

University chooses engineering firm to assess fire alarm system

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Reporter

The state's higher education system will pay a Eugene engineering firm \$25,000 to study the University's fire and security alarm systems for their future renovation.

Balzhiser and Hubbard, a firm of mechanical and electrical design consultants, is in the preliminary stages of studying campus systems and is not in a position to comment on the study, said Jim Krumsick, one of the firm's consultants.

Consultants will identify and evaluate all of the fire alarm and security alarm systems on campus and will compare the inventory with Physical Plant documents and with alarm locations on campus.

The campus has been divided into seven review units that group the more than 120 buildings for study, according to information from Muriel Jackson, the University's project manager and assistant vice president for administration.

The study, which will be completed by the end of June, will focus on electrical panels and electrical service facilities, so the University does not anticipate major interruption of normal building activity. Building administrators will be advised of the inspection schedule.

Following the inventory phase, the consultants will review findings and recommend and prioritize alarm system improvements.

The need to upgrade the University's original alarm system installed in the 1920s and the need to put the new science buildings' alarm systems on-line prompted University officials to hire the consultants.

Steve Boosinger, city deputy fire marshal, made alarm system inspections at the University from Aug. 1 to Sept. 8, 1989, and sent his report to the University's Office of Public Safety Oct. 28.

His 24-page report listed many campus buildings as being unable to alert people to evacuate buildings in case of fire.

Boosinger found that McArthur Court, one of the more serious cases, has one pull station to alert authorities of a fire. Boosinger said the arena should have pull stations at each exit and should be fully protected by a sprinkler system.

In addition, the building contains wall coverings and ceilings made of Firtex, which is low-density cellulose fiber that burns at the rate of 14 feet per second, he said.

Some other buildings found to have fire code violations last fall were Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, Knight Library, Science II, Science Library and the Physical Plant.

Former Demo caucus official fined

By Brad Cain
Associated Press

SALEM, (AP) — The former administrator of the Oregon House Democratic caucus was fined \$2,500 Monday after a judge found him guilty of tampering with a public record.

The fine was imposed on Carl Wiederaenders, 31, after a stipulated facts trial in which the former House aide presented no witnesses and did not dispute any of the facts presented by the state.

Wiederaenders was charged after he removed a page from a caucus campaign finance report on file with the secretary of state's office in September. He said at the time that the act was unintentional.

Marion County Circuit Judge Val Sloper told Wiederaenders he imposed the maximum \$2,500 fine on him because there was no doubt that Wiederaenders had walked off

with the page.

The judge called Wiederaenders' actions "a crime against the political process," but he stopped short of imposing a jail term on the former legislative employee.

Wiederaenders, who earlier pleaded innocent to the charge, resigned the caucus post after the records incident was disclosed.

He said little during Monday's court proceeding and refused afterward to answer reporters' questions about the case.

"I'm going to have nothing to say," said Wiederaenders, who currently is unemployed and living in Seattle.

Wiederaenders' former boss, House Majority Leader David Dix of Eugene, said Monday he thinks the \$2,500 fine was a fair punishment for the former caucus administrator.

"He should pay the maximum penalty, and that's what

he received today," Dix said.

The incident has been a source of embarrassment for Oregon Democrats and was a factor in Secretary of State Barbara Roberts' decision to audit several Democratic campaign finance reports for the 1988 elections.

