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Oregon Daily Emerald

Friday, January 13, 1989

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 90, Number 79

Future looks bright for new city library

By Cami Swanson
Emerald Reporter

Library officials, Eugene City Council members and a Pankow Development Co. official were pleased by recent progress in the city's quest for a new public library.

"I think we're on the right track," said councilor Roger Rutan. "I'm convinced we've taken a hard look at the alternatives."

"Now we are asking voters, 'What do you think?'" Rutan said.

The city council voted 4-3 Wednesday to place a measure concerning the new library on

Desire for new library dates to early 1980s

By Maile Field
Emerald Contributor

The need for new community library space in Eugene has been a hot topic for almost a decade.

City studies dating to the early 1980s document a desire to see library expansion but nothing materialized until after former Mayor Brian Obie took office in 1985.

His five-point agenda did not include specific library plans but a proposal was developed when Pankow Development Co., a California group, first requested city consideration of its new building plan. The proposed structure was to be built at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Willamette Street.

the March 28 ballot. The measure will ask the public to approve an Eighth Avenue and Willamette Street location and a serial levy to cover the library's operating costs.

Although Rutan voted against the measure, he said he supports the council decision. Rutan said the reason he initially opposed the action was because he wanted the measure limited to the serial levy.

The annual amount of the three-year serial levy was not decided by the council on Wednesday, but Rutan said "it was just an oversight" and would be decided soon.

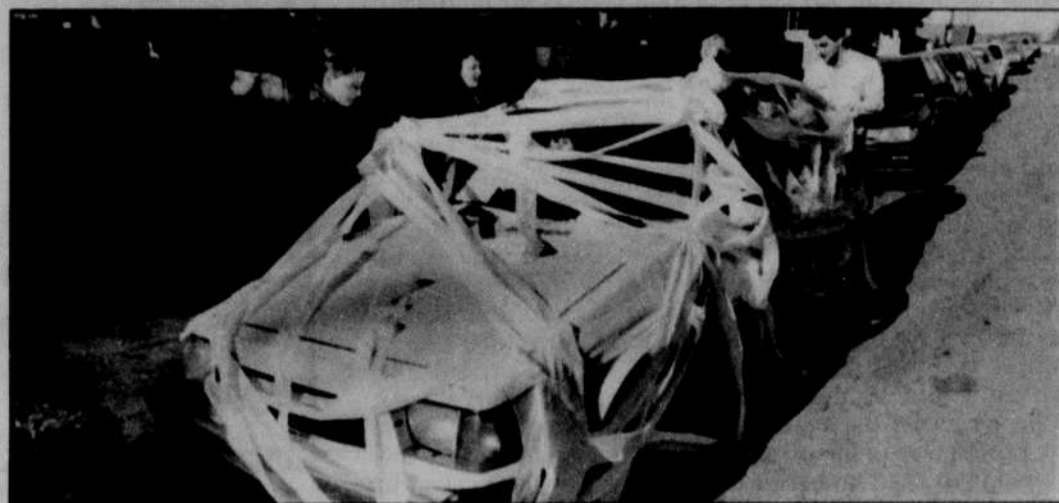
Another councilor was not as pleased with the outcome of Wednesday's meeting. Freeman Holmer said he thought the council should have agreed to the Eighth Avenue and Willamette Street location during Wednesday's meeting.

"I believe (the council) could and should have agreed with Pankow," Holmer said. "The council has every legal authority to make that decision." Pankow Development Co. is proposing to include the library on the first and second floors of its 13-story building, which will begin construction in June.

Holmer, who opposes the idea of a serial levy, said the money for the library's operating costs instead could be taken out of Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) revenues. Currently, the city collects a percentage of EWEB's profits in lieu of a property tax.

"We don't really need a serial levy," Holmer said. "It's not a permanent solution."

Library officials said they are pleased to hear the council ac-



Ticketed off

When someone parked a car in front of the driveway at 1858 Harris St., the residents there were not amused. After calling the police, Paula Keith, Laura Hull and Brian McMinn, along with two others, expressed their displeasure by "decorating" the car. When Community Service Specialist Collin Williams arrived, however, the decorations came off. But a note — and a ticket — were left instead.

Photos by James Marks



Turn to History, Page 6

Turn to Library, Page 6



Photo by Bill Haines

University archivist Keith Richard keeps relics from the school's past, and several surprises can be found in his cluttered office.

Richard keeps an eye on the past

By Denise Clifton
Emerald Reporter

In the far corner of Fenton Hall, through a dingy white door and up a narrow, box-cluttered stairway, the persistent research-bound student will discover the office of Keith Richard, University archivist.

An archivist must be a person who loves history, and Richard's office is a testimonial to his personal fascination with the past. University artifacts clutter the room, including a turn-of-the-century stapler, which does not use staples, and an original University seal which once was used to stamp the official school emblem on 19th century documents.

Although it was 10 a.m., the ancient grandfather clock in the corner chimed six times as Richard explains the work of an archivist.

"The purpose of the archives as established by the state of Oregon law is that all of the paper that is produced at the University at public expense belongs to the people and must be available to the people," he said, adding that all University documents produced are public records.

University records organized and preserved in the archives include administrative policies, departmental memos and student files from 1876 to the present. Some records are kept for one year and some are re-

tained permanently in residence hall basements.

Richard's job is to categorize the documents efficiently and to store them where they can be found quickly.

All records, with the exception of those protected by student confidentiality laws, are available to anyone wishing to research aspects of the University. Richard said people as far away as New York have requested huge amounts of historical information which he researched and sent to them for little or no charge.

"If I have requests from people within the University community, they will get my time first, and then the outside patrons will be scheduled second because my personal commitment has to be to the institution," Richard said. "But I cannot deny access to anyone because their taxes pay for it."

Averaging 26 phone calls a day, Richard stays busy with researching out-of-town requests, organizing new records and assisting students with their research projects.

"One of my frustrations is that I have no permanent help," Richard said. "When you consider that we have 150 offices on campus producing paper, it is hard for me to keep on top of it," he said. "Through experience you learn where to put the emphasis and where not to put the emphasis. But my backlog is tremen-

Turn to Richard, Page 11