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Inside

Lane County commissioners tried walking the political tightrope Wednesday morning by pledging money to "significantly assist" the city of Eugene in reopening the Downtown Mall.

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Several Incidental Fee Committee members complained after Wednesday night's meeting that Mike Colson reneged on his promise to not participate in the budget hearings process.

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Almanac

Earth Week activities for Freedom Day:

- Direct Action Theater all day.
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Animal Rights Fair, EMU Fir Room.
- 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. — Howard Brotine speaking on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, EMU Ben Linder Room.
- 12 to 2 p.m. — William Sullivan, author of *Exploring Oregon's Trails*, EMU Ben Linder Room.
- 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. — John Stockwell, former CIA station chief, 150 Columbia Hall (\$3 students, \$5 general).
- Clothing drive for the homeless, all week. Clothes can be put in bins outside EMU Suite 1, in the lobby of the EMU Main Floor or near area desks of Carson, Bean or University Inn.

Sports



Tom Greider

Women's tennis Coach Tom Greider won't be able to tell how much his team has improved or how successful this season has been until after this weekend's Pacific-10 Northern Division Duals held in Eugene.

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Research Park deadline pushed back

By Brian Bloch
Emerald Reporter

The Riverfront Research Park Commission voted unanimously Wednesday to extend the construction deadline on the project's first building to April 1992.

The decision reflects tenant recruitment difficulties the project's developer is experiencing. Randy Green, an executive with Institutional Development Associates, said his company needs commitments to fill 35,000 square feet of the park before building construction can begin.

"What we're doing is asking companies to relocate their operations to a building that isn't built, in a research park that has not yet been developed. That's difficult," Green said. "Our biggest problem is getting tenants to commit."

The commission will send a memo to University President Myles Brand and Eugene City Manager Mike Gleason reflecting its decision to extend the deadline.

Green blamed the recession, uncertain economic conditions and a small, local market for the lack of potential research park tenants.

He also said his company has had three major tenants pull out for various reasons, including a firm with interest in 20,000 square feet of the project.

"We put a lot of time (three months) into that, and we thought we had a very attractive proposal," said city project representative Cathy Briner.

However, Green said his company has received letters of intent from three interested parties, including a pledge from the University to fill 15,000 square feet of the park.

Green said the other two firms have only committed to several thousand square feet, "not enough to make a difference."

The extended construction deadline will give IDA more time for marketing and recruiting local firms that are developing or expanding their markets, Green said.

"The main thrust is to bring in those local firms," he said. "But it's not going to happen in 30 days or 60 days; it's a long process. It's been a little more difficult than we originally anticipated."

"We're looking for firms who want to develop a relationship with the University," Briner said. "That was the main idea of the project in the first place."

To help facilitate the recruiting on a local level, Green said his company is looking to contract with a local real estate brokerage. The brokerage would follow up local contacts the Utah developing firm has already established.

Both Green and the park commission remained optimistic about the project.

"You (Green) have come here with a great deal of enthusiasm," said commission chairman R.A. Guskeller. "It's important that your company is still positively behind the project."



Elizabeth O'Neill, a sophomore general science major, takes advantage of the language center's modern facilities for her French 103 class. Photo by Eric Evans.

University language facility now modernized

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Reporter

Before this winter, says one professor, the University had one of the worst language facilities in the country. Now, it has one of the best.

Fully equipped with state-of-the-art computers, VCRs and stereos, the Yamada Language Center in Pacific Hall has brought the University to the cutting edge of modern language education technology.

The center was established thanks to a \$300,000 grant from Osamitsu Yamada, a Tokyo tax consultant with a long-time interest in improving communication between Japan and the United States.

The Yamada Center is open to any University student studying a foreign language. Students can use the center between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday and Friday, and between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

Kent Hill, assistant Yamada Center director, said the lab has been in high demand since its opening.

"Many professors are making it a requirement (to visit the lab)," he said. "(The center) is packed every day, practically all day long."

In the past, the University's language lab had been housed in the basement of Friendly Hall. The lab offered a library

of foreign language audio cassettes as well as several cassette decks and headphones for student use. The lab's equipment was moved to the Yamada Center winter term.

University language instructors were first able to use video equipment and computers when the Yamada Center opened.

"(Compared to the old facilities) it's the difference between the horse and buggy and a jet airplane," said Bill Walker, Yamada Center assistant director.

The 5,300-square-foot Yamada Center is five times larger than the previous lab.

The center has three laboratories. The library lab (Room 120)

has 26 individual video and audio stations for independent student use. The classroom lab in Room 119 contains 36 audio stations, seven video stations and a video projection system. A media resource center in Room 114 offers a sound-proof studio and production and video editing equipment.

The center also includes three classrooms devoted to foreign language teaching. Two classrooms in Rooms 110 and 111 contain high-fidelity video and audio equipment, in addition to a short-wave radio system that can pick up foreign radio signals. A third classroom includes 12 Macintosh computers and interactive video stations.