

## Rec Center Gets Beefed Up

by Susan Aksu

Austen Navares wants when he visits the gym is to wait in line. The senior Forestry and Wildlife major said he uses the weight room two to three times per week and every time it is packed and uncomfortable. "If all the sports teams are in there, it takes 30 minutes to get on any equipment," Navares said.

Last semester a Student Affairs survey found Navares is not alone. HSU students want more space to work out. To meet those concerns, the University Center will create an additional Student Recreation Center for the spring semester. The new center will include a bouldering wall and cardio, weight training and stretching areas.

"We are victims of our own success," said University Center Executive Director Dave Nakamura of the current SRC, which opened in 2005. "We tried to accommodate that by putting as much activity and equipment as possible and as a result it's a little tight and overcrowded."

The new location in Forbes 201—next to the West Gym—is in the process of renovation. Director of Planning Facilities Traci Ferdolage said the room is being cleaned, painted and refreshed in preparation for new equipment.

Nakamura said the room was previously used as an intercollegiate gymnastics practice room. He said the location of the room is ideal, as it is near the Redwood Bowl and has a catwalk connecting it to the existing center.

The total cost of the final project is not set, Nakamura said. However, he said the University Center has up to \$150,000 in allocated funds to purchase and lease new equipment. Facilities Planning is funding the demolition and renovation processes separately.

Not all students are in favor of the expansion.

Sophomore zoology major, Angelica Lua said it is unnecessary to spend \$150,000 to construct a new gym when the school already has one.

"Yes, it's small, but there are different times that people can work around their schedules to go to the gym when it's less crowded," Lua said. "(The University Center) can find somewhere else to spend the money. Tuition is raised and now they're planning on spending that much on constructing a new gym. It's ridiculous."

Student Recreation Center supervisor Ruth Sturtevant said the Center is the most crowded around noon. She said athletes primarily use the weight room equipment, while non-athletes use the cardio equipment more.

The rock wall is a popular activity that also has a long wait. Only 12 climbers can climb at once. Sometimes there are as many as 15 people waiting to climb, Sturtevant said.

The new facility will emphasize cardio and weight machines instead of free weights and power lifting. Nakamura said the goal for the new space is to alleviate the crowds and tightness for students who are not training or conditioning for a sports team.

"We are creating a welcoming environment for general use, for beginners and intermediate, versus power lifters," said Nakamura.