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Program educates on environment

By Angie Suchy
Student Activities Reporter

OSPIRG intern Laurena Dawson points to a painted mural in front of a group of second and third graders at Willakenzie Elementary School.

"Trees help give us clean air to breathe," Dawson said.

"The teacher told us that without trees there wouldn't be any life," said a girl in the class.

Students who participate in the Environmental Education Program earn credit when they team with peers to visit local elementary schools.

The University students spend about five hours in meetings every week to prepare for the classroom presentations, Dawson said. Presentation topics include soil, clean air, water and deforestation, all taught in a hands-on manner.

"It's a lot of work, but it's a wonderful program," Dawson said. "I wish all the time was spent in the classrooms, but I know we have to

have meetings."

OSPIRG volunteers work in conjunction with students completing 40-hour term projects for an Environmental Studies 201 class.

"The option of writing a paper pales in comparison to working with kids," volunteer Kate Tierney said. "And the kids are really receptive to us."

One difficulty the group has encountered this quarter has been contacting teachers and coordinating times for the University students to visit a classroom, Dawson said. Once students took the initiative to visit schools in person and talk to teachers, opportunities for visitation opened up.

"Once we came into the classrooms, I was enthusiastic to be working with kids who all seem to enjoy having us," said volunteer Allison Deutsch.

On Thursday, about 10 volunteers visited Willakenzie Elementary school, where the class of sec-

ond and third graders learned about topics ranging from pollution to erosion.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to hear messages from the community," said teacher Karen Duncan. "These hands-on activities help to reinforce what the children are learning."

Duncan and volunteers focused on the inter-relationship between all environmental topics.

"The topics are a great idea, and combining the themes helps keep the children involved and focused on the presentation," Duncan said.

However, time constraints generally present a problem, Dawson said. Each presentation usually lasts about 45 minutes.

"It's not easy to present complex issues in such a simplified way with such little time," Dawson said. "But I think the general message of environmental importance comes through."

Jobs: Expertise in a certain field not required

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... it was very real," she said.

All LEarn positions must incorporate critical thinking, presentation and personal and resource management skills, Doss said. Communication, he added, is also a must.

"We're rigorous in ensuring that the jobs have specific skills," he said.

Though the jobs demand certain skills, students aren't expected to be experts in the field they apply to, said Terry Bloomquist, manager of Energy Studies for Buildings Laboratories.

"Because of the level of work, we hope that there's an interest and level of experience," she said. "But the whole point of the program is to have the students learn."

Currently LEarn organizers are attempting to involve business sponsors in their program.

Institute: Plan proposes combining schools

Continued from Page 1A

only give the program a competitive advantage, but also will preserve individual teaching methods.

"This proposal allows each department to collaborate while retaining their unique identities," Conery said.

Because this program may be at three different campuses, a goal is to have one person speak for the faculty and students when high-tech companies are recruiting, Conery said.

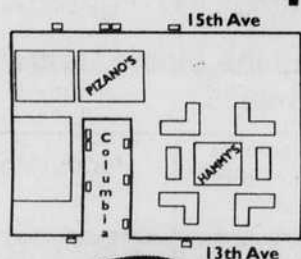
"If a company wants to recruit some students, they can call up one person with one voice... for all three campuses," he said.

Portland State President Judith Ramaley said the program shows real promise.

"It's a really attractive model to expand investment in [computing] education," she said. "It's a superb concept and I encourage to develop it."

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Photos to be auctioned

More than 100 donated photographs will be auctioned on Sunday, Nov. 17 at the 21st annual Photography at Oregon Auction.

Prints by such nationally recog-

nized photographers as Dan Burkholder and Edna Bullock, will go on display at noon in the Alumni Lounge of Gerlinger Hall, 1468 University St. Auctioneer Sid Voorhees will start the oral bidding at 1 p.m.

The free public event is organized each year by the museum's Photography at Oregon Committee.

"The Photography at Oregon auction is an opportunity for this community to support a program

dedicated to the medium of photography," said Susie Morrill, chairwoman of the Photography Committee.

More than 125 prints were donated by photographers from throughout the country.

Oregon artists contributing works include Christopher Burkett, Dennis Purdy and Steve Levi, all of Portland and Annette Gurdjian and Dan Powell of Eugene.

— Compiled by Shana Cohn



Christmas, Hong Kong, 1979, by O. Rufus Lovett

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The Museum of Art is open Wednesday, Noon-8:00 p.m.,
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For additional information, call (541) 346-3027

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