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Installation of phone system begins

Line expected
for February

By Chris Bouneff
Emerald Associate Editor

The University moved one step closer to joining the world of modern communications Wednesday afternoon when crews installed four large concrete sections that will serve as the primary distribution manhole for the school's new telephone system.

"This is the single most important, if not the biggest, construction part of the project," said Mark Ybarra, project coordinator for the University. "The rest of the construction has been building up to this."

The sections, weighing a total of 34.5 tons, were placed on the northwest side of Oregon Hall, which will serve as the headquarters for the new telecommunications system.

The \$4.6 million AT&T telephone system is progressing on schedule, and the University is expected to switch over to the new phones sometime in February, Ybarra said.

The University system is part of a larger \$19 million network being installed by AT&T Informational Systems to link the campuses of the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

"The problems we have

Turn to Phones, Page 24

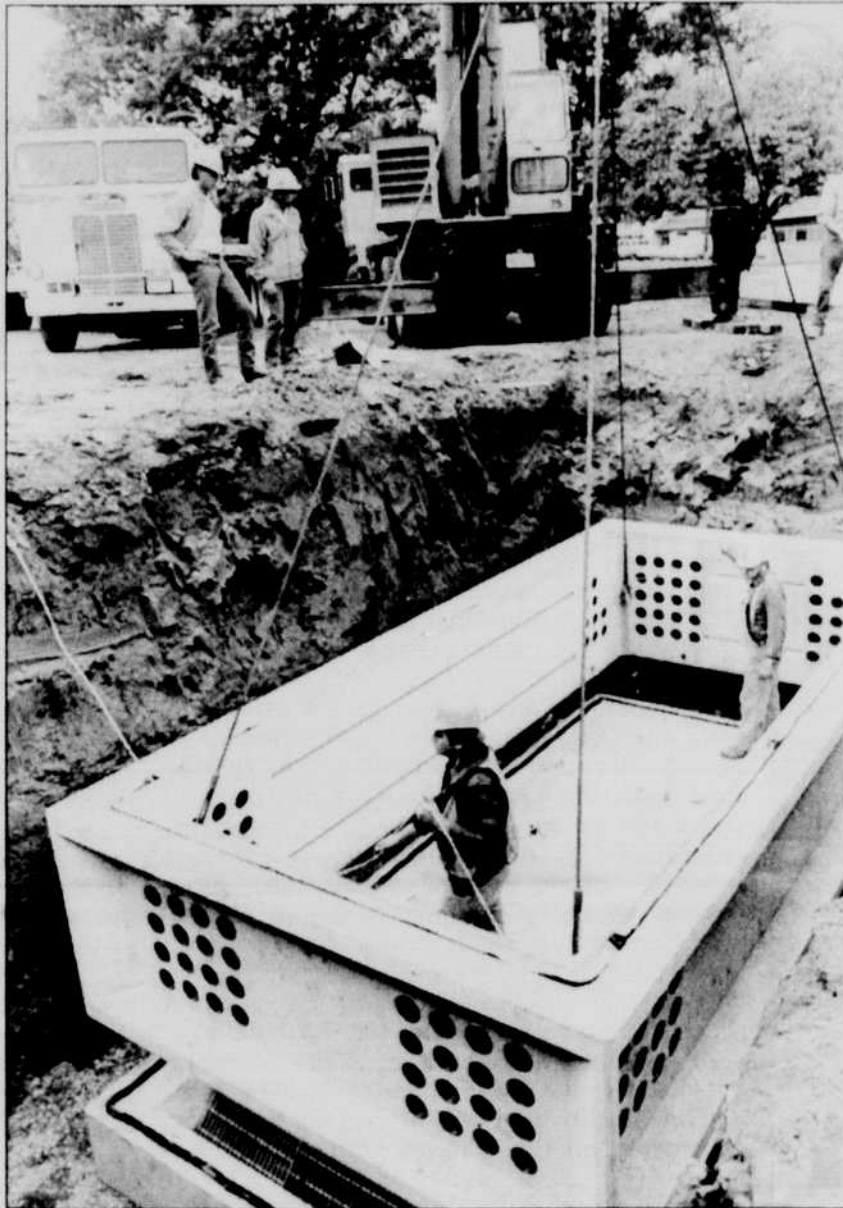


Photo by Andre Kamari

Crews are beginning work on the \$4.6 million AT&T phone system, laying 10 miles of cable underneath the University's streets and yards. The system will be operational by February.

