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Oregon Daily Emerald

Wednesday, March 29, 1989

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 90, Number 121

Saferide revamps schedule

By Sigrid Wright
Emerald Contributor

The ink of a scrawled message on an athletic trail bulletin board near campus is blurred by the rain but still legible.

"Runners Beware," the warning reads. "This path is the sight of sexual assaults on men, women and children."

On campus in the EMU Breezeway, a weathered flyer headed in bold ink with "Assault Alert" is tacked to a highly-visible post. "Know these facts," it states. "A rape has occurred on this campus."

The same flyer is pinned to another wall, in the Project Saferide office. It's the site of the only escort service in the nation known by project members and Office of Public Safety officers to be run exclusively by and for women.

While many universities have an informal escort service sponsored by fraternities and other student groups, over 4,000 women have ridden one of Saferide's one-hour loops from 6 p.m. to midnight since the spring of 1985.

But this term, in the first route changes since the program began, the on-campus and off-campus Saferide vans are reaching a growing number of riders at new destinations, said project co-director Meg Wilson.

In a decision based on rider and driver input and surveys sent to student organizations, Project Saferide is eliminating the off-campus route and replacing it with a free "taxi service" — responding, instead, to calls for rides as they are needed.

While Saferide administration has al-

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File photo

Project Saferide hopes route changes will improve service to campus women.

Proposed library location rejected

By Greg Hough
Emerald Reporter

Eugene voters Tuesday were rejecting an advisory measure to approve housing a new library in a private development at Eighth Avenue and Olive Street, according to returns tallied from a majority of city precincts.

Meanwhile, in another of several Lane County mail-in ballot races decided Tuesday, University Director of Financial Aid Ed Vignoul held a slim lead in the race for a position on the Eugene School Board, leading Laurel Hill area resident Jan Westmann by about 80 votes in a race too close to call.

Votes against the library relocation proposal (Ballot Measure 20-01) led votes favoring the measure by nearly 15 percentage points at press time. With 54 of 68 precincts reporting, the measure had 10,529 "no" votes and 7,852 "yes" votes tallied.

Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller, a proponent of moving the library downtown, refused to concede defeat on the issue even as the results were being announced.

Miller pointed to the fact that the mail-in race made it impossible to know which precincts were coming in at what time, and that certain precincts might yet put the measure over the top.

If passed, the measure will cleared the way for the city to go ahead with its proposal to build the new library as part of Pankow Development Co.'s proposed 13-story office tower in downtown Eugene.

The financing plan, approved by the Eugene City Council, would require that the city pay the cost of building the library by drawing on existing urban renewal and parking reserve money and on

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Panel hears testimony on Riverfront, delays action

By Cami Swanson
Emerald Reporter

The Eugene Planning Commission on Tuesday heard testimony appealing the recent decision to grant a conditional use permit to the Riverfront Research Park's Master Site Plan, but did not rule on the appeals.

Four people submitted appeals to the city hearings official's Feb. 13 decision, which will allow construction to begin at the 67-acre site alongside the Willamette River.

However, after listening to three hours of testimony on the proposed research site, the planning commission decided to postpone its decision until its April 2 meeting.

The commission can decide to uphold Hearings Official Jim Spickerman's decision, overturn his decision, or modify the existing conditions and conclusions that support the permit's approval. Even if the planning commission upholds Spickerman's decision, the decision can still be appealed to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

One of the concerns voiced at Tuesday's hearing was whether the site plan corresponded with the intent of Willamette Greenway legislation to provide

"natural and scenic" recreation areas along the river.

"The applicant has failed to show how the master plan corresponds to the Greenway ordinance," said Al Urquhart, head of the University's geography department.

"Greenway lands must not be allowed to deteriorate in a piecemeal fashion," he said.

Dan Stotter, who also filed an appeal of the hearing official's decision, said Spickerman had incompletely applied the criteria of the Greenway legislation. Noting that 100 species of birds rely upon the riverfront for food and shelter, Stotter criticized the lack of consideration given to the area's wildlife.

"No wildlife studies have been made that I am aware of," he said.

However, Jim Saul, speaking on behalf of the University, said the environmental aspects of the research site have been analyzed and found to represent "no significant loss" to the natural habitat.

Addressing the issue of moving the research park to another area, John Moseley, the University's vice president for research, said the University does

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Running the gauntlet

University students traditionally have to make their way through the maze of handbill distributors at McArthur Court before and after they are done with registration. Tuesday was no exception.

Photo by James Marks