



ONCE A SYMBOL of the military's presence on campus, these charred embers of the ROTC building are all that is left after an apparent arson attempt to burn down the office. The attempt, however, was only partially successful, and the Eugene Fire Department burned the remaining skeletal structure. (Archives Photo)

Auditorium Possible Within Next Five Years

By RON COWAN
Emerald Staff Writer

A new auditorium for the University is feasible within the next five years, according to various University and civic officials, but a great deal of planning and preparation will be necessary before any definite steps are taken.

Interest in an auditorium project was recently increased when a proposal was made in the SU

Board to use profits from the National Cultural Network broadcasts for an auditorium fund. Otherwise, little has happened on the University side except increased enthusiasm.

An auditorium project would either have to be a University-community project or be financed only by the University or only by the community. Financing, a major problem, would probably be by student building

fees, gifts, and a city bond issue, if it develops as a joint project.

Cost is still hard to determine and could run anywhere from \$700,000 to \$3,000,000, all depending on the size and quality of facilities.

UPDATE - According to 1962 predictions, Eugene should have had the auditorium it's been fighting for since time began by 1967.

But 1967 has come and gone and auditorium construction still remains an item on the city council's agenda.

Eugene residents have been tossing around the idea of building an auditorium since 1923, according to Catherine Lauris, an ardent campaigner for the auditorium and University publications editor. Back then, she says, members of the University and the community voted to build a \$50,000 auditorium where PLC now stands. Three years later, however, the people voted to rescind the proposal.

The auditorium talk in 1962 was the beginnings of the fourth attempt to bring Broadway to Eugene. The idea gained impetus all through the sixties, Lauris says, although it slowed in 1972 when Eugene voters defeated a bond issue to help finance construction.

The issue has resurfaced, however, and now the city council sees the auditorium item frequently on its agenda. As it stands now, the plan calls for a civic center complex that would have no affiliation with the University.

The city council has selected a Los Angeles architectural firm, the Luckman Partnership, to work with local architects Unthank, Seder and Poticha Inc., on designing the complex.

Today's proposed civic center would include at least three separate facilities - a small theater, a larger concert hall and a conference/activity center.

According to Lauris, the proposed complex has no price tag yet and would take two to three years to construct.

Flames Gut ROTC Offices

By PHIL COGSWELL
Editorial Page Editor

The cause of a three-alarm fire which destroyed the University's ROTC building early Thursday morning is still undetermined but under investigation, according to officials of the Eugene Fire Department.

THE LOSS of the building and its contents was estimated at \$142,000. I.I. Wright, director of the physical plant, said the losses are covered under state restoration funds.

The two-story frame building contained the offices of the Air Science and Military Science ROTC departments, two classrooms and a shooting range. Firemen said the second floor shooting range, because of heavy wooden and metal paneling, hampered them in their attempts to break through the building's walls to get to the flames.

Also destroyed by the blaze were cameras, projectors and other teaching aids, as well as office equipment and many records.

THE EXTENT of damage to personal records was not determined Thursday while the ROTC staff was waiting for the fire department to conclude its investigations of the building. Staff members believed, however, many of the records will be legible.

ROTC officers will be temporarily moved to the two prefabricated metal huts which are located near the ROTC building.

Four classrooms in the two buildings will be utilized for offices, and the classes meeting in those rooms and in the destroyed building will be transferred to other rooms. Class changes are listed on page eight.

The fire was spotted at 3:30 a.m. by the night watchman Andre C. Briggs, a graduate student in education. Briggs said that by the time he arrived at the building, flames were already spreading up the rear wall.

UPDATE - The fire that gutted the ROTC building in 1963 apparently was just a spark of public dissent that has plagued the organization for the past 15 years.

The cause of the early morning fire in 1963 was ruled arson, although no suspects on the charge were ever uncovered. Two months after it, another fire put the finishing charred touches on the old ROTC building on 15th Avenue near Leighton Pool.

That fire, too, was believed to

be deliberately set. The day after it occurred, the Eugene Fire Department burned the skeletal structure completely to rid the campus of the building's irreparable debris.

According to reports on that fire, students turned out for the final burning and attempted to roast marshmallows in the burning embers.

Dissent toward ROTC continued to smolder through the sixties and on into the early 1970, when ROTC storage in Esslinger Hall went up in smoke. The fire, estimated at \$350,000 damage, was once again attributed to arson.

