

Health outpost moves into new site

Esslinger's upgrades combine recreation facilities with health center services

By Sarah Skidmore
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students who overzealously enjoy the new Esslinger Building facilities next fall won't have to limp far for help.

The current athletic training area within Esslinger is moving and will now include a Student Health Center outpost to deal with acute care of injuries. The health center, Physical Activity And Recreation Services, Recreation Intramurals and the Exercise and Movement Science department will all be working together at the new site.

"It is really a good thing because it makes them more visible and puts them where students who might have injuries would be more likely to see them," PARS director Karla Rice said.

The shared area is going to be in the space where the women's locker rooms used to be. The total area is approximately the same size, but the layout, equipment and proximity to the recreation facilities is vastly improved, Rice said.

The post will include a classroom, athletic training area, health center area and physical therapy area. Some of the amenities students can look forward to include more of the existing equipment and possibly a therapy pool for physical therapy, Rice said.

"I think it's a great idea," said



Sarah Skidmore/Emerald

PARS director Karla Rice, who stands where the Esslinger women's locker room used to be, said the new Health Center outpost will be more visible to students.

Rachel McCormach, an Esslinger patron and senior in Environmental Studies. "The student athletes have someplace they can turn to, but us recreational students don't really have anywhere to go."

The outpost is a part of the Esslinger renovations, funded by the Esslinger development bond. However, the health center did contribute \$75,000 to aid the outpost development. The EMS department is trying to raise funds to pay for the therapy pool.

The athletic training services are a function of the EMS department and serve the Club and Intramural sports teams. The athletic training services will be available in the evening and the health center and physical therapy

will utilize the space during the day.

"A lot of times if they do get injured, the tendency is to go home," said Molly Kennedy, an Esslinger facility coordinator. "By bringing it here, they are going to reduce the risk of aggravating the injury."

Because of the proximity to the recreation facilities, health center officials also feel optimistic about its usefulness.

"It seems natural to have a presence there," said Duane Iverson, director of Sports Medicine Physical Therapy at the health center.

Esslinger is where many students incur their injuries, so the cooperative existence of these services is very convenient for students, Iverson said.

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