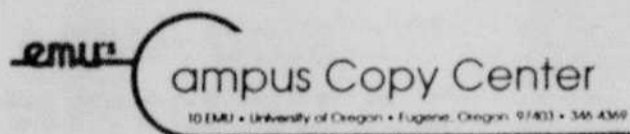


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IN TOUCH with the EMU

CRAFT

Continued from Page 3B

will fill the increasing interest in crafts that has shown up in the University.

While he has no specific reason for the upswing in interest, Laurance has a few theories.

"Money is tight," Laurance said. "What people are making isn't intended as your typical arts and crafts types of gifts."

Instead, people are building bookcases, tables and other such hardware.

Another role the center plays is that of an alternative workplace for art and architecture students, Laurance said.

"We give (the students) access to more machines, as well as the decreased amount of competition for studios," Laurance said. "A number of architecture students use our woodshop to create models."

Despite the fact that all fall term workshops are completed by this point of the term, students can still make use of the craft center. Day passes are obtainable for \$1 with a student identification card, which enables the user to a host of craft center equipment.

Those enrolled in workshops are given priority over day pass users, but most workshops are in the evening, leaving the center open during the daytime. In addition, the Center tries to allow two nights a week for people to come in and work on various crafts.

Those interested in signing up for winter term workshops are advised to stop by the center on Dec. 11, when next term's brochures are made available. Laurance said the registration process,

'Our membership has been steadily increasing term by term for the past few years.'

-Rick Laurance

Craft Center assistant coordinator

which begins Dec. 16, tends to go by in a flash.

"Some classes, like bike repair and ceramics, fill up really quickly," Laurance said. "We advise people to come in as soon as possible because we can't guarantee a spot in the classes."

With more than 50 different workshops this term and even more scheduled for winter, the center expects to maintain its bustling pace.

Before the registration process starts up, however, the center will present its annual Winter Craft Fair, in the EMU Fir Room on Dec. 2 and 3.

Co-sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum, the fair offers a variety of entertainment and products for the curious student.

"We have more than 30 vendors, with a couple of booths and a bunch of tables," Laurance said. "There'll be everything from book-binding to ceramics to knife-making."

Rivalled only by February's family album show as the center's most popular event, the craft fair usually sells out its booths by September. Laurance said the range of qualities and prices among the fair's vendors provide those who attend with a large selection of goods.

"It's a great way for people to see what Eugene's artists and creators have to offer," Laurance said.

-Peter Nussbaum

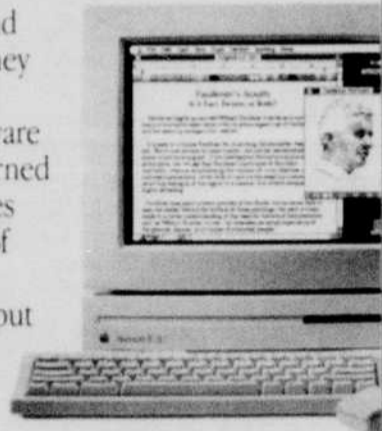


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