

TCI may bring cable, on-line services to dorms

Lori Bettineski
Oregon Daily Emerald

Final negotiations between the University and TCI Cablevision are underway that will bring cable television to all dorm rooms by next fall.

Contract negotiations between the University and TCI have been in the works since last spring, with completion of the cable installation in the dorm

rooms originally planned for this fall. Nancy Wright, director of facilities and capital improvement, said minor changes in the contract that have delayed installation processes have been worked out.

Wright said the cost for installing the wiring on campus will be absorbed into the overall room and board fees for 1995-96 and will equate to approximate-

ly \$9 per month per room.

Under the current contract proposal, TCI would install a box in each room that would provide basic cable service to all dorm residents.

Connecting the dorm rooms to the University's mainframe computer will be another service available to residents, although two telephone jacks and additional wiring must be

installed before students will be on-line.

The proposal will also give University Housing the ability to show presentations in lecture halls throughout campus with their own movie channel. Games at McArthur Court could also be televised on the new cable system.

"This is something that students have wanted in the past and it seems like where we are going in terms of technological advances," Wright said. "It was reviewed by the Residence Hall Governance Council and they agreed students want it."

When contract negotiations were at a standstill last spring, Mike Eyster, director of University Housing, said similar agreements were made all across the country, with 90 percent of all campuses considering switching or had made the switch already. With the proposal being the first of its type in Oregon, Eyster said the state government was wary.

"The problem is the state has

never seen an agreement like this," Eyster said.

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the agreement, University Housing officials were required to comply with state laws that require it to pursue competitive bids, yet TCI was the only company that has a franchise to operate cable in Eugene.

The only other company that offers cable in Eugene is Falcon Cable Systems of Springfield. But the company wasn't interested in expanding into Eugene because it had no way of getting its signal to the University, said Kathy Waldrop, a supervisor at Falcon Cable Systems.

Exemption from the state laws have allowed contract negotiations to continue since last spring. Final contracts will be completed this fall, Wright said, and structural plans to bring cable through underground tunnels to the University will begin next spring and summer.

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Endangered species exhibit uses birds to spark interest

Natasha Shepard
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The grey-tailed hawk and the red-horned owl will be two of the guests at the opening of "The Endangered Species Museum" on Monday.

The event, sponsored by the Eugene Endangered Species Society and the Survival Center's Wildlife Conservation group, will take place in the EMU Fir Room on Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a special presentation Monday evening.

Exhibits and presentations will include live animals and information on extinct, endangered and recovering animal species.

Bob Beisser, founder and coordinator of the Eugene Endangered Species Society, said he hopes the museum will not only give information about the endangered species themselves, but spark people's interest in their environment.

Young people need to learn about the endangered species issue so they can make a difference, Beisser said.

"Most young people have a natural affinity for animals," he said. "The increasingly urbanized experience and removal from the natural world ... have serious sociological implications.

"The natural world is so vast, if you have an interest in it, you never have to be bored in your whole life."

The event's goal is to increase community involvement in the endangered species issue, especially in schools. Beisser said he would like to see wildlife conservation groups formed in schools.

The issue of species preservation will come to life Monday at 7 p.m. when a series of short presentations includes several birds from the Cascade Raptor Care Center. Other speakers will include a Eugene man who attended the United Nations conference on population growth in Cairo and representatives of the Willamette Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center and Zero Population Growth.

The event's exhibits will provide information about other groups that work on the endangered species issue to encourage involvement and the feeling that there is something people can do to help.

"It is necessary for us to prevent (extinction)," Beisser said. "We can not allow extinction through indifference."

Exhibits will also focus on the threats to animal species, which are almost always human-related according to Louise Shimmel, coordinator of the Raptor Care Center.

The increasing human population is one of the main problems threatening species health, Beisser said.

In addition to the speakers on the effects of population growth, there will be an exhibit in the museum about the impact of the expanding human population.

"Population is the barometer of the health of the planet," Beisser said.

Other exhibits will focus on deforestation and plastic trash in the marine environment.

"The problem usually has to do with some sort of habitat degradation," Beisser said, citing how the pesticide DDT damaged bird populations and how manatees are being run over by motorboats in the Florida Keys.

Beisser hopes the museum will increase awareness and encourage activism.

"The future is ours," Beisser said. "It is what we make it. If we don't pay attention to the endangered species, we're going to lose them."

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