

'Green' products emphasized

■ The Buy Recycle Showcase advocates for green living

By Kara Cogswell
For the Emerald

Carpeting, desks, chairs and paper towels may seem like harmless items, but the production of these and other everyday goods can take a serious toll on environmental resources.

The Buy Recycle Showcase, held today from 8 a.m. to noon in the EMU Fir Room, will feature presentations on how the University and individual consumers can reduce negative environmental impact by making conscious purchasing decisions.

Karyn Kaplan, manager of the University Campus Recycling Program, will give a presentation at 8:30 a.m. on environmentally

preferable purchasing. Consumers can make a difference by considering factors such as the lifespan of the product, whether it's made from non-toxic materials and whether it can be recycled.

"As purchasers, consumers and purchasing managers, we have a lot of input into the marketplace," Kaplan said.

Many companies are now responding to the growing demand for "green products" — environmentally preferable products — by offering consumers the option of buying goods made from recycled materials.

"Recycling is only successful if consumers demand products made from recycled goods," Kaplan said.

Abby Mages, co-owner of Environmental Building Supplies, will be giving a presentation at 11 a.m.

on sustainable building supplies. Her presentation will focus on low-toxic carpet, linoleum and paint.

Choosing a low-toxic product does not mean sacrificing quality.

"Comparing apples to apples, we work with products that are the equivalent or better," Mages said.

The demand for "green" products is continuing to grow.

"People are very concerned about the quality of their indoor environment," Mages said.

At 9:30 a.m., Bill Kasper, purchasing manager for Facilities Services, will talk about the University's policies on vendor and service contracts.

"We try our best to use products which are not harmful to the environment, not harmful to people and will save money," Kasper said.

Smoking ban

continued from page 1

nance, said the issue was not just one of health issues, but of fairness in passing a ban in only one community.

"Adjacent communities allow smoking," Farr said. "We're just passing the issue outside of city limits."

Opposition to the ordinance agreed with Farr's point.

"You're illegalizing my establishment for a legal substance," Silver Dollar Club owner Lucas Mericantante said. "It needs to be a statewide law."

The vast majority support of the ordinance by the council was echoed by many of Eugene residents attending the meeting.

Opposition, including members of Bingomania and local bar owners who oppose the ban, advocated that the issue enveloped more than just the exposure to second-hand smoke.

"My whole feeling [on the issue revolves around drunk driving]," Mericantante said. "I can afford to build a bar in Springfield but you're going to take smokers and put them out of town and then getting DUI's." Mericantante, a non-smoker, also

brought up the issue that forcing smokers outside is only solving one problem.

"You're putting people on the street smoking," Mericantante said. "What better advertisement is that for smoking?"

Despite the controversy and continued contention over the ordinance, supporters of smoke-free businesses celebrated their victory.

"Because of health problems, I can't enjoy dancing and playing Bingo [because of the smoky atmosphere]," Sherion Fulton of Eugene Community Partnership said. "Now I'll be able to enjoy those activities again."

Response fee

continued from page 1

Gilliam said the police department did not agree with all of the amendments presented by the ASUO, but did want to work with the student government on improving the ordinance.

Amendments that were added to the ordinance included changing the number of people needed to be present at a party from 10 to 25, letting the persons giving the party call for police assistance without first being given a warn-

ing, and refunding the fee if the recipient of the fine can prove all persons arrested or cited at the gathering were acquitted in court.

The current ordinance states that if the police must respond to the same residence twice within 90 days, a fee will be given. The failed amendment would have reduced the number of days from 90 to 60.

The amendment originally passed, but councilor Gary Rayer changed his vote to no after first voting yes.

Shively said she was satisfied with the overall outcome, despite the one failed amendment.

"We worked on this for almost a

year and put a lot of time into it," Shively said.

Both police officers were pleased overall with the results.

"We felt the end result was very fair," McDermed said.

City Council members all congratulated the ASUO as a whole for the way in which they worked with the police and City Council.

ASUO State Affairs Coordinator Brian Tanner said he was disappointed that Bonny Bettman, the councilor who represents the University area, did not support any of the amendments proposed by the ASUO.

Elections

continued from page 1

cused the circuit court judge of saying: "Anyone who made the mistake of voting for someone whom they did

not intend to vote for was stupid."

Another lawyer said that Carlisle remarked that he was doing his part to "run the Democrats out of the White House."

Carlisle denies making the com-

ments. The case has been assigned to another judge, Catherine Brunson.

Bush and running mate Dick Cheney charged over the weekend that a hand recount in just a few of Florida's 67 counties is unconstitutional.

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