

Oregon Daily Emerald

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1995

EUGENE, OREGON

VOLUME 96, ISSUE 164

Businesses move to mall, area grows

Economy: Downtown mall may be getting parking garages, Taco Time and billiard hall

Ben Moebius

Oregon Daily Emerald

Downtown Eugene has received a lot of attention lately.

Changes to the area include reopening Willamette Street and a proposal to build two new parking garages on Broadway and Charnelton streets, between 8th and 10th avenues.

Many businesses are moving into the downtown area to fill empty space in the mall. A billiards hall is expected to move in across from Symantec on the downtown mall, according to Phil Weiler, spokesman for the city of Eugene.

A Taco Time recently moved into a storefront that faces the soon-to-be-reopened Willamette Street. City officials have twice tried to convince Eugene residents to support a measure placing a new public library in the old Sears building on the downtown mall. And McDonald Theatre, which sits near the mall on Willamette Street, is being renovated.

"There has been considerable activity recently in the downtown area," Weiler said. "We have a lot of ideas about what we want to do and businesses are coming up with a lot of their own ideas."

Neale Hyatt, who is the Chairman of the Committee For Downtown Planning, said he is not happy with the changes.

Hyatt said he does not oppose most of the changes because he thinks they are bad ideas. "I just want to see some kind of comprehensive plan surrounding projects in the downtown area," he said.

Weiler concedes that recent changes taking place downtown are not part of any comprehensive plan.

"What we have, as far as comprehensive strategies for downtown, are actually a few plans. Each plan has its strengths and shortfalls."

"For instance," Weiler said, "one plan contained, as a central feature, the placement of a new library in the Sears building. When that measure failed, the plan could not, of course, be fully implemented."

Weiler said the City Council has recently directed officials to draft a new comprehensive plan for west downtown, which will include a proposal for a 600-750 space parking garage.

