

Amazon units moving in May

Lori Bettineski
Oregon Daily Emerald

Preparations to move four Amazon buildings finally got underway Thursday afternoon after more than two months of debate and appeals.

Contractors under the direction of Terry McDonald, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, began preparing the buildings Thursday for their eventual "road trip" to a city-owned site at 200 E. 19th Ave.

Internal chimneys on the four, two-story buildings were dismantled Thursday as the first step in preparing the buildings for their eventual move.

McDonald said contractors are hoping to begin cutting the buildings in half and converting

them into eight next week to make the move possible by early May.

The buildings will be moved to the new site by May 15 and renovated as low-income housing. McDonald said that the buildings will be transported on May 13 or 14 at around 5:30 a.m. when traffic is lightest.

McDonald estimates the costs of moving the buildings includes \$88,000 to move the units, \$700,000 to renovate and \$120,000 to do foundation and site preparation, which is roughly 75 percent of what it would have cost had the buildings been constructed on the site as new.

Monthly rents for the transported units are expected to be \$250 a month a two bedroom unit. McDonald said he hopes

the buildings will be ready for occupancy by December.

"We're furiously working out there at the site and are looking forward to a December opening," McDonald said. "There seems to be a great deal of good faith here with all parties involved for a change, and it's a nice switch."

Mike Eyster, director of University Housing, was at the Amazon site Thursday surveying the beginning of the preparation work and said he agreed with McDonald's sentiments.

"I'm happy because I thought we would have to demolish them," Eyster said. "By moving the buildings, it still accomplishes our goal of clearing the site, plus it provides low-income housing for others."

Architecture conference planned

Natasha Shepard
Oregon Daily Emerald

When students from the School of Architecture and Allied Arts formed the Holistic Options for Planet Earth's Sustainability (HOPES) group last spring, their goal was to put on a conference about integrating design and sustainable living.

This weekend the group will host the ECO Design Arts Conference, which will begin tonight and include 40 speakers, panelists, workshops and displays.

The HOPES group is staffed by students, all volunteers, in the architecture and allied arts programs.

The group would like to become a "clearing-house" of information about sustainability, said co-coordinator Carina Pastor. After the conference this weekend, they will begin organizing other activities and services, such as a newsletter and a library of information about sustainability.

Currently, the conference is taking up most of their time — it has taken 40 people to organize it, and the co-coordinators and others have been spending somewhere between 40 and 50 hours a week for the last few weeks on the conference, Pastor said.

"Our primo event is this conference," she said. The group would like to see the conference become an annual event.

Students from all over the U.S. are registered to attend, including people from Montana, Massachusetts, Arizona, Minnesota and Georgia.

More than 150 people are expected to attend, with almost half of them traveling to Lawrence Hall from out of town, Pastor said.

Eugene Mayor Ruth Bascom will be the first speaker of the conference Friday evening and will be followed by Jim Bell, the founder and director

of the Ecological Life Systems Institute in San Diego.

Steve Badanes, a design/build instructor at the University of Washington and Yestermorrow School, will be the keynote speaker Saturday morning. His address will demonstrate examples of projects that have incorporated sustainability into their designs.

"We want to show that it is possible to design a city where you don't need to hop in your car to get anywhere, or a building where you don't need to crank your heat up all the time," Pastor said.

Displays at the conference range from photos of war-torn Africa to drawings showing how rain can be drained off a building while also being purified. These drawings will include both artistic and technical representations of designs.

One display will illustrate a multi-use building with tubes that reach 60 feet into the ground, helping cool the building in the summer and heat it in the winter. The average monthly utility bill of the building is only \$9, Pastor said.

Design is an important tool in increasing overall sustainability, she said.

"Design certainly can give form to a changing world and offer opportunities and choices," she said. "Through design... we can help to achieve a sustainable society."

There is no deadline to register for the conference. The cost is \$10 for students, \$15 for non-professional community members and \$50 for professionals in the fields of architecture and the arts.

A buffet dinner and continental breakfast are included with the admission fee, and the registration cost for this conference is good for admission to the Public Interest Science Conference, which is also this weekend and will also address various environmental topics.

ASUO fights for annual budget

Patrick Minford
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO Executive received a \$2,000 increase in its quarter-million dollar budget after hours of emotional, sometimes bitter, debate at Thursday's Programs Finance Committee meeting.

Next year the ASUO Executive, the hub of student government at the University, will receive \$263,549 in student fees.

The rigorous wrangling centered around committee recommendations to cut the stipend for ASUO Executive positions, reduce student Oregon Student Lobby funding, terminate two key ASUO positions, and remove ASUO newsletter funds.

The proposed budget cuts were met with strong displeasure from each of the nearly 20 University student government leaders on hand for the budget hearing.

"You have to think about what you want the ASUO to provide students," said Robert Nosse, executive director of the OSL, after hearing the committee's original budget recommendation. "You're cheating students and the quality of service they receive."

The ASUO Executive's budget request was for a 5 percent

increase, amounting to \$273,705. Several members of the committee felt the executive's high budget request was hypocritical since the ASUO's budget analysts have consistently recommended decreases, or small increases in student group budgets.

"What I've heard all year is different tonight," committee chairman Joey Lyons said. "This is a large dollar increase."

Committee members refuted arguments that the request would cause a small per-student increase in incidental fees.

"All year long groups have said exactly what you just said, and all year long the executive has said 'nope,'" committee member Mary Plath said.

After hearing arguments against the proposed cuts, the committee agreed to keep the ASUO's Federal Affairs Coordinator position, and to fund the OSL at the requested amount.

The committee also kept ASUO Reflections, the executive newsletter that keeps students abreast of University student government happenings, but gave only enough funding for two issues.

The ASUO's newcommunity

relations position was cut from next year's budget, as were the reductions in ASUO stipends.

Cutting the newsletter and stipend line items will perpetuate stereotypes that the ASUO is an elitist organization, a misnomer that the current ASUO representatives are working hard to dispel, students said.

ASUO President Leslie Warren was disappointed with the executive's budget, but understood that the budget committee is bound by a zero percent budget increase benchmark.

"We're trying to do what's best for students," Warren said. "They're trying to stay within that benchmark."

The committee is still under the benchmark, and members expect to meet it.

The committee also heard a budget request from Mediation, a service for University students who need a professional arbiter to settle a dispute. The program got a slight decrease, receiving \$28,032 for next year.

The new Taiwanese Student Organization was given \$300, the amount the committee gives to all student groups in their first year of funding.

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