Two months later, another fire was attempted in the present ROTC building after the faculty voted to retain ROTC on campus. That escapade was ruled an all-out riot, with about 100 students mobbing the ROTC building, overturning furniture, spewing papers and throwing burning torches at it.

The faculty decision to retain ROTC on campus, of course, has been a perennial action for the past 10 years. The issue came to a head last spring when the faculty took an about face from its historical stand and voted to cancel the University's ROTC contracts.

That vote was short-lived, however, because the faculty reversed its decision just a month later after University Pres. William Boyd gave them a talking to on the impact of that vote.

As it stands now, ROTC continues to operate on campus albeit, considerably lower in rank compared to its following in 1962.

ROTC reports indicate about 1,000 students enrolled in the organization in 1962. Today's enrollment figure flounders near 50.

One reason ROTC enjoyed such high enrollment in the early 1960s may be because just prior to the fall of 1962, military science courses had been mandatory for all freshmen and sophomore men, just as P.E. and health courses are mandatory for graduation now.

Another reason ROTC was relatively popular in 1962, according to Ray Hawk, vice-president of administration and finance, was the possibility of getting drafted.

"By joining ROTC," Hawk recalls, "a student could control his destiny a bit in terms of the draft. It's far better to enter the military as a lieutenant than as a private, which is what a student could do if he joined ROTC in college."

Tuition Hikes Finalized

PORTLAND - Tuition increases setting undergraduate non-resident fees at \$900 and resident fees at \$330 a year were finalized by the State Board of Higher Education Tuesday. The increases take affect beginning fall term.

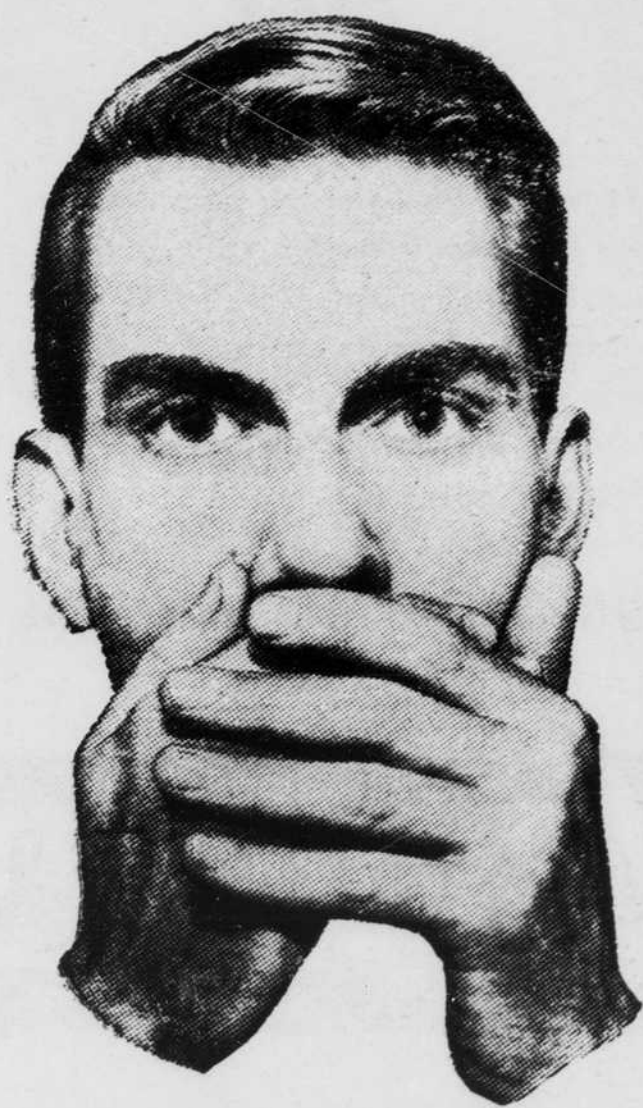
The board, which determines tuition for state-supported schools in Oregon, acted on a recommendation of the Joint Ways and Means educational sub-committee. The announcement represents a \$270 annual increase for out-of-state students.

Present non-residential tuition is \$630 a year and \$300 for residents. Non-residents make up 29.1 per cent of the University's population according to figures released by the admissions office during fall term.

UPDATE - If the 1962 headline about tuition costs were to run today, chances are it would be one of ecstasy instead of dismay, as it was back then.

Today's nonresident tuition is a whopping \$769 per term (\$2,207 a year). Resident tuition is \$238 per term (\$714 a year). And if past years are any indication, those figures will do nothing but rise to the sky in the next 15 years.

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