

University of Washington builds new Tacoma campus

TACOMA (AP) — Under the ornate archways and detailed columns of several historic warehouses, the new location for the University of Washington's branch campus here is slowly taking shape.

About 200 people, including politicians and university officials, attended the ground breaking Saturday along the city's waterfront.

The \$33 million facility will eventually replace the University of Washington-Tacoma branch now in operation.

School and area officials predict the new campus will be a boon for downtown development and for Tacoma-area residents who haven't been able to attend a public university.

"It will open the doors of opportunity and higher education for people who were locked out before," said state Rep. Brian Ebersole, D-Tacoma.

Eventually the campus will occupy 46 acres and accommodate 6,000 students. But initial plans call for the campus to be centered around five historic warehouses and an old transformer house, with a student body of about 1,200.

The current branch campus has little more than 700 students.

"This is an urban campus of a great university," said

UW President William Gerberding. "That's what Tacoma needs. That's what the state of Washington needs."

The renovation of the vacant buildings will begin in earnest in September or October. The 93-year-old Snoqualmie Falls Power Co. transformer house, once the power source for street car lines, will be converted into a reading room.

The completion date for the first phase is set for June 1997 and will result in 126,000 square feet of building space. The work entails converting the interiors of cavernous warehouses into classrooms and offices.

Ground floors are to be used for retail shops, such as espresso shops, photocopying stores and a 12,000-square-foot bookstore.

"We get to open this campus with 100 years of history," said Joe Brawley, UW projects director for central and branch campuses. "We're very enthusiastic."

A majority of the warehouse space has been vacant since the 1960s, although the buildings themselves are in relatively good shape. Construction crews will need to perform a variety of tasks, including the restoration of fine-grained cedar floors covered in pigeon droppings and shoring up foundations to withstand a major earthquake.

"It's the dignity of age," said Michael Sullivan, manager of the city's division of cultural resources. "It's like

wrinkles."

The quality of the original construction that went into the warehouses — built between 1890 and 1908 — is extremely high, Sullivan said. They were viewed as economic monuments in their day.

"The was the best building material in that age," Sullivan said. "For an industry or for a business, this was the main symbol of what they did."

The campus will have distinguished neighbors, including the \$40.8 million Washington State History Museum, now under construction, and the \$42 million federal courthouse at renovated Union Station.

Originally constructed to handle vast quantities of bulk groceries, the warehouses speak of a day when Tacoma was the terminus for the transcontinental railroad and final destination for consumer goods from the East Coast.

The warehouse district declined steadily after World War II, unable to compete with the convenience of cars and trucks for travel and shipping.

Sullivan said the ghosts of the historic district live on.

"There's something about the ghosts of this city that seem to be there to help people along with restoration," Sullivan said. "When we redo buildings and we stay true to keeping our past and our roots — like Union Station — the community succeeds."

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Oregon Daily **Emerald**

University students foster community involvement

Patrick Minford
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University's first ever Community Involvement Week got started over the weekend with service and clean-up projects throughout the Eugene area.

Students began the week of events Saturday morning with a produce harvest at the Grass Roots Garden, a nonprofit Eugene organization that grows produce to give to needy families in Lane County. Students tilled the soil by hand and planted vegetables.

"It was backbreaking work, but it was fun because the weather was so nice," said ASUO Community Affairs Coordinator Kevin Easton, who organized the week of events.

University President Dave Frohnmyer was on hand at a litter removal project at Alton Baker Park Saturday afternoon to offer words of encouragement to student volunteers.

"It's a tremendous gesture by the students and they thought of it all themselves," Frohnmyer said. "They really care about the community they live in."

More than a dozen students were on hand for the litter removal, which netted bottles, cans, plastic bags and other items of trash around Alton Baker Park and Autzen Stadium.

Community Involvement Week is a "chance to show how the students impact the community and how the community impacts the students — to show that it's a partnership," Easton said. All of the planned service events are open to students, student groups, faculty, staff and anyone else willing to lend a hand, he said.

The week's other events include more litter pickups, ivy removal from trees at several Eugene parks, house repairs and yard work at the Acorn House, an HIV and AIDS hospice, a cleanup at the Bring Recycling Center and assistance with the Kelly Middle School's spring carnival.

Easton said he hopes Community Involvement Week will become an annual event because "It has the potential to be a great resource for the University — especially students."

Each service project during the week of altruism will take about two to three hours, Easton said. For more information, go to the ASUO office in Suite 4 of the EMU or call Easton at 346-0632.

■ CORRECTION

On April 24 the Emerald published a story detailing allegations made against several Oregon football players. Marcus Elijah Woods, one of the players mentioned in connection with a Nov. 6, 1992 assault in the EMU Ballroom during a Public Enemy concert, claims he was not with the group accused of committing the assault. However, in police reports, three separate sources identified Woods as

a member of the group.

On April 25 the Emerald published a story stating that drunk driving and reckless driving charges against Oregon football player Herman Lee O'Berry Jr. were dropped as a result of plea negotiations. Actually, O'Berry pled guilty to a reduced charge of careless driving as a result of plea negotiations and the drunk driving charge was dismissed for lack of evidence.

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