

Department's move stirs controversy

■ **ROOMS:** The program needs the extra space, but finds the appearance of the rooms they were offered to be poor

By Jennifer Schmitt
Higher Education Reporter

A proposal to move the environmental studies program from Condon to the basement of Pacific has caused controversy between the University Space Committee and the environmental studies program about the appearance of the new space.

According to the proposal, the environmental studies program will move from Room 104 Condon to Rooms 5, 6, 7 and 10 in the basement of Pacific. The new space is approximately 2,400 square feet, which is double the space the program currently occupies.

The environmental studies program does not object to the size of the new space but to the quality of the space, said Richard Gale, program director.

"We are really appreciative of the additional space," he said. "However, I strongly object to moving the program and its office into a basement. It will send a terrible symbolic message to the students, community and visitors to the program."

The environmental studies program was added to the college of arts and sciences a year ago and now has approximately 450 undergraduates in the program. The rapid growth of the program has led to a need for more space.

The program's office was originally located in Room 104 Condon. This year the program was able to borrow Room 201 Condon from the registrar's office and a room from the anthropology program, Gale said.

The registrar's classroom pool loaned out Room 201 Condon under an agreement that by fall of 1996, the room would be returned to the registrar, said Tom Dyke, associate dean of the college of arts and sciences.

"We had to look around the campus and find a space where we could not only eliminate the need for University class space, but also give the program adequate room to grow," Dyke said.

The University Space Committee members decided to move the program to the basement of

Pacific.

"With the growth in the number of students on campus, the committee needed to find a way to make more classroom space available," Dyke said. "We found a larger area in a good position for future expansion."

Officials in the environmental studies program have two options. They can accept the move to the basement or they can stay in Room 104 Condon and lose the other rooms they had this past year.

Gale's three-year term as program director ends in June. Prior to the space changes, he had planned on staying on for one more year. In protest of the space problems, he is refusing to stay after June 30, 1996, Gale said.

If the environmental studies program moves to Pacific, it will leave the prettiest room on campus for the ugliest, Gale said.

"Space sends a message," he said. "There will be some people turned off by the new space just like there were a lot of people really impressed by our office in Condon."

The controversy surrounding the move also stems from a feeling that the decision was made without letting representatives from the program participate.

"I didn't even know we were on the agenda when they were discussing what to do with our program," Gale said. "They can't behave that way with the public. We have to know what is going on."

A clear and written memorandum, stating that Room 201 Condon was going to be given back to the Registrar's office, had been given to the environmental program, Dyke said.

"The decision was based on a need to ensure adequate classroom space and to honor a prior agreement that all parties had made," he said.

Renovations such as painting, floor covering and improving the lighting are scheduled for the basement rooms in Pacific Hall. Ten thousand dollars has been allocated for the renovations.

"If there is a lot of renovation done to Pacific, it is my theory that we will never get out of there," Gale said.

The renovated rooms could be used by other programs in the future if the environmental studies program is moved, Dyke said.

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POLICE BEAT

- A 22-year-old University student was cited for carrying a weapon in Skinner Butte Park without a concealed weapons permit on Sunday night. The student was originally stopped by police for being in a park after it closed. When the officer noticed the student had a .38 caliber magazine on him, the student told the officer he had thrown the gun away when he saw the officer. The student said he carried the gun because he played basketball in a "rough area" of town.
- Eugene police cited seven minors for being at a drinking establishment on 13th and Alder St. (Guido's Bar and A Taste of Thai) on Saturday morning at about 1:30.
- A 38-year-old female working with Special Olympics on Saturday had her backpack and its contents stolen. The items are valued at \$150. The backpack was stolen from a room in Gerlinger after the woman left for 30 minutes to view a Special Olympics event.
- Almost 30 minors, including a 14-year-old freshman in high school, were cited for possession of alcohol and drinking on an unlicensed premise between 10:30 and 11:30 p.m. on Friday. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission, the Eugene police, the Rapid Deployment Unit and the University Office of Public Safety participated in making the arrests at a keg party at the Janet Smith co-op, 1790 Alder St. Some people were cited for selling liquor without a license because of an entrance fee into the party.
- A lock and Trek Bicycle valued at \$540 were stolen from the third floor of Chapman on May 12. The owner was a 19-year-old male student.

— Compiled by Brian Wornack

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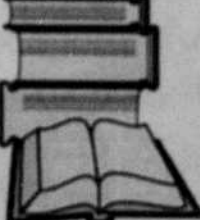
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