

Editorial

Chiles construction may set precedent

Construction of the Chiles Business Center, which has already begun on the corner of 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street, represents two University firsts. Construction of the center will be completely funded through donated funds. The center also is being built in a "design/build" fashion, which involves designing and building the structure simultaneously.

There are three significant differences between the construction and planning guidelines for a state-funded building and for a donation-funded building. When a building is entirely funded through donations, the donor of the funds designates the designer and contractor rather than the University or the State Board of Higher Education, the role of the Campus Planning Committee is limited, and the design/build construction method becomes an alternative.

Each of these differences has serious implications.

First, if the donor completely controls the selection of the designer and the contractor, the contractor is responsible to the donor instead of the University. This was pointed out by Jerry Finrow, a University architecture professor, in a commentary printed in the Emerald Oct. 4. Also, the Campus Planning Committee can, but does not necessarily, participate in this selection process. In the case of the Chiles center, it had no input whatsoever.

The involvement of the Campus Planning Committee is limited pertaining to other aspects of design and construction. Donation-funded guidelines specify that the committee will review the need, the budget and a basic description of the plans, and review the site and design plans before construction begins. However, the specifications do not specify how detailed the plans need to be when presented to the committee.

And even more alarming, this may be the extent of the committee's involvement. The committee may review other plans during the designing and construction of the building, but only at the direct request of the Physical Plant. David Rowe, the director of the Campus Planning Committee, seemed confident the committee would be involved in further developing stages of the Chiles center, but the guidelines do not guarantee it.

The preliminary plans are carefully scrutinized by several responsible University administrators. Construction of the building is being monitored by the University Foundation and by the Physical Plant, both of which can be expected to have the best interests of the University in mind. However, greater participation of the Campus Planning Committee, a group specifically designed to maintain the beauty and careful planning of the University, should be guaranteed. Neglecting the committee's expertise could set a dangerous precedent for future projects.

The method of construction also is cause for concern. The design/build system is designed to save time. Rather than work out every detail of the building's design, and then initiate construction, the details are worked out as construction takes place. For example, the building's foundation already has been approved and built. While this was taking place, details were being worked out for the next part of the building.

The method does save time. However, if a problem arises late in construction, it will be too late to modify the building's design. The potential for serious problems is much greater when this method, as opposed to others, is used.

The nature of the process also severely reduces the amount of influence on the part of the University. It is conceivable that the building could be half built when a source of dispute is discovered.

That the University Foundation was able to finance the construction of the building entirely through donated funds is laudable. However, the construction guidelines for donation-funded buildings need revision.

Letters Policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.



'HIJACKED AN ITALIAN SHIP, MURDERED AN ELDERLY JEW IN A WHEELCHAIR, REINFORCED U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS, INCREASED THE CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE FURTHER... MY, MY, WHAT ELSE DID YOU DO TO US?'

Commentary

Fight rape by teaching women self-defense and educating men

A recent survey of 7,000 students in 35 colleges by Mary P. Koss (Ms., Oct. 1985) found that one quarter of women in college today have been victims of rape or attempted rape.

There is a tendency to see solutions to rape as synonymous with improving safety and security. One group at the U of O provides a walking escort service, two other groups are planning to, and the ASUO is planning to purchase a van for this purpose. The administration has taken steps to improve lighting on campus and to limit night classes to safer buildings. But this survey also showed that 90 percent of the women knew their attackers. That means that if this campus were safe enough that a woman could walk alone through the cemetery at night, most rapes would still occur — committed by men the women thought they could trust.

I commend those who take any action against rape. However, instead of purchasing a van to protect women from strangers, I believe that the ASUO should fund a program of assertiveness training and self-

defense classes, taught by women, to empower women to protect themselves from both acquaintances and strangers. And because a final solution to the problem of rape will only come with a transformation of the consciousness of men, we should begin campuswide forums among men on sex and gender roles, and on the relationship between our attitudes and behaviors and rape.

The most revealing statistic in Koss' survey is that "one in every 12 men admitted to having fulfilled the prevailing definition of rape or attempted rape, yet virtually none of those men identified themselves as rapists." The peer group is a very strong socialization factor for men. If a man can rape without knowing it, he must think his behavior is normal in comparison to the men he knows or men who condone or boast about rape or rape-like behavior.

A recent experience of one of our members (Men Against Rape), Hal, gives an illustration of the pervasiveness of rape attitudes among men. A woman in a passing car yelled, "Hey, what's up?" at a man walking

down the street. As Hal walked past him, the man turned and said, "I should make her bend over and give it to her." It is amazing that he said this to a total stranger and that he expected Hal to agree.

Men can have an immediate and direct impact in rape prevention. Every time we speak of rape in a casual way, we reinforce the motivations of the rapists in our peer groups. It takes courage to buck the weight of peer opinion, but when we refuse to see rape jokes as such, and silently accept rape statements by others, we imply our consent. We so often associate courage with acts of war, but it is true courage to wage peace for the sake of others. Out of respect, love and compassion for the women with whom we share this planet, and in recognition of the freeing potential for ourselves, let us dismantle this rape society.

By Jack Straton

Jack Straton is a member of Men Against Rape, a campus group, and is a University graduate student in physics.

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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