

Economy examined

Lane County's economy is going down the tubes, and it's time to do something about it.

That's the consensus of local businessmen who have joined together to form a coalition called the Lane Economic Foundation. LEF is a county-wide, privately-funded organization intent on providing the Eugene area with economic diversification.

The organization, which met Friday to set its goals and objectives, plans to provide a professional marketing outline for Lane County's economic development. The marketing plan — expected to cost \$500,000 annually for three years — is designed to bring new businesses and jobs into Lane County.

"Only an affluent community can do the things we want to do here," said LEF's executive vice-president John Altucker. "We must do something about the economic base or we can't improve socially."

LEF's first step is to bring in a nationally established firm to conduct a county-wide audit, he said.

The audit will outline the county's good and bad points and identify businesses and industries most suited to the region. Results from the audit, expected to cost around \$50,000, should be available by the end of January, Altucker said.

LEF president Tom Moreland said an out-of-state firm should conduct the audit because "we need someone, who will not feel intimidated, to be blunt. We have to see ourselves as outsiders would."

EMU adds wheelchair lifts despite spending cut

By DANE CLAUSSEN
Of the Emerald

Despite state-wide spending cuts, building modifications in the Erb Memorial Union for wheelchair access will continue through Jan. 1, according to a spokesman for the Eugene architectural firm of Briscoe-Berry.

Briscoe-Berry's Terry Green says the work is "part of a university-wide program to make all University buildings accessible to the handicapped."

Wheelchair lifts are being installed on the third floor just outside the Emerald office, and on the stairway outside the campus post office branch that leads to the International Lounge, says EMU Director Adell McMillan.

Ultimately, the art gallery

lounge and the adjacent restrooms will also become accessible, says McMillan.

Additional work is being completed in elevators, restrooms and the International Lounge.

Modifications in the EMU will cost the University \$118,000, McMillan says.

The money is being drawn from "auxiliary funds," a pool of money collected from students state-wide and allocated by the State Board of Higher Education, she says.

Students are assessed \$12.50 each per term for the fund, explains McMillan, adding that all expenditures have to be ultimately approved by the legislature.

Students can suggest uses of the money through the University's planning committee.

McMillan says that Gov. Vic Atiyeh prevented such work in

other areas by freezing general funds, but emphasizes money for the EMU modifications has already been budgeted.

Modifications to elevators include electric eyes, lowering elevator controls, installing bells to ring as the elevator reaches a floor and making them accessible to the blind.

In restrooms some partitions were moved and some stall doors were changed to make them swing out instead of in, McMillan says.

A fire marshal also ruled that a new exit had to be put in the International Lounge.

Construction has fallen months behind schedule because many of the improvements, especially the wheelchair lifts on the stairways, have to be specially designed, Green says.

"Each staircase is different," he explains, adding that each is "specially fabricated."

Green also notes that it may take longer than desirable to modify the elevators because elevator repairmen are in "hot demand."

"Everyone is doing handicapped modifications now," he explains.

The original estimate for direct construction costs was \$63,000, but McMillan says that estimate may have been almost three years old by last May, when bids for the project were accepted. New construction costs are estimated at \$91,000.

The deadline for the building modifications was early last summer, but McMillan and University Planner David Rowe said the project could not be completed on time because the University lacked the necessary funds.

Debaters make finals at tourney

Jim Dasso and Tom Peters almost scored a Rocky Mountain high last weekend.

Dasso and Peters, a debate team from the University, placed seventh at the prestigious University of Northern Colorado Debate Tournament. They won five of six debates in the preliminary rounds before losing to Redlands College in the championship contest.

The week before the UNC debate, Dasso and Peters scored five wins and suffered three defeats at the University of Wyoming tournament. The duo has compiled a 10-5 record, the best win-loss record at the University since 1970.

For information about the University debate team, contact David Frank in Room 206, Villard Hall.

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