

# Library wires up hotline book exchange

## Users dial for materials via 'Oregon connection' to save inter-library walk

The "Oregon Connection" began service Wednesday but contrary to the labels which identify the three telephones behind the information desk in the main library, it doesn't really connect to Moscow, Peking and Plains, Ga.

Instead, this new service is designed to speed exchange of materials among libraries in the University library network. It is another of the University library's programs to increase efficiency without incurring substantial expense.

Rita Sharpe, acting head of circulation, stressed the material exchange service is an "intra-library connection." Therefore, the phone labeled 'Moscow' is really connected to the science library; Peking is the architecture library in Lawrence Hall; and Plains is the law library.

Any student working at the science library, for example, upon discovering that some necessary materials are housed in the main library, may simply pick up the "hotline." This is a direct phone connection to the main library. When the student picks up the receiver in the branch library, the phone at the main library automatically rings. Then the student may request the materials and have them delivered directly to the branch library.

By KEVIN RASMUSEN  
Of the Emerald

There will be two daily deliveries, except on weekends, according to Sharpe. One delivery will be at 8 a.m.; the other at 1 p.m. Any requests made after 1 p.m. will be delivered at eight the next morning.

The "hotline" connection in the various branch libraries can be easily identified: it is a bright red telephone. In the science library, the phone is on the reference desk and at the law library, students need to ask at the main desk. When using the "hotline," students will be asked to supply their names and the call numbers for the materials they need.

All library patrons are eligible to use the new service which eliminates running back and forth. More importantly, Sharpe pointed out, "students need not come all the way over here (the main library) for nothing" if the references they needed were already charged out. In that case, a "hold" could be placed on the desired book and the branch library would be notified as soon as the reference was returned.

"The 'hotline' works both ways," Sharpe indicated. The main library can use it to call the branch libraries, too.

Faculty and graduate students will be especially benefited by the new service, said Sharpe. They can be working on a research project at one specific branch library, and have incidental materials from the other libraries delivered to them.

The music library currently has no direct material exchange phone hook-up.



Photo by Kurt Krasne

It looks suspicious to see this woman talking on a red phone marked "Plains," but chances are she is in touch with someone at the law library who needs a book transferred there. The phones are part of an

intra-library system connecting the branches so that users may have materials shipped to them across campus and avoid the walk.

## Committee studies bikepaths

The Lane Council of Governments' Metropolitan Bicycle Committee furthered its efforts to develop bicycle policy recommendations for the Eugene-Springfield Area Transportation Master Plan in a Wednesday meeting.

The policy recommendations are intended to act as guidelines for future bikepath and bikeway development in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area.

The committee made no final decision on what proposals will be included in the recommendations, but discussed several policies for consideration.

The following are some of the possibilities the committee may review and take action on in its Feb. 2 meeting:

- bikeway systems should link activity centers in the metro area
- adequate covered bike parking and locking facilities should be provided at trip attractors
- bikeways systems should provide for the continuity of internal movements as projects within the plan are constructed
- the minimum age of licensing drivers should rise to age 18
- community education programs and system information should be provided
- media advertising campaigns should take effect to discourage auto use
- traffic closure and diversion on streets should not impede bike movement.

The committee also proposed guidelines for planning new

facilities. These guidelines include allowing for bike and alternative modes of transportation; constructing facilities for a minimum of conflict between bikes, motorists and pedestrians; including special treatment for handling bikes at intersections; and including bikeway construction in development proposals.

The funding of bike proposals is another problem for which the committee is developing proposals. One proposal is to levy a local gas tax to fund improvements. The committee is also looking into the idea of increasing the state's funding for bikeway construction. Local governments, the committee says, should fund bike improvements at a level appropriate for the goals of non-auto transportation they have set.

## Grant allows for continued brainstormers

America's inventors may breathe a sigh of relief. The National Science Foundation has just given a two-year,

\$171,000 grant to the University's Experimental Center for Invention and Innovation (ECII).

The center, located in Room 131, Gilbert Hall, is one of only three in the nation. It aids inventors throughout the country

in developing and marketing their creations. It also sponsors "innovative" classes in conjunction with the College of Business Administration.

"We help the inventor see whether he can successfully market the product," says Gerald Udell, director of ECII. "If we can improve their knowledge, then they can be better inventors."

A primary function of the center is to combat the influence of so-called "idea brokers," who take large amounts of money from inventors while promising to help market the product, and then simply keep the money. "The idea-brokers have been able to rip people off," says Udell.

The center helps people with many inventions, both practical and useless, with invention evaluations costing \$25. It serves approximately 650 clients across the nation each year.

"We've gotten all sorts of inventions," says Udell, "such as a process for printing on wood, a device to prevent bedwetting, and a smokeless waste burner.

We once received an inquiry from someone who had perfected a marijuana gin — a device which removed the larger stems and impurities from the plant."

The center also works to promote entrepreneurship at the University. Since its establishment in 1973, the center has worked with the marketing and management departments, and about 650 students are currently involved in the program. "Specifically, this program is an experiment to test various methods for educating inventors," says Udell.

Udell says he feels there is a definite need for this type of educational program. "We've reached a technological watershed in this country. Several other countries are achieving greater innovation on a per capita basis."

The ECII returns \$9.40 to the federal government in increased income taxes for each dollar invested. "There is clearly no money at the University level," says Udell. "At the end of five years the experiment may end."

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Drawing by Cecily Reeve