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Campus operators get odd requests

University's human directories say, "Look it up"

By Sarah Cody
Emerald Contributor

If you need to know how to can tomatoes or cook rice, consult a cookbook or call your mom, but don't call the University operators.

The campus operators, reached by dialing 346-1000, can provide directory information and dialing assistance in contacting students, departments and faculty, said Dorothy Grover, telephone

operator supervisor and a 33-year veteran of Operator Services.

Yet occasionally a caller asks a question that is far from routine.

"One student asked if he could freeze lettuce," Grover said smiling.

But she was also quick to add that no matter what the question, the campus operators will try to refer the caller to someone who knows the answer.

When Dorothy Grover first started answering campus phones in April 1959, the University used a PBX Cord Phone System, which required 40 operators to handle incoming calls. Since then the system has been upgraded

twice.

The first upgrade was to the Centrex System in 1970, and then to the present AT&T System 85 installed in 1990. The new system requires only three operators and makes services such as Duck Call and voice mail available, Grover said.

Diane Nelson, one of two full-time operators, also started working on the old PBX phone system after graduating from South Eugene High School in 1959.

"This is the only job I've ever had,

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Photo by Kim Nguyen

Lois McDonald has worked as a campus operator for 20 years. "You have to remember that (we) are the University as far as people are concerned," she said.



Photo by Jeff Paslay

Freshman Brandy Rentro is one of eight students living at the Cottage House. Overbooking of dormitories forced some students to live in off-campus housing. "It's kind of like having an apartment," she said.

Dorm students say 'Cottage' is more like home

An old sorority house is turned into a dorm due to lack of housing

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Associate Editor

A chandelier hangs in the foyer. Paintings adorn the walls, and a couple of dried flower arrangements sit on coffee tables in the mauve and gray living room.

The three-story, 14-bedroom house at 1910 University St. looks nothing like a dormitory. But 38 women who signed up for dorm rooms now call Cottage House their home.

In August, University Housing officials realized they had overestimated the number of students who would cancel dorm room reservations, said Ron Tendick, housing department director of business affairs and family housing.

About 45 percent of students who reserve a dorm room usually cancel, Tendick said. This year, however, 37 percent canceled, causing the housing department to overbook dorm rooms.

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Child care at University faced with inadequate facilities

One center has twice as many children as last year

By Mandy Baucum
Emerald Reporter

Evelyn Gould, a University employee and Child Care and Family Support Committee member, is faced with the task of finding a child care facility

for her two-year-old son after he turns three.

Gould said she would like to put her son into the EMU Child Care and Development Center, but it gives children of students priority over the children of faculty and staff.

"Although faculty have financial benefits like the Employee Dependent Child care account, there are no facilities or programs available to faculty (for their children) after the age

of three. We should have a model child care facility," Gould said.

Gould said even the Parent and Child Education Toddler Program her child goes to is hard to get into because of long waiting lists. The need for funding and competition for child care slots were a few of the major complications facing the University's child care system.

Coordinators did their best to

address these and many other problems at the University Parent Town Meeting this past Thursday.

The Parent Town Meeting was an effort on the part of child care administrators not only to hear parent needs and suggestions but also to provide a forum in which representatives from all of the campus child care facilities could exchange ideas and work together.

"The feedback loop hasn't been very good. That was the initial reason for doing this in the first place," said Regina Claypool-Frey, interim co-coordinator for the Family Center and parent coordinator for the University Parent Town Meetings.

Lack of space for child care is a major concern among parents

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WEATHER

Today will bring fair skies and patchy morning fog. Highs will be between 65-70 degrees. Tonight there will be a chance of a sprinkle or two along with increasing clouds. Lows are 40-45 degrees.

Wednesday will be mostly cloudy with chance of drizzle. Highs will be in the upper 50s.

KING OF THE ROAD DIES

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Roger Miller was mourned Monday by fellow singers, friends and hobos. They recalled his down-home charm in the finger-snapping hit "King of the Road", the twangy "Dang Me" and the goofy "Can't Rollerskate in a Buffalo Herd."

"Out of his mouth would flow the most unusual yet appropriate lines you would ever hear," said Bill Boyd, executive director of the Academy of Country Music and a longtime friend.

"He was fun to be around. I think Roger was most at home in front of a microphone entertaining people, whether it be five people or 5,000."

The nation's hobos also grieved the weekend death of Miller, whose 1965 song "King of the Road" gave rail-riders an anthem.

SPORTS

MIAMI (AP) - Nineteen people were hurt, none seriously, when a partition shattered, showering some spectators at Joe Robbie Stadium with broken glass near the end of the Indianapolis-Miami game.

Excited fans hoping to see the previously undefeated Dolphins come back to win had been pounding on the 2-by-4 foot divider at the bottom of an upper deck stairway, witnesses and officials said Sunday.

"It's like a tempered safety glass. It breaks like a car window; it breaks into tiny pieces," an official said.

The partition was designed to allow fans clear views of the field but prevent falls over the railing.