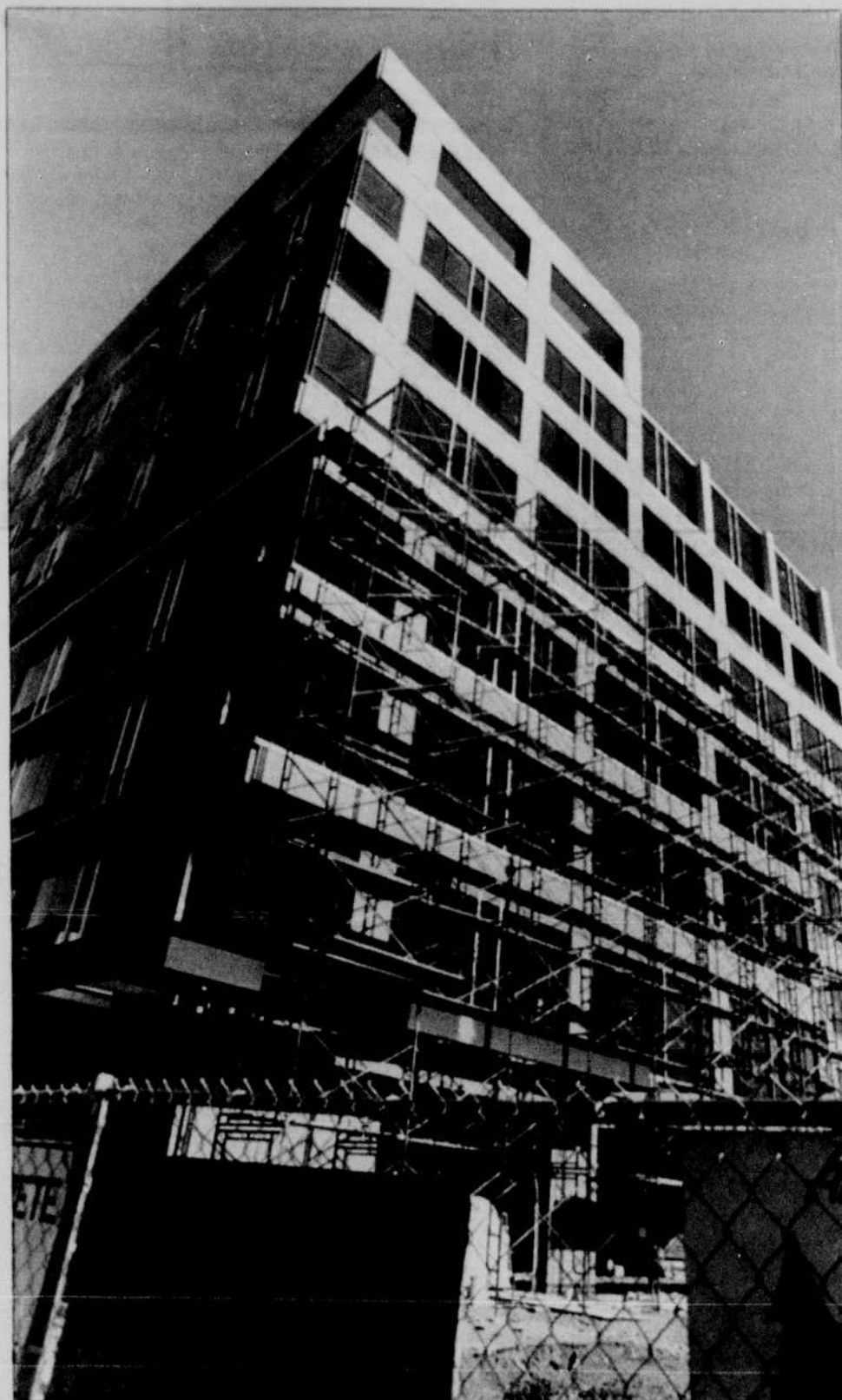
Hyatt, who led the committee that

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J.R. Holland and Nancy Brandon, left, enjoy lunch and sunshine at the Kinetic Cafe Tuesday afternoon. The U.S. Bank building, below, is one of the many new sites of construction in downtown Eugene.

MELODY CONROY/Emerald



LES ZACZEK/Emerald

Students using health center to be charged for each visit

Fee: The old system required a payment for the first appointment of the term

Mara Stine

Oregon Daily Emerald

Starting this summer, each visit to the University's Student Health Center will cost \$3, replacing the current \$5 first visit of the term fee, if the Oregon State System of Higher Education approves the change.

The new plan will save students money, said Bob Petit, medical administrator for the health center.

"If a student comes to the health center once a term [for a year] it costs \$15, but with the new plan, it will only cost them \$9," Petit said.

The average student makes five visits to the health center a year and will end up paying the same amount under the new system, said health center director Gerald Fleischli.

If students make more than one visit a term, the new plan will cost them more money. Two visits a term will cost \$6 a term, which equals \$18 a year. This is \$3 more than the current plan costs.

"We wanted to set the fee at a level that would not be an obstacle but would cause people to think twice about trivial visits," Fleischli said.

Petit said the change is needed to raise money to pay for anticipated wage increases and for increasing operating expenses of the health center.

Based on the number of visits to doctors, nurse practitioners and dentists, Petit said next year an estimated \$150,000 will be raised compared with the \$105,000 the current system raises a year.

Petit said the details have not been worked out yet, but said if a student makes a visit and then is referred to another area of the health center, they will probably not be charged for two visits. For example, if a student goes to a doctor and is then referred to the sports medicine department, the student will likely be charged for only one visit.

The fee change was recommended by the Student Health Advisory Committee, which is composed of students and faculty, Fleischli said.

GOOD MORNING

► A non-profit organization dedicated to expanding international exchange opportunities for people with disabilities, is looking for young men and women interested in international exchange.

People ages 15-24 can go on exchange to Azerbaijan, Mexico or Russia. Participants live with homestay families, and take part

in leadership training, disability rights workshops, adaptive recreation, language classes and community service projects.

The program offers educational exchanges to youths, adults and professionals with or without disabilities. Anyone interested can reach Mobility International USA at (503) 343-1284.

Car camp closes — for this year

Homeless: Funding problems may keep camp from opening again

Samantha Martin

Oregon Daily Emerald

Residents of the Centennial Car Camp will be hittin' the road again by noon today as the third six-month season of operation for the camp officially comes to a close for this year.

The camp, located near Autzen Stadium, offers a legal site for homeless people to camp. The car camp provides minimal services to the residents, such as shower facilities and a 24-hour staff to patrol the grounds. Residents are on their own for food, but churches and other nonprofit organizations regularly donate food.

Funding for the camp was started three years

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