

Generation Gap

Schools said irresponsible

By KYLE JOHNSON
Of the Emerald

Last night's final session of the Generation Gap discussion series focused on ways schools should respond to the needs of society, and how these needs could be brought about.

In speaking to the 25 people attending, Bob Lee, a counselor

in Eugene School District 4J, described schools as "monolithic." He stated that almost all institutions are "slow to respond to needs of society," and schools have "only in the last five years begun to catch static" on the need for change.

"People are hesitant to

criticize schools," Lee said, because "everybody uses them."

He felt that the big problem in the 1970's would be for everybody to be his "brother's brother and sister's sister," and not his "brother's keeper."

"Why aren't schools getting it on?" Lee asked. He theorized that the "majority of people in schools don't know what the issues are."

He felt that in order "to sensitize educators in what's happening," teachers should be exposed through practical experience the different life styles.

But he said many educators are afraid of change. He cited a workshop held to help teachers understand the various life styled in our society. The majority of teachers attending the workshop already knew "where it was at" and didn't need it.

On a workshop field trip to Glenwood, many teachers did not show up because they "didn't have the nerve" to talk to different kinds of people, Lee said.

Lee felt because "many teachers don't teach in the neighborhood they live in," teachers will not communicate with the neighborhood they teach in. Teachers look upon teaching as a job and not an experience, he added.

Lee believed kids from first grade on should get "involved in the community." Kids, who are many times bored with science and math, will readily discuss issues that affect themselves and the community, he said.

He said "Kids are consumers of education" and should be given some say in the way schools are run. He felt the U.S. had become a "robot society" where only a few people make the decisions and the rest follow.

"Adults are very uncomfortable in discussing their mistakes," Lee said. Many times if a "coalition of parents who have it on, and kids," attempt to get a new program started, educators will agree very quickly to the new program.

"Principals are becoming very entrenched in their beliefs," and are becoming more autocratic, he added.

Not only were principals becoming more entrenched in their beliefs, but teachers are already hating the word "activism," because it might do something to their position, Lee said.

Those interested in having a follow up to the Generation Gap series will be holding discussion sessions at 1591 Agate, it was announced at the session.

Planning group seeks student ideas

By JAMIE BATES
Of the Emerald

Any person or group of persons interested in improving some aspect of the campus environment now have a chance to voice proposals through the Campus Planning Committee, according to Dick Gale, chairman.

The 15-member committee, composed of students, faculty and administrators, is responsible for compiling a list of projects to be approved for funding by the state legislature during the 1973-74 biennium.

Gale, an assistant professor of sociology, says that the committee would like to coordinate a capital construction list on the basis of a group user plan, proposed by Christopher Alexander of Berkeley.

Alexander's plan suggests that a university shouldn't build in "large lumps" but rather should propose smaller, individual projects and attempt to solve problems little by little, using smaller sums of money, rather than one large sum. Furthermore, says Alexander, a group that uses a space should initiate any projects needed in order to make that particular space more functional. Even though the students who initiated a project may not be around to enjoy the benefits of the results (due to the time-consuming bureaucratic process of project and funding approval), the fact that it is student-oriented means that it would be designed from the user's point of view, Alexander believes.

An example of a successful group user project at the University is the Bollard Project, initiated by the open space committee, one of the five Campus Planning sub-committees. This project involved replacing the steel barriers blocking 13th Avenue with bollard poles, thereby alleviating bicycle traffic congestion on the curb ramps at that intersection. The Physical Plant carried out the project. The funds, approximately \$500, were arranged by President Clark.

Groups with suggestions can range from departments to classes to people who use the library, according to Gale. "The Campus Planning Committee wants to come up with an omnibus package of small projects

to go on the campus construction list...we want to hear from people as soon as possible.

"The Campus Planning Committee wants to have ideas to take care of the places (on this campus) which are out of balance," he said.

Any group of people seeing a need for a campus improvement should outline a plan including cost estimate, and then present the plan to the committee, Gale added.

The committee hopes to have a preliminary list prepared by Dec. 1. A final list is due in the chancellor's office sometime in early June. Any group with an idea should contact Dick Gale at 686-5062, or Larry Bisset, University planner at 686-3174.

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