

City Council will vote to reopen downtown

Willamette Street: The discussion about reopening mall is tabled until Wednesday

Suzanne Marta
Oregon Daily Emerald

The city council will discuss plans Wednesday to reopen the downtown mall section of Willamette Street between Eighth and 10th Streets with a citizen vote possibly as early as May.

Support for the street's reopening comes from several downtown businesses in the mall who have seen a sharp economic decline in the last few years with five major business closing, relocating, or going out of business.

Two of these businesses, Newberry's and Woolworth's, comprised the largest spaces in the mall and remain unoccupied.

Several business owners said that by reopening Willamette Street, loitering in the mall would be discouraged.

"There is a problem with youth and transients using the mall to hang out in, making potential customers feel unsafe in that area," said Russ Brink, executive director of Downtown Eugene Inc.

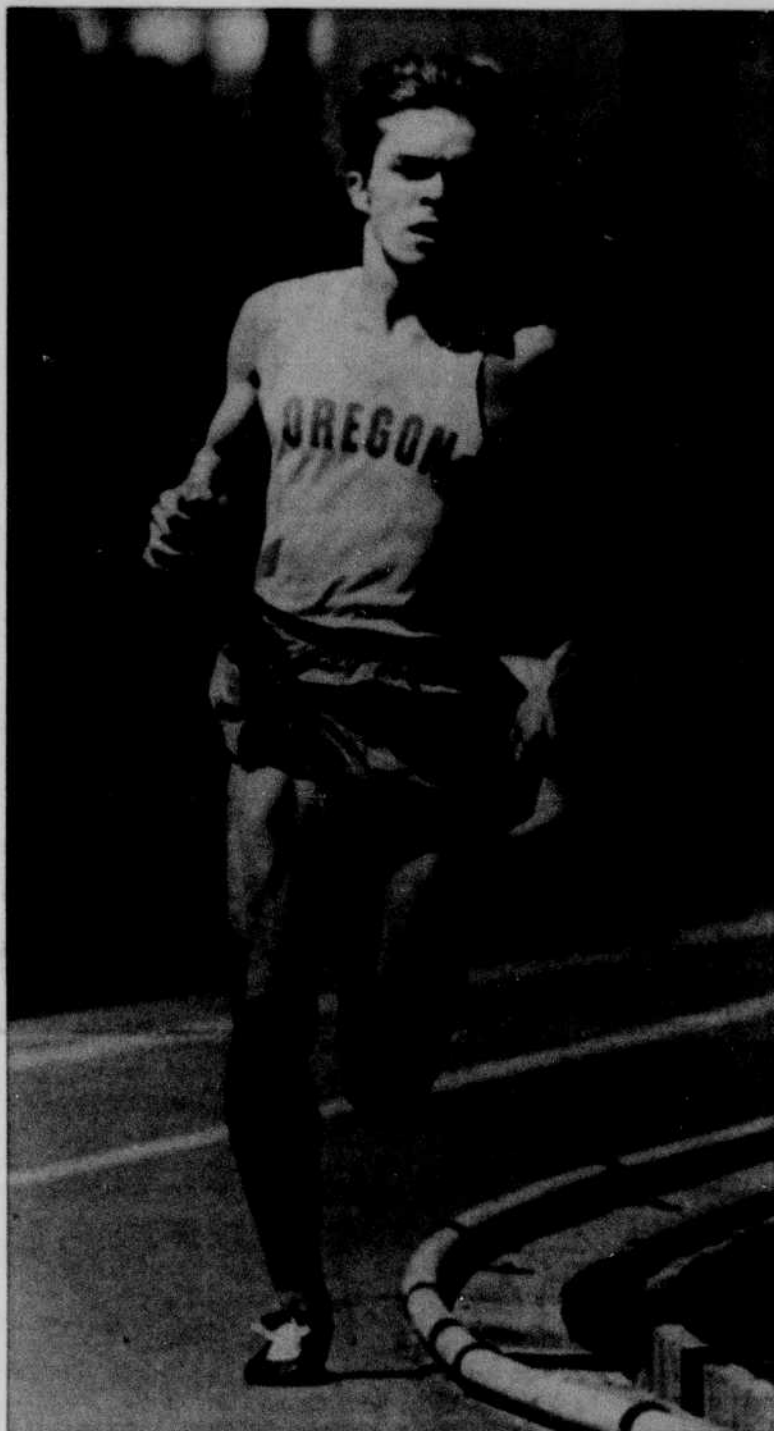
According to Brink, the fact that Willamette Street is closed off explains the decline in economic activity in that corridor.

"The downtown area is showing signs of revitalization and the core area, Willamette Street, is lagging behind right now," he said.

Brink said that by opening the street up to traffic, business activity would increase.

