

Oregon Daily Emerald

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Construction crews at University to close part of E. 13th this week

By Will Holbert
Of the Emerald

Construction of a tower crane on the new science building site will close East 13th Avenue between University and Agate Streets Wednesday through Friday.

Workers need the width of the entire street between the day-care center and the post office to erect an 85-foot crane and set it on a concrete foundation.

The construction will not block the sidewalk. Only delivery vehicles and drivers with parking rights behind Allen and Friendly Halls will be allowed to pass through the construction area. Other traffic will be routed to 15th Avenue.

If no problems arise with the crane construction, the street may be re-opened on Thursday

or Friday, according to Donald Ferguson, a construction inspector for the University.

"If something was to happen, if a piece of machinery broke down, we would need those three days," Ferguson said.

The crane will remain on the site until the new science building is completed.

The official deadline for the building's completion is August 15, 1989. However, the contractor, Wildish Construction Company of Eugene, has estimated they may finish the building in the spring of 1989.

The only problem encountered so far has been underestimating the hardness of the rock dug out for the basement. In some areas of the excavation, the rock was too soft, and "overexcavation" was

needed, according to Garry Fritz, architectural consultant for the University.

These problems have caused a two to three week delay in the construction, but at this stage, catching up should be easy, Fritz said. "It's nothing to be concerned about at this point," Fritz added.

Fritz also said common problems with other excavations, such as digging up unknown electrical lines and water pipes have not occurred with this excavation.

"We haven't run into any earth shaking problems... I think the progress is very satisfactory," Fritz said.

Workers have completed the excavation, and the next step will be laying the concrete foundation for the building.

University professors research reactions to Iran-Contra scandal

By Hedda Hoiland
Of the Emerald

Two University professors are conducting research on people's attitudes and opinions about President Reagan and other federal government officials connected with the Iran-Contra affair.

James Lemert and Jim Bernstein want to find out how media and what types of media influence people's perceptions of the Iran-Contra affair and its participants. When the Iran-Contra hearings became a hot issue, Watergate immediately came to their minds. They also realized this was an opportunity to test out some theories.

Lemert, who previously has conducted research on how one loses credibility, said credibility has two major dimensions: qualification, in this case the president's competency to do his job, and safety, meaning his honesty and trustworthiness.

When the Iran-Contra affair broke last November, the White House's statement was President Reagan did not know about the diversion of funds from the Iran arms deal to the Nicaraguan Contras.

Thereby they attempted to preserve the president's safety score, possibly at the expense of his qualification ratings. According to the researchers, this defense did not prove effective.

"In this case, I was surprised by the fact the safety ratings had plunged to the low point the qualification ratings had," Lemert said. "I thought Reagan, in general, would be damaged more on the qualification score than on the safety score. But that is not the case, as people do not seem to make the distinction," Lemert added.

Lemert predicted the results would show "even people who

voted for Reagan in 1984 will rate him more negatively on Iran than in general." He said Reagan voters of 1984 most likely are the people who still try to make the distinction between Reagan's competency and safety on Iran compared to his performance in general.

The first set of interviews, conducted before the hearings began, show more than half of the 200 respondents had not changed their opinions about Reagan since he told the nation about his selling of arms to Iran. Forty-six percent still were positive toward him and 54 percent were as negative as they had been.



James Lemert

Of those who had changed their opinion about the president, more than half who had reacted positively were now more negative than before. Thirty-three percent were more negative than they had been, and a small percentage had been negative and now viewed the president more positively.

Another concern of Lemert and Bernstein was to try to find out if people immediately would associate Reagan with the Iran-Contra affair when asked about the president's general performance. Two groups of the respondents did.

One group indicated they did by a chuckle or a laugh when asked about President Reagan in general, and then rated him significantly more negative than the rest of the sample.

The other group explicitly said they would keep Reagan's involvement in the Iran-Contra affair apart from their judgment of him in general, and this group rated him similar to the rest of the sample.

In order to trace changes and variations in people's opinions and attitudes, two sets of interviews were conducted. Before the hearings began 200 Eugene/Springfield residents were interviewed, and 125 of these will be interviewed again now that the hearings are over.

More than half of the respondents in the first set said it was a big mistake both to sell arms to Iran and to divert funds to the Contras. Less than 10 percent said "in time, we'll probably see it was not a mistake at all."

If consistent with the rest of the country, support for the Contra policy may increase in the second set of interviews, but because the area voters tend to support Democrats and their policies, this increase may not take place, Bernstein said.

Half of the 200 respondents identified themselves as Democrats, while 39 percent said they were Republicans. Ten percent said they were independent.

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Computer Craze

A large mock-computer, inflated to towering proportions, was perched atop the EMU to draw attention to the Sixth Annual Computers in Education Conference last week.

Photo by Andy Cripe
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Congressmen file suit attacking Gulf policy

By Stephen Maher
and wire service reports

The Reagan administration's Persian Gulf policy came under attack Friday when more than 100 members of Congress, including Oregon 4th District congressman Peter DeFazio, filed suit in an attempt to force the administration to comply with provisions of the War Powers Act.

The suit contends that a report from President Reagan to Congress was required within 48 hours after three U.S. warships entered the Persian Gulf on July 22. The suit asks the court that Reagan be ordered to submit such a report.

If the court decides Reagan is not required to send a report to Congress, the suit asks the court to declare that the Transportation Department illegally allowed the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers.

Named as defendants in the lawsuit are Reagan, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole.

"We all agree that the United States has legitimate interests in the Persian Gulf. All we're ask-

ing is that the president comply with the War Powers Act and with his constitutional duties by asking Congress for its advise and consent," said DeFazio in a prepared statement.

The War Powers Act, passed into law in 1973, requires the president to report to Congress anytime U.S. military forces are introduced into an area thought to be hostile or imminently hostile.

Congress then has 60 days to approve the deployment of forces, extend the action another 60 days or declare war. If Congress decides against these options, the president must withdraw the forces.

"The president is putting American lives and prestige on the line without any clearly defined objective. Offering the protection of the U.S. Navy to Kuwaiti tankers in the face of Iranian threats to continue attacking those tankers and our ships is reckless and provocative," said DeFazio.

The Reagan administration has 20 days to respond to the suit with oral arguments ex-

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