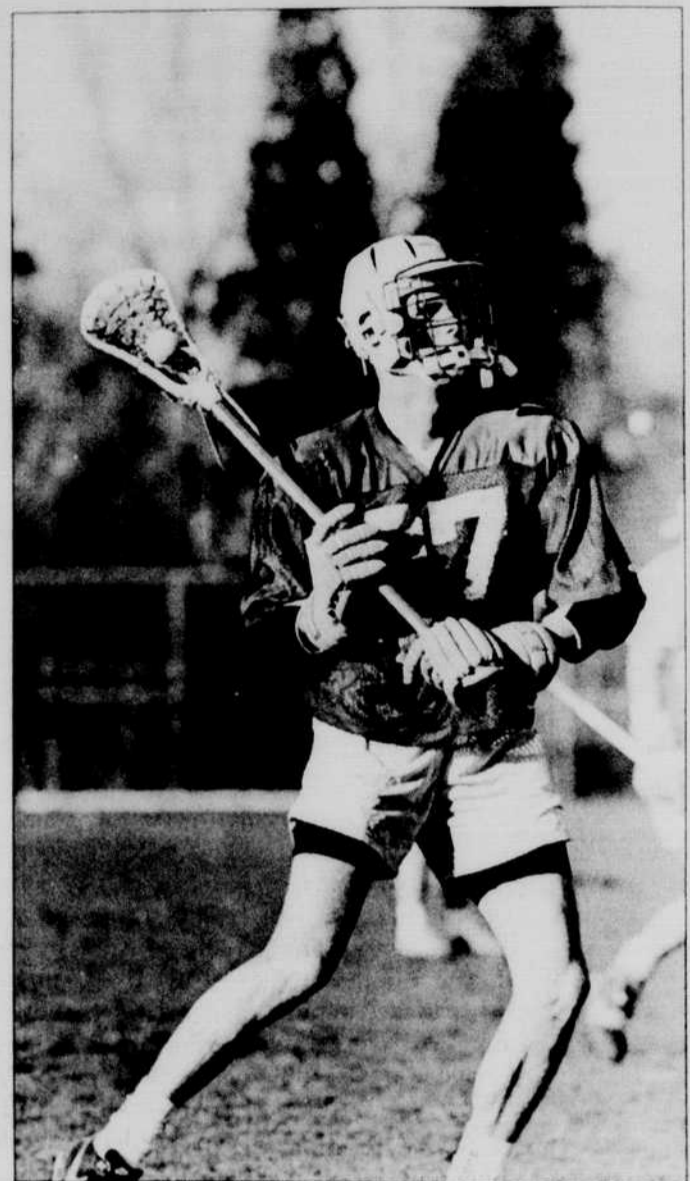
As a result of those audits, Roberts imposed fines totaling more than \$65,000 on three Democratic organizations for deficient campaign contribution and expenditure reports. The penalties included a \$34,000 fine against the House Democratic caucus fund.

The caucus came under scrutiny because, among other things, it failed to report a \$10,000 contribution it received in 1988 from state Rep. Hedy Rijken, D-Newport.

The night before Wiederaenders took the page from the secretary of state's office, Dix sent a photocopy of a document to a newspaper columnist purporting to show that the contribution from Rijken had been recorded.

The page that Wiederaenders took from the report showed that, in fact, the \$10,000 had not been listed in the caucus financial report.

Dix said later that the page he sent to the newspaper columnist had come from the caucus files and that he had assumed the same thing was on file with the secretary of state.



Lacrosse wins

John O'Dea of the club sport lacrosse team prepares to let one fly during practice Monday. The lacrosse team beat Linfield last Saturday in their season opener and host Washington State and Whitman this weekend.

Photo by Steve Card

Millworkers walk off job

TOLEDO, (AP) — A union leader says Georgia-Pacific Corp. wants "devastating" concessions on wages and benefits from striking pulp and paper workers in Toledo.

About 400 members of Local 13 of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers walked off their jobs Friday evening after negotiations broke down on a new contract for workers at the Georgia-Pacific pulp and paper mill.

Union leader Bryce Jackson said Sunday that union workers were tired of granting concessions to the company.

"They've got an agenda that's loaded down with takeaways," Jackson said. "Every negotiation we've had since 1978, they've taken something away."

Georgia-Pacific wants to eliminate time-and-a-half pay for working Sundays at the round-the-clock operation, and to double health insurance deductibles to \$300 while adding a \$50 monthly premium for family coverage, Jackson said.

Other proposals for concessions would damage the seniority system and limit pay increases for workers who complete training programs, he said.

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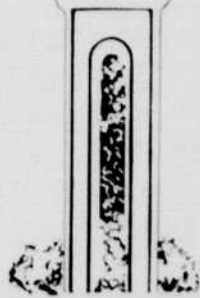


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