

Overcrowding, inadequate

By Happie Thacker
Of The Print

Overcrowding and maintenance problems are the major causes of dissatisfaction with many of the College's present building facilities.

Many of the structures are filled to capacity, with class schedule juggling a necessity for getting all the students into all the classes they want and need to take.

In the science department especially, the overcrowded conditions are such that they hamper the education processes.

"We have 24 chairs in a space, that by state standards, is adequate for 12," said Virginia Weber, chairperson of the life science department.

There is no preparation area and no place to store and care for plants and specimens that science courses need, she said.

This lack of storage area also hampers students who wish to go beyond classroom instruction and experiment with science projects of their own, simply because there is no place to store these projects when students are not working on them.

"The science department has a good staff and good equipment," Weber said, "but it certainly must be discouraging to come over and look at the facilities."

According to Howard Fryett, assistant to the College's president, it is not only transfer students who are discouraged by the facilities, but also students who are involved in two-year occupational curriculums, such as nursing and wastewater technology, that need science to finish their degree programs.

The auto body, auto mechanics and welding curriculums are

also suffering due to a lack of space.

At this time, there are classes being conducted in these areas from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. in order to make maximum use of the present facilities. But even with this concentrated scheduling, the College is unable to meet enrollment demands.

"People have to wait a year to get into the program," said Larry Noonan, chairperson of the auto department. "Many of these people get discouraged and go to other colleges."

Expansion of the auto body and welding departments into new facilities would also free the areas they are now occupying for other uses. One of these proposed changes is the consolidation of the home economics and human services areas, both of which are suffering from overcrowding, lack of proper teaching facilities and lack of storage.

The home economics department, in particular, has had to cancel classes because of inadequate facilities, according to Eleanor Stubbs, chairperson of home economics and education.

There is no room for a clothing construction lab so students who do not own sewing machines can take sewing classes. There is also no place to hold classes in food preparation and experimentation, Stubbs said.

Since home economics and the human services departments use similar facilities and materials, they would share the area that is now used for administrative offices after Barlow Hall is remodeled.

"Home economics and human services are the only places that don't have a home," Stubbs said. "Larry Forsythe (department chairperson of human services) skips from class to class be-

cause they are scattered all over campus."

Maintenance problems are also causing problems in some of the older classrooms.

The science department, for example, has been housed for 12 years in what was supposed to be temporary structures. Plywood has been used in several places to cover the holes in the walls, which, according to Weber, are now rotting from the inside.

"The facilities are being held together with bandaids," Weber said, "and the school is putting out a tremendous amount of money in maintenance costs."

There is even physical danger to those using the buildings. This became apparent after Loren Studer, chemistry instructor, fell through a floor that had rotted away.

clay. "Others can hardly be in the room when clay is being made," Travers said. "That must be done during the day but must be done during hours."

Another problem is the kiln for ceramics. According to Norm Bursheim, art instructor, the kiln poses a serious hazard and needs to be housed in a brick building separate from the rest of the art center.

"Moving the kiln would open up the present kiln room for much needed additional classroom space," he said.

However, most of the department is happy with present building - they want it finished into a usable structure. One that is easy to clean, well equipped

'The (science) facilities are being held together with band-aids.'

Although the concrete floors in the Smuckers Art Center are not in danger of rotting away, water has caused difficulty there, too.

According to Nancy Travers, ceramics instructor, last fall's rains caused the bottom floor to flood four times.

"I had to put boards across the cement foundation blocks just to walk around," Travers said. "The water must have been at least 18 inches deep."

The rough floors are also hard to clean which creates a dust from the clay that is being used in rooms with insufficient ventilation. This creates a problem for those who must share the space with those working with

easy to clean, well equipped accessible.

After all, Bursheim said, it will be 10 years before we get a new building and we as well make the best of one. After we're done with it could be put to good use for others as a community center or something.

From using buildings provided by the community to provide the community with buildings that are no longer adequate, the college has come a long way. Now it only needs to be completed in such a way that it meet the needs of its students and a rapidly growing community to fulfill its intended purpose as a community college.



Overcrowded lab conditions are resulting in an inability for students and faculty to explore individual experiments or follow through with many others.

