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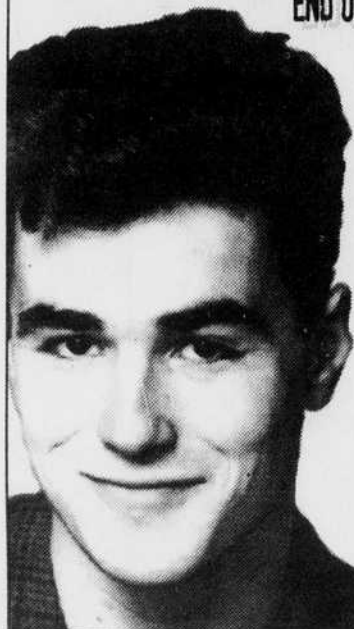
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MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

The appearance of the Museum of Natural History will be different after renovations begin this spring.

Museum scheduled for change

■ **REMODEL:** The Museum of Natural History is slated for an addition, which will give staff needed office space

By Laura Cadiz
Higher Education Reporter

After having cramped office space and working out of a modular trailer for almost a decade, the staff of the Museum of Natural History has taken the first step in remodeling the museum.

The design for a new addition to the museum was accepted Friday on behalf of the University by Dan Williams, vice president of administration.

Due to a lack of money, the museum was originally built in 1987 with the intention of eventually adding on to the small office space. Now the time has arrived.

"The opportunity has come up to do additions and create new space for the staff," said Chris Ramey, director and architect for University Planning.

The new addition is planned to be 17,000 square feet. It will consist of a conference room, two private offices, a research office, an accessions work area with adjacent records rooms, a receiving area and men's and women's bathrooms.

"It's a modest addition. ... it's not that huge, but it's very significant to us," said Dr. Melvin Aikens, director of the Museum of Natural History.

To accommodate the addition, two trees between the museum and 15th Avenue sidewalks will have to be removed.

"It's going to be a benefit by giving us administration space," Aikens said. "We need it to allow us to rearrange some of our functions. It will enable us to expand our store, for example."

The entire addition will cost approximately \$230,000, and the museum now has \$150,000. But the shortage of funds is no longer a problem.

"The dean of the grad school offered to loan us enough money to get us on our way and we're obliged to fund raise the rest," Aikens said. "There is also money from

the building fund that was designed to go into the new expansions."

The major reason for the construction, however, is the staff currently sits in a modular trailer that needs to be relocated once the construction of the new law school begins in June.

"That spurred the move more than anything," Ramey said. "The idea is that they [the Museum staff] have to get out of there by June."

The law school is also contributing to the money for the addition.

"There's a principle of the University of Oregon plan that says projects have to attend to the costs that they incur," Aikens said.

Construction is expected to begin in the spring and should be finished by June.

"Right now the architects are working on the drawings before the contract goes out to bid, we expect the bid in early winter ... so we can get out of the way of the law school construction," Aikens said.

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