

City's plans to cover mall move ahead, official says

By Marian Green
Of the Emerald

Plans are inching forward on a cover for the Eugene Downtown Mall as three local architectural firms recently were chosen to submit initial designs, says a city official.

Early this year, a review team composed of an architect, a city building official and members from the Downtown Development Board, the Eugene Renewal Agency and the Eugene Downtown Association, considered 13 proposals and gave the architecture firms of Lutes/Sanetel, Unthank Seder Poticha and Herbert & Keller the highest rankings.

Criteria used to judge the proposals included professional history, qualifications to handle a project of this size and their design approach, said city redevelopment specialist Jessie Smith.

All three of the finalists previously have been involved in downtown projects, Smith says.

Lutes/Sanetel is credited with the design and construction of the Arcade parking structure and shops.

Unthank Seder Poticha helped restore the Smeede Hotel and designed the Lane County Public Services complex.

Herbert & Keller designed the South Park building and coordinated the 1978 pedestrian cover workshop.

The review team will interview the firms in March and then will make a final recommendation to the Downtown Development Board, says Smith.

Smith says the city is seeking only initial phase designs because it has reached no design conception decisions on how much of the mall should be covered.

Past design conceptions were rejected as "loggerheads" because "no one was certain what we wanted," says Smith.

Those ideas ranged from awnings to a "gigantic bubble" covering the entire mall, he says. The latter was rejected "partly because of cost and partly because of aesthetics."

Construction tentatively is scheduled to begin this summer on the first phase, with the design costs of \$15,000 funded by the downtown board, Smith says.

The city is looking for additional funding sources. Smith says one funding possibility that won't be overlooked is the group of downtown merchants.

Also, the city may receive \$20,000 to 30,000 more from the downtown board, he says.

When completed, the initial phase will be evaluated, and needed changes incorporated, he says.

"Hopefully, we'll hit what people wanted, and it will be the impetus to go to stage two," Smith says.

Kids' books topic of workshop

Aspiring young writers and illustrators selected from Lane County's 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes will gather in the EMU Ballroom next Wednesday for the second Young Authors' Conference.

The event, sponsored by the University's College of Education, will bring together children who have written stories, created illustrations and helped to

bind them into book form as part of school projects. Each school will choose a number of these children to meet at the University for the conference.

One of the conference speakers will be Caroline Feller Bauer, an author of children's books and a book illustrator. She will share her experiences and techniques with the students and teachers in the first phase of the conference.

317 letters written so far

By Wednesday, the financial aid letter-writing campaign had chalked up 317 letters toward its 800 letter goal.

Dave Berns, ASUO legislative coordinator, says ASUO and SUAB volunteers will staff additional tables today across the street from the University Bookstore and in the Hamilton dormitory cafeteria. A table also will be available in front of the University Library Friday, he says.

Museum opens to public

A public open house to unveil three new displays and inaugurate a major fund-raising campaign is scheduled Sunday at the University's natural history museum.

The free event will run from 2 to 4 p.m. and will include demonstrations on how to clean stuffed birds and make flaked stone tools.

According to Richard Pettigrew, an anthropology research associate and the event's coordinator, the museum will be closed this June unless sufficient funding is received to keep it open and functioning.

Except for \$10,000 to maintain and protect the collection, all funding for the museum's exhibits and educational programs is being cut next year, he said.

"The open house is intended to show that the museum is an institution that the people of Oregon need and should support," Pettigrew says. Additional fund-raising events will be announced at the open house.

The museum is located at 1264 Franklin Blvd. in the University science complex, off the Science Library courtyard.

For additional information, contact the natural history museum at 686-3024 or call Pettigrew at 686-5130.

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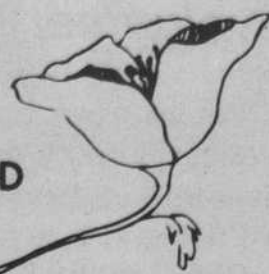
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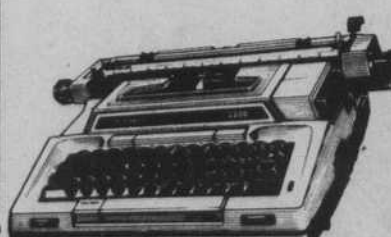
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