

Museum complex moves toward reality

A five-group commission is working to create Oregon's first official Natural History Museum at Alton Baker Park.

The museum will be part of a complex that will include a planetarium, a science center and a horticulture center. It will provide 50,000 square feet of space for cultural, biological and geological collections from all areas of Oregon.

Alice Carnes, director of the University's Natural History Museum, stresses the importance of making this a statewide project.

"All over the state there are people with private collections, and there is no place to give them to," she says.

Carnes says the museum would alleviate this problem as well as provide much needed space for the University's collections.

In 1979, the Legislature appropriated \$175,000 to the Cooper Museum Commission to begin planning. However, during the Legislature's 1980 summer session cutbacks, that figure was reduced considerably.

The commission went before the Senate Transportation Committee on April 14 to ask for additional funds.

"They (the committee members) liked it," Carnes says.

The committee sent the bill to the Ways and Means Committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

The planning is currently in the schematic stage — the general layout of the building is finished, but specific details such as plumbing and electricity are

not. With extra money, planning can be completed, and the commission will be ready to ask for additional funds in the next Legislative session.

According to the Lutes-Sanetal architectural firm, construction costs will run between \$10 million and \$14 million, depending on the rate of inflation.

The commission includes representatives from the University, Lane County, the City of Eugene and the Lane Educational Service District.

Student group pushes good University image

If you're a freshman, they probably answered your questions fall term. If you're Ted Kennedy, they escorted you around campus last spring.

"They" are the members of the Student Union Relations Council, a student public-relations group.

"I'm a senior, and I can say this has been the most useful committee I've been on," says vice chairer Harry Ricks. "The ideas you generate are put right into action."

SURC goals include promoting good University relations with students, prospective students, faculty, alumni, the community and the Legislature.

Ambitious goals — but the group has stretched its 20-member council and small budget to accomplish projects like the University Day in Salem, Duck Week and Parent's Weekend.

SURC members emphasize contact with people. They talk with alumni at special banquets, give tours to high school students, escort visiting dignitaries, and keep tabs on campus spirit. Some even work during the summer, sitting in a booth at the Lane County Fair to answer questions.

"The University needs to promote itself, and who's better than the students who go there?," says chairer Erin Knight. "We perform a needed function."

SURC is funded through the University's public service budget. Members are chosen from applicants each spring.

Council leaders urge interested students to apply by April 24 in Room 111, Susan Campbell Hall.

LTD suggests route changes

Lane Transit District will complete its intensive 10-month route revision process with a public hearing tonight to discuss and vote on proposed bus system changes.

The hearing will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the McNutt Room of the Eugene City Hall, 777 Pearl St.

If adopted by the LTD Board, the route revisions will become effective Sept. 29.

The route revision process began in August of 1980 and has included 14 public hearings and hundreds of hours of staff time, LTD officials say.

In essence, the changes would make existing "loop" routes into shorter "line" routes covering the same basic area, but providing quicker and more direct service to the district's main bus station downtown.

LTD officials say the line routes would be easier to modify if ridership demand requires more buses in a particular area.

The changes also would provide more direct service to the University from southeast and southwest Eugene.

Ellen Bevington, the LTD planning administrator who has supervised the route revision

process, says the system redesign will be compatible with the district's 5-percent cut in bus service proposed for 1981-82.

The service reduction was proposed this month to offset an expected revenue shortfall.

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Former prof loses suit

Former University law Prof. Ronald Griffen lost his racial discrimination suit against the University in U.S. District Court last week.

Griffen alleged he was forced to leave his job because he was black. He sought \$4 million in damages and reinstatement of his teaching job with back pay.

U.S. District Judge Owen Palmer ruled in favor of the University on Wednesday.

Griffen alleged the law school discriminated against him when

it did not renew his contract in 1978.

The law school maintained Griffen had not been discriminated against and that his contract was not renewed because of student and faculty evaluations of his teaching performance.

The suit also said University officials knew or should have known that Griffen had no previous experience teaching the subject areas he was assigned.

County presents budget

The Lane County Budget Committee will hold a hearing tonight on the county's proposed budget.

The hearing on the controversial budget — which allocates \$8.76 million less than the current year's budget and includes 207 fewer county jobs

— will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the main meeting room of Harris Hall, 125 E. Eighth Ave.

The focus of the hearing is expected to be the proposed \$43-million "general fund" that the budget committee has proposed cutting by \$3.5 million.

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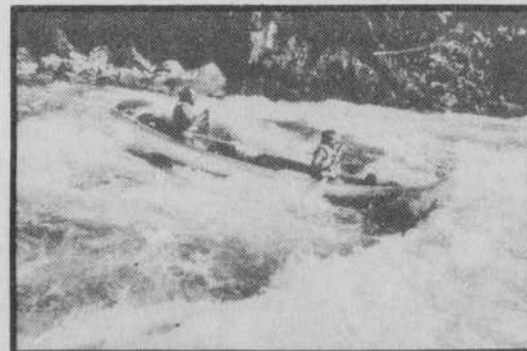
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