"I think people have realized that you need visibility and a sense of vitality for

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Walt Disney Pictures has announced plans to begin filming a movie about long-distance runner Steve Prefontaine's life.

Walt Disney will produce movie about running star

Athlete: A motion picture about Steve Prefontaine will be filmed mostly in Eugene

Joe Lang
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Walt Disney Pictures announced earlier this month that it has begun pre-production of a motion picture based on the life of Steve Prefontaine, the former Oregon long-distance runner who died in an automobile accident in May of 1975.

Charles Hirschhorn, Disney senior vice president in charge of production, said in a visit to Oregon on Friday that the picture will be filmed primarily in Eugene, beginning in late August.

"We at Walt Disney Pictures are delighted to be producing a major motion picture on the life of Steve Prefontaine," Hirschhorn said.

The picture's producer is Irby Smith of the Oregon Production Group, whose credits include *Angels in the Outfield*, *City Slickers*, *Young Guns I & II*, *Major League*, and *Stand By Me*. Jon Lutz and Mark Doonan, both of whom are currently working on a documentary about Prefontaine, are co-producing the film.

The theatrical release is tentatively scheduled to coincide with the Atlanta Olympic Games in July-August 1996.

Negotiations to bring the project to the motion picture screen have been going on for the past 20 months with considerable time spent purchasing the story rights from the Prefontaine family. The family will act as advisors to the project.

"We wanted the family to not only profit from this, but to participate in this," said Lutz, who is the co-producer.

The idea to make the movie first came when Smith

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■ GOOD MORNING

► **PORTLAND (AP)** — It's the logical next step for teenagers who have played video games all their lives: They are in the game, stalking the enemy with laser guns on a futuristic battlefield complete with black lights, strobes, loud music and fog.

It's laser tag, a craze sweeping the country that links the computer age with the ancient games of tag and capture the flag.

"Video games are dead," declared Eric Lentz, 19, who goes by the pseudonym "Apocalypse" and plays nearly every day at Portland's Ultra-zone.

"Simulated combat, but well done," he said. "It'll turn into a sport someday, where money is made."

Players enter their pseudonyms in a computer, then are divided into two teams. They creep through a battlefield of fake rocks, mirrored walls and ramps, scoring by "deactivat-

ing" and "stunning" an opponent's computerized vest and capturing the opponents' home base.

► **MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)** — Courtney Love had better behave for the next month or her \$380 good-behavior bond is history.

The widow of Nirvana lead singer Kurt Cobain pleaded guilty Monday to abusing a flight attendant. Police said she began swearing when the woman asked her to take her feet down from a wall next to her first-class seat.

Love's lawyer said she put her feet up during the a 90-minute Qantas Airways flight Saturday from Brisbane to Melbourne to relieve back pain and fever caused by a virus.

Love, the lead singer of the rock group Hole, came to court in a tight full-length black dress and black jacket, and said "I love Australia" as she left the court in a stretch limo.

OSSHE trying to gain autonomy

Budget: The state education system tries to become more efficient

Amy Columbo
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon State System of Higher Education hopes to add an additional 2,000 in-state students to Oregon's colleges and universities with proposed legislation that would streamline its operations.

The Higher Education Administrative Efficiency Act seeks to exempt OSSHE from certain state administrative costs. The result would save \$10 million from the annual OSSHE budget, the amount it costs the state to subsidize higher education for about 2,000 Oregon students.

If the legislation passes, OSSHE will still be accountable to the state legislature but it will enable the state board to oversee its own day-to-day operations. Senate Bill 271 would allow OSSHE to contract for services



This is the second story in a five-part series on the Oregon State Education System of Higher Education and the people who make the decisions that shape Oregon's universities and colleges.

- **MONDAY:** OSSHE overview and recap of the last meeting
- **TODAY:** A look at the Higher Education Efficiency Act
- **WEDNESDAY:** A look at the chancellor of OSSHE
- **THURSDAY:** A look at the Oregon State Board of Higher Education
- **FRIDAY:** Student understanding of OSSHE

and equipment, manage its property, establish its personnel system, manage its revenues and

collect interest on its investments.

"The state system would have more autonomy over its own business function," said Grattan Kerans, director of government relations for OSSHE.

Kerans said because of a state contract, OSSHE must purchase computer equipment at a higher cost than if it purchased the equipment from the University bookstore. Likewise, schools in eastern Oregon must drive between 30-50 miles to purchase gas rather than fuel up at the nearest gas station.

"It's an efficiency matter, it's trying to make it as efficient as possible and transfer the savings over to the instructional side," Kerans said.

Another proposed change would allow OSSHE rather than the state to collect interest on its investments. "If they passed it they would provide us with the interest income and adjust our annual budget," Ihrig said of the

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