Pushcarts Continued from Page 4

mall each night, but now we don't have to anymore." Prater said. "As long as you keep them locked up you can keep them on the mall

The city adopted a proposal several years ago which gave vendors the option to leave the carts on the mall overnight. However, Bohman said, cart owners must waive city liability for any damages to the carts if they elect to leave them.

'We would prefer that pushcart vendors remove their carts at night." Bohman said.

Keeping carts on the mall overnight can bring problems such as vandalism and breakins, said Espresso Express cart owner Doug Stello. He has served coffee, tea and snacks to "everybody from stockbrokers to transients" for the past three years, but will be closing his business in June and moving to another location.

"Vending carts would work better if the city didn't put so many restrictions, rules and

regulations on them." he add-

Stello said he would like to see an atmosphere more resembling a European marketplace with sidewalk cafes and a multitude of pushcart vendors.

The number of carts allowed at one time at the mall is 12. Bohman said, a maximum of 10 which may sell food products. Today, five carts are operating there

"One of the goals of the program is to provide products that are unique from other businesses on the mall, particularly restaurants," Bohman said. For this reason, attempts are made to discourage individual vendors from duplicating the types of foods they offer, she said.

In addition, each cart is limited to selling two different food items and two drinks. This facilitates management of the carts and "keeps in the spirit of the pushcart program" by offering specialized products. Bohman said.

The size and location of the pushcarts offer a number of advantages. Overhead costs are low, as well as maintenance. Usually one employee is the only worker needed in the cart.

Food products sold from the carts "can be a real draw for people, especially when the weather is nice." Bohman said.

The number of customers at a pushcart can greatly increase if the day is not rainy or cold. "When the weather is nice. people prefer to eat outside." said Libby Gilbert, an employee of the Taverna Zeus cart.

Service from a cart also is convenient. "People that have one hour for lunch sometimes don't have time to be served in a restaurant." Prater said.

A multitude of colorful carts and unique products can "add an ambiance and add to the feeling of the outdoor environment" of the downtown mall. Bohman said. "The major purpose is to add to the vitality of the mall some additional attraction and activity.

Meyer said he'd like to see

the promotion of recreational

skating at the area colleges like

various other sports on cam-

pus. where "a whole smorgas-

bord of sports activities" are

rink will open between Thanks-

giving and Christmas of this

If all goes as planned, the ice

taught and promoted.

KINK Continued from Page 4

year. But McCulloch does not exclude the rink from operating during the summer months.

Citing summer programs such as hockey camps. figure skating and "learn-to-skate" clinics, he felt the possibilities for summer youth involvement could not be discounted. Mc-Culloch said promoting the activity and the involvement of its supporters is crucial.

"We're going to give it a good go." McCulloch said. but noted that promoters "must seriously strive at developing a public awareness that skating can be done, and the more you do it the better you get."

Referring to the "old rink" that was torn down. McCulloch admitted that the Eugene/Springfield area has had 40 years without ice. But Mc-Culloch said he is still amazed how many people have come into this community from areas where they had ice.

One of these people is Gary Meyer, a University computer and information science professor, who learned to skate in the Midwest as a child. When the idea of constructing an ice rink

was first raised by the fair board, a group of skating en-thusiasts formed an "ice" lobby to work for the rink's approval. The mailing list for the lobby has grown to approximately 250 people, with about 20 meeting regularly over the past year.

Meyer said the fairgrounds will be hiring a professional manager, but he expects the lobby to continue to be active in promoting rink activities to the community-at-large.

That can mean facilitating the growth of skating clubs, hockey clubs, working to promote individual sports, and going to organizations and talking to people about the rink and the sport.

An example of the type of "legwork" involved is the scheduling of special evening events geared to special age groups. While the most obvious group is the youth population. Meyer said the lobby has identified a group of people who remember the old rink and have expressed an interest in skating

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON again

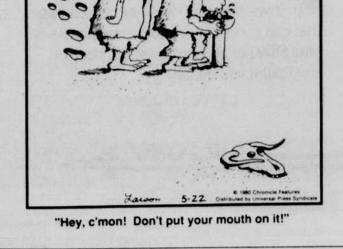


Blues man

his band from Chicago were the final musical act for the three-day Willamette Valley Folk Festival held on **Photo by James Marks** campus this weekend.

Nationally known blues harpist James Cotton and





Oregon Daily Emerald

