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**CENTER**

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tors and receptionists. The center will be staffed throughout the day.

"We've changed the environment," Welch said. "It's a comfortable place. We've already heard from people that you can come in and have coffee and sit down."

A priority of the restructuring committee was to make an open environment for women on campus. In the past, the center has been criticized for not meeting these objectives.

Welch said her first priority is to get the center up and running. The center was dormant during the summer.

"The mission of the Women's Center is to provide the best working and educational environment for women," she said.

Welch said women can look to the Women's Center for several reasons: support groups, an entry way to return to school, a place to start if you are suffering from sexual harassment and a place to go when you are feeling too stressed out by classes. She said the center will provide reference and referral for women.

Office Manager Marnie Thompson said the center is working to become familiar with resources and services available for women in the community. Thompson said they hope to have contacts, so they can direct women to talk to the right people.

"We tried to set it up so it's comfortable for them so they don't feel like they're cold calling," she said.

Welch said she also serves as an advocate for women. She has already helped women deal with the financial aid office.

"This is a real foundation year, as we find out what works and what doesn't work," Welch

**Saferide purchasing new van this winter**

Amy Columbo

Oregon Daily Emerald

Project Saferide is ordering a new van to replace the brown van that has been a familiar sight on the University campus for the last nine years.

The student-run shuttle service was created as an alternative for women walking alone in the evenings, relying on others for rides or waiting in potentially dangerous places. Saferide is a free service that only University women can ride.

Saferide co-director Kristi Miller said they hope to obtain the van in November and begin using it by the start of the year. Because Saferide is ordering a state vehicle, it must wait until the next contractual period, which is the earliest date that the state can process the purchase.

"We're getting jumbled information," she said. "It seems as though we can't order a new car until the contracts come out."

Saferide received \$29,260 in student fees through a ballot measure last spring to purchase the new van and hire a second dispatcher to work in the evenings, booking rides and directing drivers. The increase was 67 cents per student.

Saferide co-director Marlinda Darmali estimates that Saferide is providing an average of 50 to 60 rides to women per evening this fall. She said it is run by approximately 200 student volunteers who drive, dispatch and manage the office. Credit is available through Women's Studies for students who make a weekly commitment.

This week, Saferide lost riders because of a communication problem with its radio which had an old battery. The dispatchers were unable to be in touch with the drivers and had to use an emergency radio provided by the Office of Public Safety to continue operation. The battery has since been replaced.

Saferide runs from 6 p.m. until midnight, Sunday through Thursday. On Friday and Saturday, Saferide runs until 2 a.m.

Women can book rides through Saferide before 6 p.m. by leaving a message. Saferide's loop around campus takes about 10 minutes. The program has two off-campus vehicles and the one on-campus van.

said. "We'll be refining the center's programs for the years to come."

Welch said she wants to revive programs that the Women's Center has sponsored in the past including Java and the Muse, a place to gather and showcase women's talents.

Thompson said that eventual-

ly she would like to see the Women's Center services extended to women in the community.

"I think we would like to break down a perception in the community that University of Oregon resources are only for college students between the ages of 18 to 22."

**IRAQ**

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Saudi Arabia and five smaller oil nations — Oman, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait itself — agreed to deploy part of their 19,000-man "Peninsula Shield" in Kuwait along with additional troops from each of the six nations. The total was not announced.

A senior military official said at the Pentagon that a majority of the Iraqi forces that had been massed near the Kuwaiti border were moving away.

"Portions of all but one brigade have moved," the official said, though he cautioned that it was not known where the troops might be going. It will be several days before that can be learned with certainty, so no hold is being placed on the flow of U.S. troops into the region, he and other officials said.

The Pentagon said Iraq, in recent days, had increased the number of tanks in the vicinity of the Kuwaiti border from 650 to 1,090.

Iraq's foreign minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sabah, said his country had indeed withdrawn its forces. "All troops whose deployment had caused such an uproar in the United States have complet-

ed their retreat to rear positions this evening," he said in a statement carried by the state-run Iraqi News Agency.

President Clinton and other U.S. leaders have discounted such statements in recent days as they wait for physical confirmation.

In Baghdad, Saddam met privately with Russian envoys while military attaches from Moscow and Beijing headed south to see if Iraq had withdrawn its forces from the Kuwaiti border.

Christopher, in a pep talk to thousands of American soldiers, some of whom arrived Tuesday night from Ft. Stewart, Ga., said that if Saddam plunged the region into war again he would face "the full fury of the finest military organization in the world."

Their presence, Christopher told the troops at the Doha base, was designed "to stop Saddam Hussein in his tracks."

There are nearly 20,000 U.S. soldiers and marines in Kuwait, an additional 44,500 deployed or on the way to the area and 156,000 on alert.

Tanks, trucks and other military equipment have been positioned at Doha since early in the year in the event Iraq tried to repeat its 1990 thrust into Kuwait, a wealthy oil country.

**ALARMS**

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The emergency call is put through to the city fire department and they respond.

According to Mary Ellen Holly of Eugene fire department's public education program, Station Three on the corner of Agate Street and 17th Avenue is the first to respond to all campus calls.

However, "our officers usually get there first because they are closer," Coots said.

While the city has the authority to fine the University for

false alarms, Coots said they haven't.

"I don't think we've ever received one because we continue to work on ways to find out why it happens," she said.

In the event of a fire in non-residential buildings on campus, it is up to the building managers, professors and individual students to act responsibly and calmly to get out of the building.

Regular drills are held in August, but on a voluntary basis. The building manager of each hall is responsible for the organization of the drills. For three days in August, campus

and city safety officials simulated a fire on the seventh floor of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.

There are four drills and four tests each year in the residence halls, Coots said.

Fire drills in the residence halls are usually held during the first two weeks of school. A test is when OPS officials test every pull station and horn to make sure it is working properly.

Additionally, there is a deputy fire marshal from the city who conducts campus-wide inspections. Inspections are currently underway of all residence halls, Coots said.