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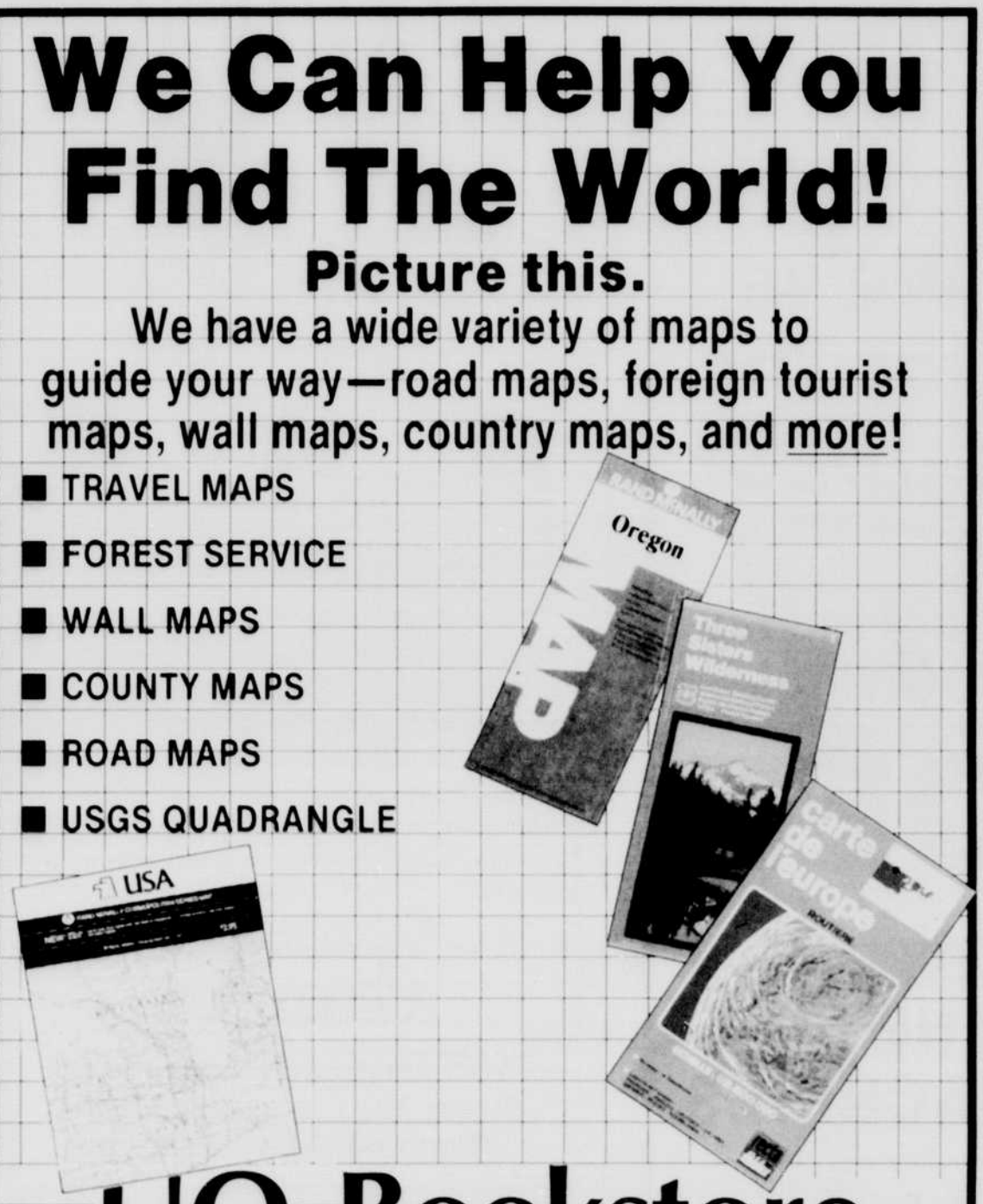

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Community

Center may get state grant up to $15,000

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Reporter

Neil Goldschmidt

The Willamette Science and Technology Center will receive $15,000 from the state to help it meet its budget goals if it can raise $45,000 before July 1990.

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt announced Wednesday morning at WISTEC, 2300 Centennial Blvd., that he was offering a challenge grant that will contribute one dollar from the state for every three dollars the museum raises on its own, up to a total Oregon contribution of $15,000.

WISTEC executive director Deborah Malchow-McCarty also announced that the museum will reopen Feb. 9 with an exhibit titled "Eyes of Time: Photojournalism in America," featuring 150 news photographs spanning American history from the Civil War to the present day.

The Register-Guard will contribute $5,000 toward the challenge grant to help fund the photography exhibit, said Bridget Baker, corporate public relations director for the *Register-Guard*.

Goldschmidt linked his support for the museum to his desire to improve the quality of education in Oregon.

"WISTEC feeds the minds of our most important resource — our children," Goldschmidt said. "From places like this, the curiosity of the next scientists is stimulated."

WISTEC is in the midst of raising $170,000 for its annual operating budget after a lack of funds forced the museum to close its doors last summer. As of Nov. 21, WISTEC had raised $90,000 from a combination of public and private sources.

"That $170,000 is minimal — just to keep our doors open," Malchow-McCarty said. "That doesn't include money for great exhibits, or our next year's operating budget, or anything else."

Under the terms of the governor's challenge grant, all the money raised by WISTEC through fund drives, donations and in-kind contributions after Nov. 29 will be matched at a one-to-three ratio by the state.

In-kind contributions include goods and services from the museum's "wish list" ranging from construction and clerical work to office equipment and storage space.

The $5,000 donation from the *Register-Guard* will cover all but the shipping expenses of the photojournalism exhibit, said Sharon McBurney, assistant director at WISTEC.

The exhibit, from the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House in Rochester, N.Y., will include an Associated Press wirephoto machine that will continuously print out photos of breaking news events, as well as an 8 by 14 foot walk-through camera and other hands-on displays and special events, Malchow-McCarty said.

Goldschmidt was persuaded to offer the grant by Malchow-McCarty, WISTEC board member Marie Jones, and state Sen. Larry Hill, he said.

"I made the decision without a lot of controversy," Goldschmidt said. "This is worth helping."

The $15,000 will come out of money appropriated by the state legislature for science education, Goldschmidt said.

He added that although the state contributes funds to the State Historical Society archives, a traveling science exhibit and various art groups, this is the first time the state has contributed to the operating costs of a private, nonprofit museum.

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