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Emerald disk error mars story

Because of the large quantity of stored information for the Emerald's Monday edition, the computer system was overtaxed, which resulted in the insertion of a segment of an entertainment humor piece from the Fall Orientation Issue into the OPEU strike story.

We are reprinting the original version of the altered section. We regret any confusion or inconvenience that might have occurred as a result. In addition, OPEU members will receive a 4 percent raise beginning Jan. 1, 1989, not 1988.

The union: past and present

OPEU was founded in 1945 when then-Republican Gov. Earl Snell requested state employees organize so they could collectively bargain with the state.

The union became affiliated with the Services Employees International Union in 1980, and shortly afterward fell on hard times when Oregon plunged into a recession.

As a gesture of good will and in an effort to help the state get back on sound financial footing, OPEU negotiated away a wage increase when its contract expired in March 1982.

From 1983 through 1985 the union took another step to help the state and agreed to a wage freeze, with the understanding it would receive compensation when the state could afford it.

OPEU officials saw the time for compensation as this year, and took their grievances to the state. The stage for the strike was set after the union's contract expired in March 1987, and OPEU perceived the state was reluctant to concede to union demands.

Although this was OPEU's first strike since its inception, evidence suggests there was strong support for employee grievences both in and out of the union. University faculty appeared decidedly in favor of OPEU's walkout, and faculty names mentioned most by strikers were professors Barbara and Daniel Pope.

Mrs. Pope, director of women's studies, viewed the strike as both a labor struggle and a vehicle for recognition of women.

"One of the things that should be noted about this strike is that the majority of OPEU members are women, and the major issue is the payment for clerical work...these clerical positions have traditionally been undervalued and underpaid," Pope said.

"Although it's not the fault of the University, I am embarrassed to work at an institution where full-time workers have to go on food stamps because their pay is so low," Pope added.

The tentative settlement may have put an end to this phenomenon, a fact made clear by Conda Woolfer, an OPEU member in Salem, who, on the day the strike ended, said, "As of today I'm not going to be on food stamps anymore!"

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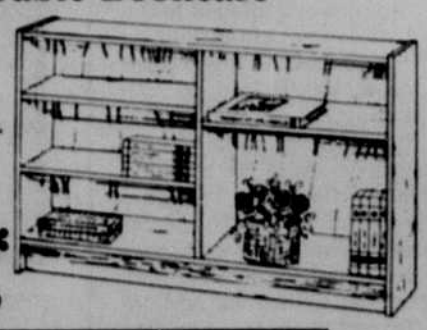

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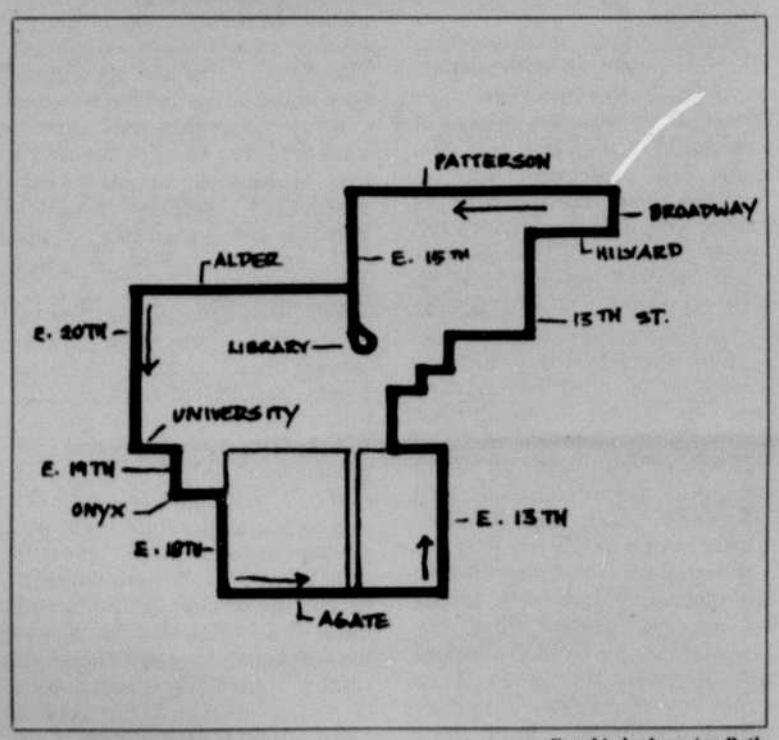
Saferide Continued from Page 1



Graphic by Lorraine Rath

Project Saferide's on-campus route, which is expected to be put into effect Oct. 5, will follow the route above.

ASUO program last May when the Incidental Fee Committee voted the program a budget of $11,082.

ASUO President Kasey Brooks said she supports the move from the ASUO office. A student service like Saferide is best run "as a seperate enterprise rather than out of the ASUO office," she said.

Brooks noted that as a result of the change more ASUO fundraising money will be available for other uses. Saferide was funded largely through ASUO fund raising money before gaining independant status.

Meehan said because of the program's independent status, the year-to-year transition will be smoother after this year. "We're now set up like a service office should be," Meehan said. "We're not at the whim of each year's Executive...The change sets us in a more permanent state." Meehan said she hopes to now have more time to spend on Saferide, since she will no longer be working on ASUO office tasks.

Thus far, Meehan has recruited about 25 volunteers. She needs 60 volunteers to fill the 38 two-hour time slots that fill the week. Additional drivers are needed in case one of the scheduled drivers misses her shift.

"One of the problems inherent with volunteer drivers is that students have a lot of commitments," she said. "They sometimes get in situations where they can't show up."

Drivers must be female and also must have a chauffeur's driver license. They must remain volunteers not only because of financial constraints but also because if paid, they would fall under affirmative action guidelines, forcing the hiring of men.

However, Meehan encourages men to apply for the paid positions. Men have worked as radio dispatchers in the past.

Another problem facing Meehan is the lack of office space. Because Saferide moved out of the ASUO office in Suite 4, the program has shared office space with the Survival Center in Suite 1 of the EMU.

Meehan said she will formally request office space at the first EMU Board meeting in mid-October. The EMU Board is responsible for assigning EMU office space.

For more information about the program, call Saferide at 686-4239.