

Center: 'It's a low-key type of place'

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glass, paper and photography. Each term about 65 classes are offered in these areas.

Students can purchase a day pass for \$1.50 or a term pass for \$6. The center also offers specials for \$5, such as tie-dyeing and bike repair, and term specials like wine basket-making or seasonal crafts.

Students can also go when there is not a class and work on their own.

It is a wonderful place, Ness said. Students can go between classes and work on a project for an hour, or they can spend hours working with some of the supervisors on a long-term project.

All of the supervisors, including the work study students, have a focus — on wood or jewelry, for example, she said.

People who regularly visit the facilities know that instructors and supervisors will always be around to help. Max Nixon spends a lot of his time helping students with their projects. Nixon, who retired from the University in 1981 after about 30 years as a jewelry professor in the art department, does not teach classes, but works one-on-one with students to give them his full attention.

"It is such a low-key type of place," Nixon said. "You just don't find this in a classroom."

Art is so important to him that after he retired he offered to come back to the University to work for free so he could keep the program going. That dedication shows in the way he works with students.

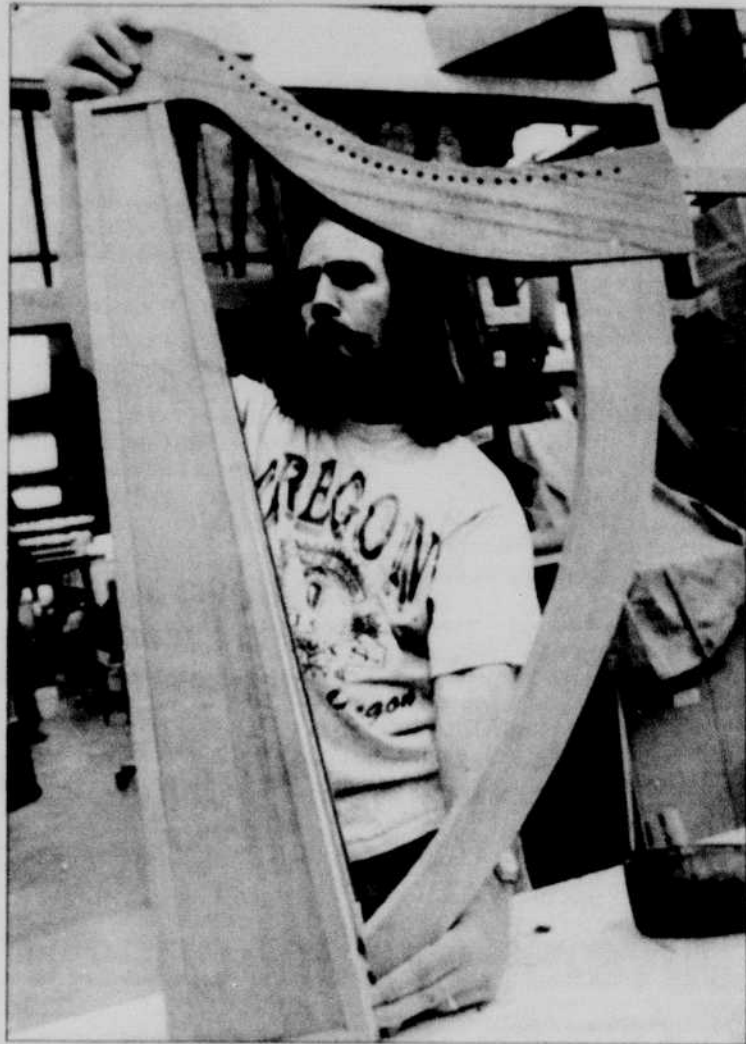
Huppert said Nixon is pretty visible in the center and is very helpful.

Years after students have left school, they remember Nixon for his work. People will stop him and reminisce about past projects. That presents Nixon with something that is much better than money, he said.

"It gives me a really good charge that you can do something with and individual that will have such a lasting effect," he said.

Some of the employees of the Craft Center are more than just instructors. Frank Gosar, who works in the ceramics area, spends his free time working on personal projects. Now he is creating dragon incense burners for a company that wants 250 by Christmas.

This project is very labor



John Kocan, a medieval studies and history double-major, works on a Celtic harp in the wood shop.

intensive, he said.

"It will take me the better part of my free time this week to make 40," Gosar said.

Gosar, who has a master of fine arts degree from the University, began working in the center after he got his degree. It is a good way for him to get teaching experience and work with students, he said.

But one of the best parts of the job, besides the people, is the opportunity to mess around in so many different crafts.

Ness said that is one of the special things about the organization: the plethora of crafts students can learn through the classes and on their own.

And all of the supplies needed for most of the projects are available for use or purchase at the center, Ness said. Wood, tools, clay and T-shirts are handy for students using the facility.

"We try to make it so they can walk in and not have to buy anything," she said. "All they need to bring is motivation."

And because the organization is nonprofit, all of the materials are reasonably priced, Ness said.

All of the equipment is free with the purchase of a day pass or a membership although supervision and permission is needed for some of the heavy machinery, such as the blowtorch.

Though Ness characterizes some of the equipment as primitive, the center is able to purchase new machinery periodically with money left over from the budget.

"We have a wish list and if we have money left over at the end of the year we buy a piece of equipment," Ness said.

Other equipment comes via donations from the community.

Two years ago a person who was working for an art supply company donated a box of calligraphy pens. Ness said people at the craft center were so pleased that the students would be able to use the pens on projects.

CORRECTION

The captions accompanying two photos in Tuesday's *Emerald* incorrectly identified Eugene poet and painter David Marsteller, appearing at an open mike event at the Rainy Day Cafe, as the event's emcee, Steve Wolf.

The *Emerald* apologizes for any inconvenience.

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