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Campus Interviews October 27, 1994

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Mural removed for safety reasons

Robbie Reeves Oregon Daily Emerald

A mural painted during New Student Orientation Week was removed Tuesday and Wednesday from a sidewalk for safety reasons, according to a University official.

The mural, painted on a sidewalk near the EMU East Lawn and Carson Hall, was removed because it could be slippery when wet, according to Jackie Balzer, acting director of the Student Orientation Staff.

More than 100 students, including many new residents, created the reproduction of the Student Orientation Staff logo. A number of students were upset to see the mural removed from the sidewalk

"It was a nice piece of art." said Inbar Cohen, a resident of University Housing. The University "should have left it to deteriorate on its own," she said.

Removing the mural "was a waste of people's time," said Aleena Kliever, a resident assis-

tant in Carson. The point of the mural "was to have people become part of the University. but now we're going to power wash you away. Welcome to the University," she said, referring to the removal of the mural.

However, safety was the prevailing factor according to Balz-

"We didn't want to risk people falling" because of the mural, Balzer said. The area around the mural was roped off during rainy weather to prevent people from slipping.

The decision to remove the mural was made by Balzer and Carey Drayton, director of the Office of Public Safety, Balzer said. Unsuccessful efforts were made to find a way to make the walkway less slippery before the mural was removed, Balzer said.

Some said that they would have preferred that the mural remained on the sidewalk.

"Students put in a lot of effort" into creating the mural, said Kelly Morris, resident director for Carson Hall. Morris

t was a nice piece of art, (the university) should have left it to deteriorate on its own.

> - INBAR COHEN University Housing residen

said he hoped something could have been done to the mural to make it less slippery without having to remove it.

The slippery conditions were quite unexpected, according to Balzer, even though paint stores had been consulted for this very reason. She speculated that an additive to add traction, such as grit, should have been added to the paint during the production of the mural.

Attempts are being made to restore the mural to a lesser-traveled sidewalk or to a wall. A similar activity will be planned for next year, said Balzer, although with a different design.

School of Law opens two more clinics

Javier Cervantes

The University's School of Law was one of three selected nationally by the U.S. Department of Education to receive two federal grants totaling nearly \$500,000. The money will be used to fund two new law clinics.

The new Mediation Clinic and Health Law Clinic will join the four existing law clinics on campus (Civil Law, Prosecution Law, Public Defense and the Environmental Law Clinics). Clinical education in law school terms is an opportunity for students to work under the tutelage of actual practitioners. Last weekend was the introductory session for both new clinics.

"I think we were able to show that [the University] is an excellent school and can support additional clinics," said Jane Gordon, associate dean for students and program affairs, who authored the request for the mediation grant.

In addition, Gordon said, the University demonstrated they had a competent staff to take on such

We showed that we had good faculty and administrative support," she said. "The opportunity for two clinics would provide and be both good for students on an educational basis as well as the community," she said.

For example said Gordon, "with our Prosecution Clinic, students would go to the District Attorneys' Office and work under the supervision of a particular District Attorney in addition to the 40 hours of course work that is required. In the District Attorneys' Office students are trained with District Attorneys on actual cases. They help pros-

Another example she gave was at the Health Law Clinic, where students can help clients who have been denied benefits, who want reimbursements or who have been told they are not eligible for some type of service.

"We want to help those people who are low

income and we want to work with clients with short term problems," she said.

"We want our students to have mediation experience firsthand," said Charles O'Kelley, dean of the law school.

"Classes give them theory, but this gives them a chance to feel what it is like to be a mediator. We also hope that students get the feel of what it is like to represent a client," said O'Kelley.

Students will not immediately be expected to mediate by themselves. Director of the Mediation Clinic, Julia Gold said that the process of mediation will begin slowly.

"I will train with my students and will mediate with them first. It will be a co-mediation. From there, students will be able to co-mediate in groups by themselves," she said.

O'Kelley says that the mediation aspect of law is fast growing. The need for more mediators has to do with more clients wanting to work out their differences without the time and expense of litigation, he said.

"The cost of a trial is so enormous, not only in terms of money, but in terms of relationships that are destroyed. People are going through other dispute resolution stages that sometimes make it unnecessary to go through litigation and often preserves relationships," he said.

Presently there are four third-year law students in each of the two new clinics. By next term Gordon hopes to add four students to each new clinic.

These clinics are very competitive," Gordon said. "So the way that we choose the students is by a lottery

"This is very exciting for us. Both of these areas in law are cutting edge in the sense that it would be very valuable for students to gain the experience. It feels good to combine that with them helping the community," she said.



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