OSL fires against lottery fund plan

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Reporter

Members of the Oregon Student Lobby announced Wednesday afternoon to their opposition to the expansion of lottery funds to support higher education in Oregon.

Five members of OSL, representing Western Oregon State College, Oregon State University, Southern Oregon State College and the University, read prepared statements and answered questions in the EMU's Forum Room.

"Gov. Goldschmidt and our legislators have articulated the direct influence that the state's colleges and universities have on economic development within the state," said Scott Wyckoff, chairman of the Oregon Student Lobby Board of Directors and ASUO vice president.

"However, they have been unwilling to match the rhetoric with stable support through the use of general fund dollars," he said.

The Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) believes lottery funding is not stable enough to support higher education, and colleges and universities will have difficulty recruiting quality faculty members based on an unstable income source, said Lynn Pinckney, executive director for OSL.

Pinckney said OSL also is opposed to the lottery funding because it believes the lottery lures low-income participants. She said the student lobby would like to see next year's legislature lift the state spending cap and find other methods of funding higher education.

"Higher education and access to education are too important to let it become dependent on lottery games," she said.

Stable funding of higher education should be a priority for Oregon because in five to 10 years Oregon's system of higher education will lose about one-third of its teaching faculty to retirement, said Anne Meredith, OSL vice chairwoman and president of Associated Students of Southern Oregon State College.

"Attracting quality personnel is of utmost importance to this state to compete nationally," Meredith said. "Priority funding for higher education would make a strong statement that Oregonians are geared to our future."

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Latest GTFF talks still deadlocked

By Peter Cogswell
Emerald Reporter

The Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation announced Wednesday a mediation session with University officials was unsuccessful in bringing an end to ongoing collective bargaining talks.

"It was a satisfying session," said Jane Howard, a field representative from Oregon Federation of Teachers, who has been representing the GTFF throughout the negotiations. "But we did not get what we wanted."

The GTFF wants a pay increase of 5 percent this year, as well as a 5 percent raise next year. The GTFF also wants the University to pay for at least some of the health care GTFFs receive.

The state in turn proposed a pay increase of 6 percent over the next two years and recommended the University provide loans for GTFFs not able to afford escalating health care costs.

This proposal puts GTFFs in no better position than they were last year, Howard said.

"It is my belief, and our lobbyists tell me this is true, that when the Legislature voted to give a 5 percent raise this year and next year to faculty members at the University, this also included the GTFFs," Howard said.

"I don't think this is a settlement that the GTFFs should be tolerant of," Howard said. "The mediator is saying this is the most I think the University will offer and is hoping the GTFF will accept it."

The next step for the GTFF is to call in a state fact finder, who will check statistics ranging from GTFF salaries at other schools to the cost of living increase in Eugene.

After this evaluation, the fact finder will give his opinion to both the University and the GTFF on what he feels is the best solution. Howard is optimistic that this is in the best interest of the GTFF.

"I am confident that a fact finder will say 5 percent this year and 5 percent the next," Howard said. "There is also a good chance that he will rule in favor of the University paying for health care for the GTFFs."

If the fact finder should propose a solution that is not favorable for the GTFFs, however, there is a possibility that the GTFFs could strike. In Oregon a fact finder is an advisory role; it is not mandatory for the GTFFs to accept the fact finder's proposal.

Howard pointed to the results of a questionnaire sent out by the GTFF on which, out of 140 responses, 94 GTFFs said they would strike or information picket for one of the two GTFF demands. Only 21 respondents said they do not condone any action against the University.

"The questionnaires only went out Monday," said Diane Rau, GTFF union representative. "The return rate has been good. We expect to have many more come in Thursday and Fri-

Turn to Talks, Page 12



Photo by Martin Thiel

Jane Howard, field representative and chief negotiator of the Oregon Federation of Teachers, argues in favor of increasing benefits to graduate teaching fellows at a Wednesday mediation session.