.

RELIGION

Stump the Preacher, an informal question and answer time about Jesus, God and Christianity will be tonight at 7:30 in the University Inn main lounge.

Bible study will be today at 12:30 in EMU Century Room B.

"Human Sexual Love: The power of Life" will be the title of a Christian morality and forgiveness series tonight at 7 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St.

A prayer gathering will be Tuesday morning from 8:30 to 9 at the Wesley Foundation, 1236 Kincaid St.

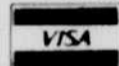
Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit notices for grammar and style. Et Als are published on a space-available basis.

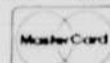
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